

GOOD MORNING & WELCOME

Welcome to everyone joining us for worship this morning. Whether or not you consider yourselves members of this congregation, we are glad you are here. If the flow of worship should seem unfamiliar to you, relax and let God's presence envelop you, without a worry about when to stand, sit or kneel. If you are new to St. John's, please sign our guest register.

Please silence all cell phones and other noise-making devices before the start of the service. Thank you.

The Rev. Nathan Carr – Vicar
The Rev. William Font – Priest Associate
The Rev. Lisa Chronister – Deacon
Cynthia Cortright D.M.A. – Organist / Choir Director
Daisy Leyva-Lara – Children's Coordinator
Victoria Moon – Nursery Attendant

Serving Today:

Cantor – Doug Rogez
Greeters/Oblationers – Nancy Steward and Devie Maxwell
Layreader/Chalice Bearers – David Jackson,
Julie Grissom and Sarah Tracy
Acolytes – Cornel Bornman, Esther Carr,
Truitt Kolb and Jade Rodgers
Children's Activities – Victoria Moon

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The First Sunday of Advent – Year B The Great Litany

Rite I - Holy Eucharist & Hymns - December 3 - 10:15 AM

The Word of God

Prelude

The Great Litany in Procession

BCP 148-153

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, *Have mercy upon us*.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,

Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

Have mercy upon us.

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us, for ever.

Spare us, good Lord.

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment.

Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine.

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared.

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom.

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived, **We beseech thee to hear us. good Lord.**

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments.

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth, **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation.

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts.

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Grant us thy peace.

O Christ, hear us.

O Christ, hear us.

Kyrie The Hymnal, S91

Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x) Christ, have mercy upon us. (3x) Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x)

The Officiant concludes with the following or some other Collect Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in thy Son's Name: We beseech thee mercifully to incline thine ear to us who have now made our prayers and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things which we have asked faithfully according to thy will, may be obtained effectually, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.

People: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O heavenly Father, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us as a light to the world, grant that this wreath of candles, to be kindled for thy glory, may be to us a sign of thy presence and the promise of eternal life in the coming of thy Son, Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God

The First Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-

as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Qui regis Israel

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a **flock**; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the **cherubim**.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of **hosts**; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be **saved.**
- 4 O Lord God of **hosts**, *
 how long will you be angered
 despite the prayers of your **people**?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of **tears**; * you have given them bowls of tears to **drink**.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our **neighbors**, * and our enemies laugh us to **scorn**.
- 7 Restore us, O God of **hosts**; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be **saved**.

- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right **hand**, * the son of man you have made so strong for your**self**.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from **you**; * give us life, that we may call upon your **Name**.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of **hosts**; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be **saved**.

The Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

The Hymnal, #454

1 Jesus came, adored by angels, came with peace from realms on high; Jesus came for our redemption, lowly came on earth to die:
Alleluia, alleluia!
came in deep humility.

bringing news of sins forgiven;
Jesus comes in sounds of gladness,
leading souls redeemed to heaven;
Alleluia, alleluia!
now the gate of death is riven.

3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,

2 Jesus comes again in mercy, when our hearts are bowed with care; Jesus comes again in answer to our earnest heartfelt prayer; Alleluia, alleluia! comes to save us from despair.

4 Jesus comes on clouds triumphant, when the heavens shall pass away; Jesus comes again in glory; let us then our homage pay: Alleluia, alleluia! till the dawn of endless day.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory to thee, Lord Christ.

The Holy Gospel Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to thee, Lord Christ.

Sermon Reverend Nathan Carr

The Nicene Creed BCP 327

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made: who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate: he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures. and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

We Confess our Sins and Exchange the Peace

The Celebrant or Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Silence may be kept

Minister and People

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways,

to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Celebrant may add sentences from scripture

Please stand

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Blessing Prayer

O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace; strengthen their trust in your goodness, and in their hearts may your peace, which passes understanding, abide all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

Offertory Anthem Breath of Heaven
Victoria Thomason, Soloist

I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside. And I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, You have come and chosen me now To carry your Son. **Amy Grant**

I am waiting in a silent pray'r.
I am frightened by the load I bear.
In a world as cold as stone,
must I walk this path alone.
Be with me now.

Do You wonder as You watch my face if a wiser one should have had my place?

But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan.

Help me be strong.

Refrain

Breath of heaven, hold me together.
Be forever near me, breath of heaven.
Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness.
Pour over me Your holiness,
for You are Holy.

Doxology The Hymnal, #380 (verse 3)

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I BCP 333

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord. Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said

Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus The Hymnal, #S114

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand. Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

And now the prayer of Spiritual Communion for those who are not present:

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei The Hymnal, S158

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

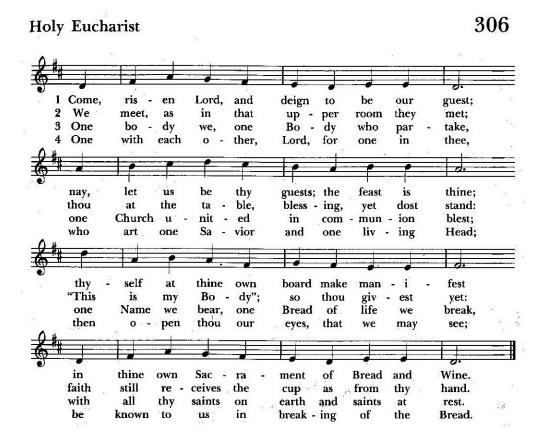
We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

We Share the Gifts of God

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

The Hymnal #306



Post Communion Prayer

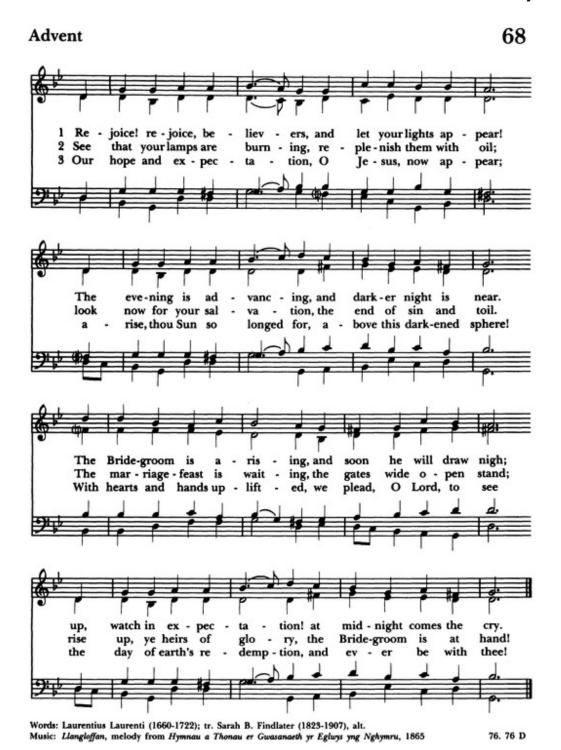
BCP 339

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional The Hymnal, #68



Dismissal Response: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please hold in your ongoing prayers:

Audrey Drew Kolb Kathleen Rhodes
Steven Barnes Sarah Kramer Rob, Ruthie and
Beverly Bradley Jean Ledet & Chad Samuel

Bob Dixon Adrienne Robertson

Braiden Denys Lenets Sahar

Lewis Honor Carr Kara Lynn Scott Salladin

Nancy Carr Ron Marlett Seth

Dave Coleson Tony Marruchella Betty Sinclair

Sue Collins Mary Family of Kenneth

Sir Michael Dawson Leland Mayo Sosna

Stephanie Dunham Betty & Delbert Millican John Steward and Dru and Ryan Lightfoot Lee DeWitt

Ed Trish Morgan Martha Steward Sharon Ellington Christina Morris Nancy Steward

Jim Freeman Paul Mosier Susan
Tom Freeman Deborah Nelson Sydney and Troy

Myrna Gowman Joy Nelson Ed Tebow

John Greiner The Nichols Family Sarah Tracy

Steve Hammontree Pam Tyler and Dru
Aimee Hanneman Babette Patton Donna Walters

Dr. J Patty Mary Jo Watson

Jack Penny Pat Westervelt

Jessica Peter Gordon Welch

Jessica Peter Gordon Welch Judd Monte Pratt Will

Mathew Reynolds Ginny Wynn

Weekday Services through December

Wednesday, Dec 6, 5:30 pm - First Wednesday Eucharist
Wednesday, Dec 13, 5:30 pm - Evening Prayer
Wednesday, Dec 20, 5:30 pm - Evening Prayer
Thursday, Dec 21, 5:30 pm - Feast of St Thomas the Apostle
Tuesday, Dec 26, Noon - Feast of St. Stephen
Wednesday, Dec 27, Noon - Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday, Dec 28 Noon - Feast of Holy Innocents

Christmas and Epiphany Services

Sunday, December 24, 10:15 am – Fourth Sunday of Advent - Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 24, 10:30 pm – Choral Prelude and Midnight Mass Monday, December 25, 10:15 am – Christmas Day Eucharist Tuesday, Dec 26, Noon - Feast of St. Stephen Wednesday, Dec 27, Noon - Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Thursday, Dec 28 Noon - Feast of Holy Innocents Monday, January 1, 10:15 am – Feast of the Holy Name Saturday, January 6, 5:30 pm – Feast of the Epiphany



Altar Gifts

The Altar Guild has begun the preparations for Advent. The greening of the Church will be following the service on the Second Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 10. At a later time, they begin placing poinsettias at the altar, starting with two large pink poinsettias and eventually a large display of red, pink and white poinsettias on the altar, surrounding the creche with Mary and Joseph.

Donations toward the Christmas Music and Flowers, a form has been provided in this bulletin. All flower and music donations will be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletin.

Birthdays This Week

6 – Glen Fields

7 – Ann Warzyn

7 – Jonathan Newberry

9 – Deborah Nelson

Sunday, December 10, is the day set aside for the greening of the church for the remainder of Advent and Christmas. All those wishing to help should stay following the service. All assistance is appreciated. This is a fun family Advent activity. We will need some volunteers willing to climb ladders to accomplish this.

Our Christmas outreach project is our annual collection of food for the St. James Food Pantry. This year we are collecting boxed stuffing, instant mashed potatoes and instant gravy packets to help complete 50 holiday meals for their patrons. There will be a bin ready for donations in the Narthex through Sunday, December 10.

Sunday School News: The adult forum has completed their study of Matthew. The confirmation/new member class, the youth and the children's classes will meet through December 10. **Sunday School will break from December 17 through January 7** and reconvene on January 14.

Gift Wrapping by Cherie will take place following the service on **Sunday**, **December 17**. This is a great opportunity for you to **get your gifts wrapped and ready to put under the tree**, just in time! Cherie has lots of experience wrapping packages and loves to serve others. Don't miss this! You will be so grateful you remembered to bring those gifts.

We are continuing Bake Sales with proceeds going to an important new ministry. We are raising funds to purchase an adult-sized changing table. Please help us raise these funds by bringing your favorite baked goods to sell and/or purchasing some goodies when you are here on Sundays.

Forms for donations toward Advent Flowers and Christmas Eve Music are included in your bulletin today. Please complete the form and place it on the offertory plate. Your contribution will be listed on the Christmas bulletins. Contributions will be accepted through Sunday, December 17 to be included.