



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

906 South Orleans Avenue ♦ Tampa, Florida 33606-2941

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

11:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I



SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the house of God.

Before the service speak to the Lord; during the service let the Lord speak to you;

After the service speak to one another.

THE RECTOR'S WELCOME

There are so many amazing Christmas traditions. Many of them are cultural, many are specific to our families, and some are specific to our church home. I am so glad each of you has found your way to St. John's this Christmas season. I hope you find this place to be a warm, welcoming church where you can celebrate and contemplate the Incarnation of the Word of God, the birth of Our Savior Jesus Christ.

The birth of Jesus is one of the most significant events in world history. The creator of us all has come into his creation so that he might redeem it. He not only sets out to redeem us, but he also lives as one of us, so that he knows intimately what it is to be human—the ups and downs, the fears and celebrations.

Whatever your family's Christmas traditions are, always remember to make room for the Holy Spirit to help you reflect on how much God loves you, your family, your friends, your neighbors, and even those you would prefer not to see this holiday season. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us for all of us, so that whosoever believes in Jesus should not perish but have eternal life!

Kate and I had a wonderful tradition at bedtime when our children were very young: one of us would always sing the famous Christmas Carol "*Away in a Manger*" to each of our children as we put them to bed. The last verse of that carol speaks to an incarnational way of living and reminds us to invite Jesus into our hearts this time of year.

“Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.”

Merry Christmas to you all, and may the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord, bless and keep you now and always.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "The Rev. Christian M. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small cross-like flourish at the end.

The Rev. Christian M. Wood
Rector

10:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS MUSIC

THE CHOIR OF ST. JOHN'S

SIMON J. MORLEY, ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Bethlehem Down

Dixit Maria

Congregational Carol: **Hymn 90**

Peter Warlock

Hans Leo Hassler


Noel




1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - en skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf - fered long;
4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by pro - phets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
and still their heaven - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
be - neath the heaven - ly hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all - gra - cious King."
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ering wing,
and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the tid - ings which they bring;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel-sounds the bless - ed an-gels sing.
 O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the an-gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.

Organ Solo "The Holy Boy"

Infant Holy, infant lowly

Unto us is born a Son

John Ireland

Arr. Sir David Willcocks

Arr. Sir David Willcocks

The people stand as the Ministers enter

Processional Hymn 83 *Stanzas 1-3*

Adeste fideles

1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e-ter-nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem;
2 lo! he ab-hors not the Vir-gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci-ti-zens of heaven a-bove;

1 come, and be-hold him, born the King of an-gels;
2 on-ly be-got-ten Son of the Fa-ther;
3 glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est;

O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-



STATION AT THE CRÈCHE

The Celebrant and other ministers make a station at the crèche. The figure of the Christ Child carried in procession is placed in the crèche and the Celebrant says

V. The word was made flesh and dwelt among us;

R. **And we beheld his glory.**

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Most merciful and loving God, you have made this night holy by the incarnation of your son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: grant that we your people may enter with joy into the celebration of this night, and may also rejoice for ever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Celebrant then censes the crèche, after which the procession continues.

Processional Hymn 83 *Stanzas 4-6*

Adeste fideles

*4 See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra-dle,____
 *5 Child, for us sin-ners poor and in the man-ger,____

4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

PROPER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant



Bless - ed be God: Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People



And bless - ed be his king - dom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

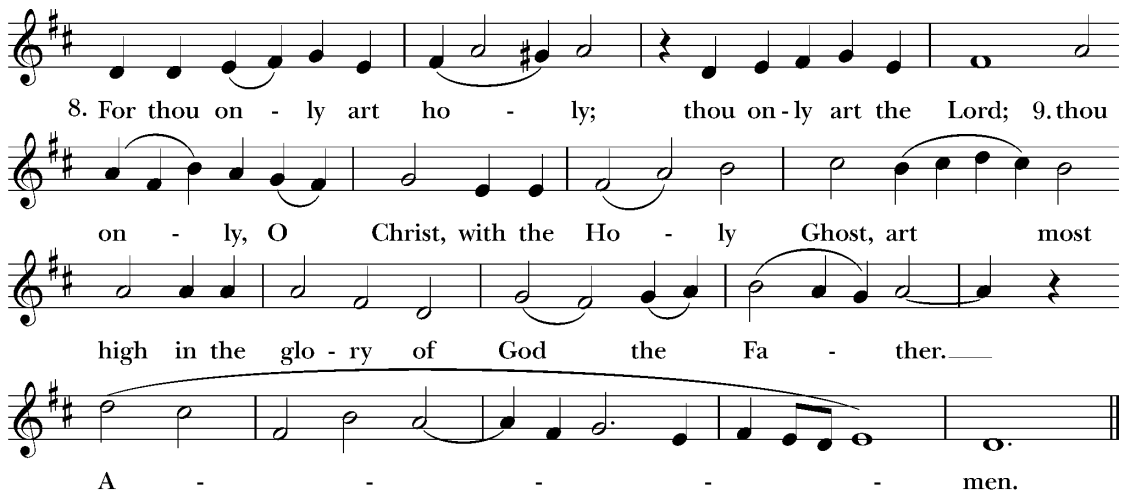
Celebrant

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS S-202

Healey Willan

1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,
good will towards men. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,
we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give
thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly
King, God the Fa - ther Al - might - y. —
4. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;
5. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the
right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mer - cy up - on us.



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The people sit

THE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of

David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL MOTET *Sung by the choir*

In the bleak mid-winter — Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter long ago. Our God, heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain—heav'n and earth shall flee away, when He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed, the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day, a heart full of mirth, and a manger full of hay. Enough for Him, whom angels, fall down before, the ox and ass and camel, which adore. What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

THE EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

Lector A Reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 93

Regent Square

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

Deacon Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The people sit

THE SERMON

Father Christian M. Wood, *Rector*

All stand

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant and people

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

The people kneel

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury elect, Sean, the Presiding Bishop, and Douglas, our Bishop, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land: we pray for Donald, our President; Ron, our Governor; and Jane, our Mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor those for whom our prayers are requested, remembering especially those on our parish prayer list, for those in hospital, and those in hospice, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, and all for whom altar flowers are dedicated today, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the ever blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John, and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

Celebrant and People

Almighty God,

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:**

**We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,**

**which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.**

We do earnestly repent,

**and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.**

Have mercy upon us,

**have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

The people stand

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

The people sit

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

A Child is born in Bethlehem — Philip Stopford

A child is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia. And joy is in Jerusalem, Alleluia. Rejoice, rejoice, sing high, sing low, Alleluia. Benedicamus Domino, Alleluia. To thee, O Lord, be glory paid, Alleluia. Thou son of Mary, Mother maid, Alleluia. To Holy Trinity give praise, Alleluia. With Deo Gracias always, Alleluia. Alleluia!

The people stand

Hymn 94 *Stanza 6*
Descant

Winchester Old

6 "All glo - ry be to God on high and on the earth be peace;

6 "All glory be to God on high
and on the earth be peace;

6 good will hence-forth from heaven to men be - gin and nev - er cease."

good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease."

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer I*

The people stand

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.**

Celebrant 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

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 and Benedictus S-114

Healey Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth -

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant

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 hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

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, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread after which the following is sung

Fraction Anthem S-158

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

All

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.

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.



Please fill in the kneelers at the altar during Communion from the middle out.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.

If you are not baptized or choose not to receive, you are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. Please follow the direction of the ushers, and inform them if you need communion brought to you. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request.

Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine). You may receive the host and then sip from the chalice, receive the host only, or receive by intinction. For intinction, a member of the clergy or a chalice bearer will dip the host into the chalice and place it directly on your tongue. Even if receiving in one kind, please remain at the altar rail until the chalice has passed.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

Communion Motets

Sing Lullaby — Basque Carol

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining, Sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Angels are watching, stars are shining Over the place where he is lying. Sing lullaby! Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, Sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Soon will come sorrow with the morning, Soon will come bitter grief and weeping: Sing lullaby! Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-dozing, Sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, Then in the grave at last reposing: Sing lullaby! Sing lullaby! Lullaby! Is the babe a-waking? Sing lullaby! Hush, do not stir the Infant King. Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning, Conquering Death, its bondage breaking: Sing lullaby!

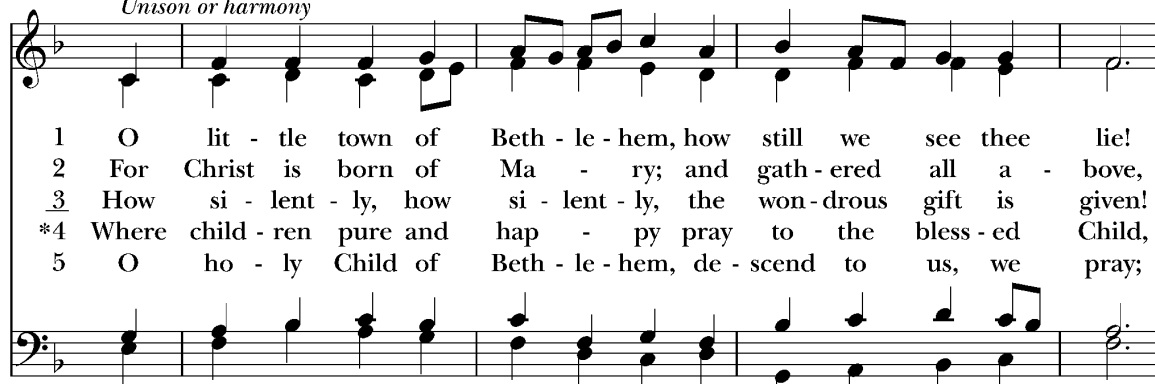
Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming — Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior, when half-spent was the night. O flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendour the darkness everywhere; true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

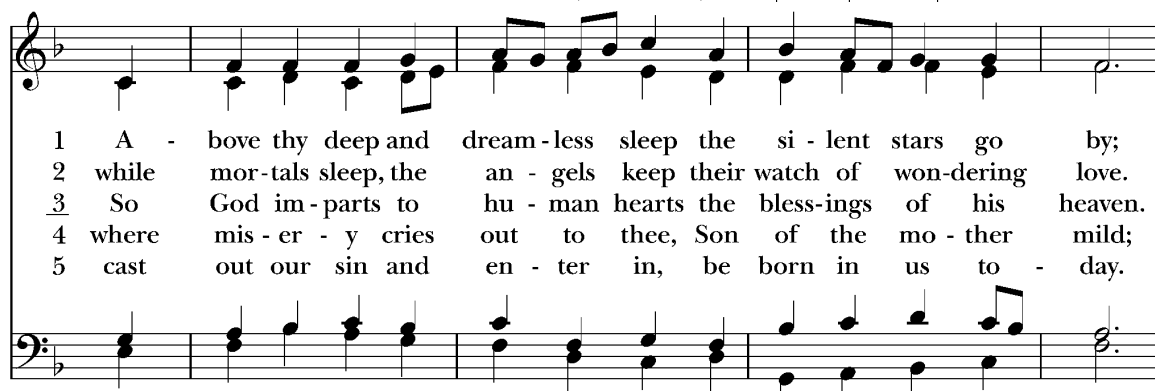
Communion Hymn 78

Forest Green

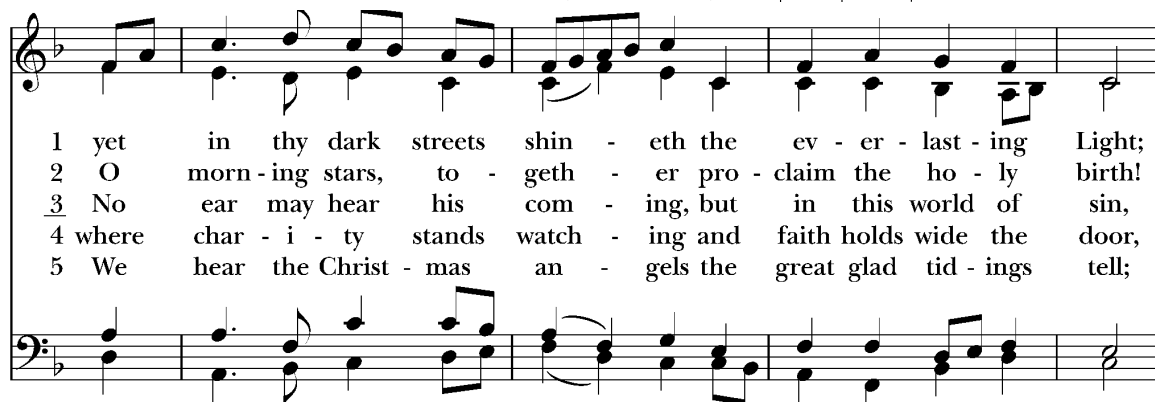
Unison or harmony



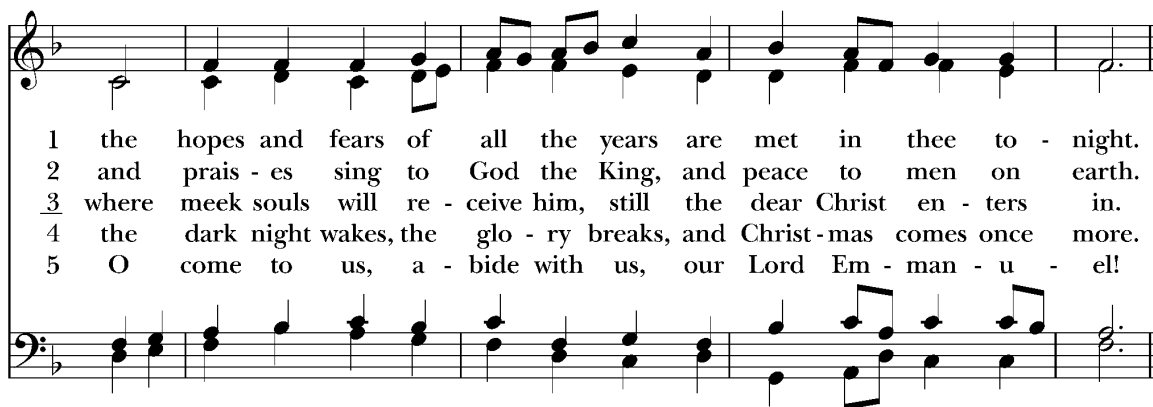
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

The people kneel

Celebrant and People

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.

Hymn 111 *Sung by all, kneeling*

Stille Nacht Arr. Simon Morley

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - dian't beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. born! Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace. born!
 birth. Christ, the Sa - vior, is born! birth.
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant gives the Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the ✠blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon gives the Dismissal.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand

Processional Hymn 87

Mendelssohn



1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right-eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

VOLUNTARY *Festival Toccata* — Percy Fletcher

Assisting in Today's Service

Altar Guild: Ruby McCowan, Heddy Brown, Chris McAdams, Laura Silva, Gwyn Schabacker, Perry Soash, Trish McKay, Nancy Watkins, Jeannie Kenyon, Lelia Clewis, Patty Hickey, Francie Brooks, Jan Kelley, Miriam Faircloth

Acolytes: Bailey Turnquist, Tommy Bricklemeyer, Elizabeth Welch, Maggie Welch, Rowan Cruse

Chalice: Dallas Coffield, Eric Williams

Lectors: Norm Allen, Dallas Coffield, Eric Williams

Ushers: Lee Casey, Rob Kelley, Jeff Mitchell, Doug Arthur, Stephen French, Norm Allen, Bruce Yost, Norm Allen, Daoud Georgis, Stephen Leal

Verger: Michael Eachon **Subdeacon:** Eric Williams

Christmas Flower Dedications

The Christmas flowers are given to the Glory of God

by Charlene G. Whittlesey & Patrick Whittlesey in loving memory of Mary Louise Griffith & Claude Fleetwood Griffith.

by Charlene G. Whittlesey & Patrick Whittlesey in loving memory of Judy Gilmore Whittlesey, Helen Ireland & Corinne Whittlesey.

in loving memory of Blanche Stubbs, and Ethel & Walter Kurg.

by Janis Elliot in loving memory of the Rev. Robert J. Elliot, John & Ethyl Boucher, Glenrose & Lester Ford and in thanksgiving for the dear friends in my life.

by Meaghan Conlee in thanksgiving for Thomas, Matthew & Emily Conlee.

by Ron & Mary Hulse in loving memory of Pat Wilson.

by John & Irene Few in loving memory and in thanksgiving for our parents.

by Kari Power in loving memory of Martha Bartlett & Marie Power and in thanksgiving for Thomas, Matthew & Emily Conlee.

by Chris McAdams in loving memory of Pat Wilson and Helen Gilbert.

by John Reffue and Jacqueline Saums in loving memory of Mary-Teresa Reffue, Lyle and Ruth Reffue and Louis and Julia Tropa and in thanksgiving for Thomas and Jessie Reffue and Caitlyn and Tyler Barkley.

by Alvie & Lee Casey in loving memory of Richard Lee Casey, Jr., Alvin Casey, Charles Martin, Wilma Martin.

by Susan Lang in loving memory of Mary Alma Lang.

by Jim, Lindsey, Jimmy, John and George Robbins in loving memory of Mary Ellen and John Germany and Mary Baker and Jimmie Robbins.

by Thomas and Denise Cassedy in loving memory of Marshall & Donna Cassedy and Denis & Kathleen Duggan.

by Pam Scruggs in loving memory of Charles and in thanksgiving for the blessed gift of Shailee.

by Lynn Fluharty & Family in loving memory of Stephen Parker Fluharty.

by Heddy and Andy Brown in loving memory of William Walker Humphries and in thanksgiving for family and friends.

by Betsy and Drew Graham in loving memory of Paul and Adaire Graham and in thanksgiving for our children.

by Lanny & Nora Russel in thanksgiving for Rebecca, Mark, Eleanor & Charles.

by John and MC Jenkins in loving memory of Wallace & Patty Jenkins and Walt & Noel Tatum and in thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren.

by Mike & Patty Hickey in loving memory of Al and Laura Vinje.

by Suzanne, Doug, Caroline and Kate in thanksgiving for Beth and Jim Arthur and Lucy & Richard Emery.

by James and Julie Martin in loving memory of Frank and Marge Norton & Macey Martin and in thanksgiving for Ryan, Walker & Turner Martin.

by Lois Smith in loving memory of my parents Doris & Nick DeMeo and my brother Robert DeMeo and in thanksgiving for my sons Kyle & Kevin and their families.

by Pat Ferguson in loving memory of my parents, Macy and Lamar Bailey, and my sister, Libby Garabedian.

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
With Congregational Carols
10:00 a.m.

Christmastide

December 26–January 6

The Parish Office will be closed 12/24 and reopen 12/29 and will close again 12/31 and reopen 1/2. Weekday Masses continue in the Rev. John R Peterson Chapel on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. unless otherwise indicated

The Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (Patronal Feast)

Saturday, December 27

10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist (Rite II) in the Rev. John R. Peterson Chapel

The Feast of the Holy Innocents

Monday, December 29

12:15 p.m.—Holy Eucharist (Rite II) in the Rev. John R. Peterson Chapel

Please Note: There will be no 12:15 p.m. Healing Mass on New Year's Day, 1/1

The Feast of the Epiphany

Tuesday, January 6

6:00 p.m.—Solemn High Mass (Rite I) in the Church



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

AND Episcopal Parish Day School

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STJOHNSTAMPA.ORG

THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

THE RIGHT REVEREND DOUGLAS FREDERICK SCHARF

VI Bishop of Southwest Florida

THE WARDENS, VESTRY, AND OFFICERS OF THE PARISH

JOHN H. MCKAY (2025)

Senior Warden

ANDREW M. BROWN (2025)

Junior Warden

DOUGLAS F. ARTHUR

Treasurer

ELIZABETH S. GRAHAM

Assistant Treasurer

AMY YOST

Clerk of the Vestry

NORMAN F.J. ALLEN III (2027)

ROBERT O. ALTER (2026)

RODDY D. BELFATTI (2025)

CARY R. BROWN (2026)

C. TWEED ECKHARD (2025)

LYNN L. FLUHARTY (2027)

ANDREW B. GALAVIS, SR. (2027)

JEFFREY M. HUNT (2026)

LISA J. LEAL (2026)

CHRISTINA C. MCADAMS (2027)

CLERGY AND STAFF

THE REVEREND CHRISTIAN M. WOOD

XVII Rector

THE REVEREND ANDREW LAZO

Associate Rector

THE REVEREND CAROLINE F. DEVIIT

Priest Associate for Evangelism &

Communications

THE REVEREND MARY ALICE LOPEZ

Deacon

SIMON J. MORLEY

Organist and Director of Music

LAURIE D. LAWTHER

Parish Administrator

AYANA S. GRADY

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

SAMANTHA SANTOS

Parish Coordinator

THE REVEREND DONALD P. GOODHEART

Retired Priest in Residence

THE REVEREND CHARLES E. CONNELLY

Retired Priest in Residence

HUGH A. R. JEBSON

Head of St. John's School

NOAH SCRIBNER

Sexton