



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

906 South Orleans Avenue ♦ Tampa, Florida 33606-2941

CHRISTMAS EVE



Holy Eucharist Rite II – 6:00pm

December 24, 2023

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

“Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee with love and awe. Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.”

Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? Have you ever sat back and contemplated that line from the famous Christmas hymn *O Come all ye Faithful*? Take some time this Christmas season, which begins on Christmas Eve and ends on January 6th with the feast of the Epiphany, to ponder the miracle of the Incarnation. God among us, the creator living as part of his creation.

God so humbled himself that his very word lived, moved, worked, laughed, cried, bled, and loved as a human being, all so that he could redeem his creation and bring that creation into communion with God and the rest of the heavenly host. On Christmas, we remember the beginning of the final stage of God’s rescue mission for us all. This Child, who in all ways seems so insignificant, is the savior of the world. O come, let us adore him! Merry Christmas to you all. May the word of God dwell within all our hearts.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fr. Chris Wood" with a small cross at the end.

The Rev. Christian M. Wood

VOLUNTARY *The Holy Boy*

John Ireland

The People Stand

Processional Hymn 83 *Stanzas 1-3*

Adeste fideles

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

PROPER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant

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

HYMN OF PRAISE 96 *Stanzas 1 & 4*

Gloria

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people sit

Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL MOTET *In the bleak mid-winter*

Harold Darke

Sung by the choir

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.**

The people stand

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The people sit

THE SERMON

Father Wood

THE NICENE CREED (*standing*)

Celebrant and people

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Form IV)*

The people kneel

Deacon Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Leader

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially those in hospital, ____ and those in hospice ____; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died especially ____; and for ____, in whose memory the altar flowers are given today; that your will for them may be fulfilled, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds this concluding Collect

Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
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 your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us
and forgive us; that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant 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 PEACE

All stand

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people sit

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem *I Saw Three Ships*

Arr. Philip Marshall

I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day, I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day, and all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three? on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day, and what was in those ships all three? On Christmas Day in the morning?

And all the Angels in heav'n shall sing, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day, and all the Angels in heav'n shall sing on Christmas Day in the morning.

Our Saviour Christ and his lady, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day, our Saviour Christ and his lady, on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day, and all the souls on earth shall sing, on Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray whither sail'd those ships all three? on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day, Pray whither sail'd those thips all three? on Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice again, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day, then let us all rejoice again on Christmas Day in the morning.

O they sail'd into Bethlehem, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day. O they sail'd into Bethlehem, on Christmas Day in the morning.

Hymn 94 Stanza 6

Winchester Old

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B*

The people stand

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Preface of the Incarnation

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus S128

William Mathias

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord,

the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

People and Celebrant

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.

Fraction Anthem S169

Ray Urwin

*My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed, says the Lord.
Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood dwell in me, and I in them.
My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed, says the Lord.*

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.



*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.
If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing
(indicated by crossing your arms over your chest).*

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

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

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [Amen.]
or with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

Communion Motets Sing Lullaby

Basque Noel

*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 baby awaking?
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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God,
heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn 111 *Sung by all, kneeling*

Stille Nacht Arr. Simon Morley

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

VOLUNTARY *Festival Toccata*

Percy Fletcher

PLEASE LEAVE THE CHURCH QUIETLY

In respect for those who choose to stay for the Voluntary.

UPCOMING SERVICES AND NOTICES

Christmastide

December 26–January 6

*Mass in the Chapel on Wednesdays (12:15 p.m.) and Thursdays (10 a.m.) as always
but with special mention of the following*

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

Wednesday, December 27

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

Holy Innocents

Thursday, December 28

10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers, in the Chapel

The Parish Offices close on Friday, 12/29 and reopen on Wednesday, January 3

New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31

As Normal:

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Epiphany –Saturday, January 6

10:00 a.m.—Said Mass, in the Chapel

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICES

ALTAR GUILD: Jan Williams, Gwyn Schabacker, Chris McAdams, Debbie Tozier, Jan Kelley, Madeleine Tellekamp, Lyz Pickette, Porsche Amaya, Florence Fouts

ACOLYTES: Skip Eckhard, Wren Wankelman

LECTORS: Norman Allen, Richard Chichester, Paul Brokaw

VERGER: Michael Eachon

The Flowers at the Church Altar are given to the Glory of God by the St. John's Choir
in memory of Daniel Greco, Sr.

The Flowers at the Chapel Altar are given to the Glory of God by Greg and Kamra Hearing
in thanksgiving for the life of Caden Kenneth Hearing.

The Candle in the Sanctuary Light is given to the Glory of God by Susie Burchill in thanksgiving
for her parents, George and Nancy Burchill.



Christmas Flowers are Given to the Glory of God by the following:

Knight; and in thanksgiving for Katie Spriggs, Fred & Elaine Clarke, and Addison & Hailey Belfatti.

Cary and Katey Brown in memory of Dall & Virginia Brown, Mike & Betsy Delea, Agnes Matheis; and
in thanksgiving for St. John's Clergy.

Heddy and Andy Brown in memory of William Humphries; and in thanksgiving for family and friends.

Alvie and Lee Casey in memory of Richard Lee Casey, Jr., Alvin Casey, Charles Martin and
Wilma Martin.



Mary Margaret Dolcimascolo in loving memory of my mother, Margaret Vance Smith, and grandparents, Paul and Margaret Vance.

Janis Elliott in memory of the Rev. Robert J. Elliott, John and Ethyl Boucher, Frank and Pearl Elliott; and in thanksgiving for family and friends.

Pat Ferguson and John Bailey in memory of Macy and Lamar Bailey; and Libby Garabedian and Jim Ferguson.

Adelaide Few in thanksgiving for God's many blessings.

The Hancock Family in memory of Tapp, Alex and Charles; and in thanksgiving for Elizabeth, Katie, Alex, Melanie, Charles and Collins.

Mike and Patty Hickey in thanksgiving for our sisters, Janis Schiro, Nancy Hughes, and Louanne Pauley.

Laura Hobby on behalf of all the children and grandchildren of Lynda Vawter in Lynda's memory.

Mary and Ron Hulse with gladness and love for our family.

Connie Johnson in thanksgiving for Kevin and Philip Johnson.

Roger and Elizabeth Kurz in memory of Amelia Kurz, Sid Stubbs, Ethel & Walter Kurz; and in thanksgiving for our family, near and far away.

Susan Lang in loving memory of Mary Alma Lang, Ann and David Murphey, Patsy and Buddy Carte, Sandy and Jack Murray, and Betty and Jim Carroll.

Suzy Lopez and Melinda Pendino in loving memory of Robert Lopez, Thomas Pendino, Elizabeth Perrie and Brice Perrie.

James and Julie Martin in thanksgiving for our children, Ryan, Walker and Turner; and in loving memory of Frank Norton.

Rachel and Julia Mattox in memory of Robert Hamilton Mattox III.

Chris and John McAdams in thanksgiving for their grandchildren, Wyatt Rhodri and John Hywel Leonard; and Hadley Anne and Carson Charles Koontz.

Trish and John McKay in memory of Joan and Howell McKay and Joseph M. Marek.

David McLay in thanksgiving for my children, Robert McLay and Heather McLay.

Canon, David and Barbara Pitts to the Glory of God.

Kari Power in loving memory of Martha Bartlett and Mark R. Power.

John, Thomas and Jessie Reffue in loving memory of Mary-Teresa Reffue, Lyle and Ruth Reffue, Louis and Julia Tropa, and Thomas Loren.

Sandy, Elizabeth and Katie Rief in loving memory of Marian "Didi" Rief and Jane F. White; and Sandy Rief and Diane Egner in loving memory of Virginia Egner.

The Robbins Family in memory of Mary Ellen and John Germany; Mary Baker and Jimmie Robbins.

Lanny and Nora Russell in thanksgiving for Rebecca, Mark, Eleanor and Charles Graff.

Pam Shives in memory of The Rev. Bev Shives; Maurine von Stroh, Gerald von Stroh, Burgess von Stroh; and Jamie Holley; and in thanksgiving for The Holley, Ramos and Smith children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Lois Smith.

George E. and Sandra Sprenkle in memory of our parents.

Madeleine Tellekamp in loving memory of my husband, Dr. F.R. Tellekamp and my son, Ashton Tellekamp.

Suzie and Carlton Ward Jr. in honor of Eldridge, Nell, and Carlton Ward, III.