



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

906 South Orleans Avenue ♦ Tampa, Florida 33606-2941

Our mission is to proclaim, by word and example,
the good news of God in Christ, and to build a spiritual community
forming Christians of all ages through worship, education, and outreach.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Eucharist Rite II – 9:30am

December 17, 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

Welcome to St. John's Church in the glorious season of Advent. This incredible season is set apart in the church's calendar to encourage all Christians to prepare themselves for the return of Jesus Christ. We mark this season with some of the most incredible hymnody, scripture lessons, and movements in the Episcopal Church.

So, while the world outside these walls becomes ever more hectic, and the world and our lives become ever busier with the hustle and bustle of the "holiday season," make St. John's your refuge, your oasis of peace this year. Take time to be intentional about your life with Jesus Christ and spend some quiet time here. Take in one of our extra offerings, like Advent Lessons and Carols or the Christmas concert, or come to meet Saint Nicholas and support our Foster Youth Initiative.

Take time this Advent to quiet down and listen to Jesus Christ. Where is he calling you through the Holy Spirit to take part in the life of his church? How will you prepare for the glorious season of Christmas that is fast approaching? Consider these questions, and may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding be ever with you during this season of chaos in the world, but peace and contemplation in the church.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fr. Chr. Wood" with a small cross at the end.

Fr. Christian M. Wood
Rector

Processional Hymn 72

Richmond

The people stand

PROPER ACCLAMATION

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

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

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant

Seeing that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

Deacon

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

The people kneel

Celebrant and People

Almighty and most merciful father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Celebrant

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

KYRIE S89

Hans Leo Hassler

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The people sit

Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, **
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
*For he hath regarded **
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
*For behold from henceforth **
all generations shall call me blessed.
*For he that is mighty hath magnified me, **
and holy is his Name.
*And his mercy is on them that fear him **
throughout all generations.
*He hath showed strength with his arm; **
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
*He hath put down the mighty from their seat, **
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
*He hath filled the hungry with good things, **
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
*He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, **
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.
*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Lector A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All elementary-age students will now follow the cross down the center aisle and process to Children's Chapel in the parish hall.

THE GOSPEL

John 1:6-8,19-28

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

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

Deacon Lopez

The people sit

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 I)

The people kneel

The Leader says

With all our heart and with all our mind,
let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord,
have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the
welfare of the Holy Church of God, and
for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to
the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and
people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the
nations, and for all in authority, let us
pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city, Tampa, for every city and
community, and for those who live in
them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given
us, and for the wisdom and will to
conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the
widowed and orphans, and for the sick
and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick, for those in hospital, and for
those in hospice, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the
unemployed and the destitute, for
prisoners and captives, and for all who
remember and care for them, let us pray
to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the
resurrection, especially___; for _____ in
whose memory the altar flowers are
given today; and for all the departed, let
us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger,
violence, oppression, and degradation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and
hope, without suffering and without
reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of the ever-blessed
Virgin Mary, blessed John, and of all the
saints, let us commend ourselves, and
one another, and all our life, to Christ
our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

The Celebrant adds this concluding collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **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 *A Spotless Rose*

Herbert Howells

*A spotless Rose is blowing Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing, Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light Amid the cold, cold
winter And in the dark midnight.*

*The Rose which I am singing, Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might The blessed
babe she bare us In a cold, cold winter's night.*

Hymn 56 *Stanza 3*

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

The people stand

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 Advent

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:

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). If you have not been baptized, and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let one of our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about the possibility of baptism, or any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.*

**Please fill in the kneelers at the altar during Communion from the
center aisle out, towards the side aisles.**

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

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

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

1 *The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,
"most highly favored maiden." Gloria!*

2 *"I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:
a blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored maiden." Gloria!*

3 *Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!*

4 *Of her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever
say, "Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!*

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.**

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; 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 57

Voluntary *Processional*

Helmsley

William Mathias

PLEASE LEAVE THE CHURCH QUIETLY
in respect for those who choose to stay for the Voluntary.

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICES

ALTAR GUILD: Pat Wilson, Francie Brooks, Heddy Brown, Sally Olsson, Susan Lang, Ruth Pasquarello, Marci Thomas, Ruby McCowan **LINENS:** Pat Rice

ACOLYTES: 8:00 Donna Gem; 9:30 Harrison Rainey, Olivia Rainey, Virginia Hobby, Maggie Wood, Michael Wood

LECTORS: 8:00 Betsy Wood; 9:30 Roy McCraw, M.C. Jenkins

CHALICE BEARERS: 9:30 Roy McCraw, Paul Brokaw

USHERS: 8:00 Oliver Roberts, Lockwood Gray; 9:30 Paul Carastro, David Adams, Bob Alter, Joe Andrews, John Jenkins, Rob Kelly

VERGER: Donna Gem

The Church Altar Advent Greenery is given to the Glory of God by Susan Lang in celebration of, and with thanksgiving for the 16th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Fr. Connelly.

The Chapel Altar Advent Greenery is given to the Glory of God by the Grotz, Merritt and Kercher families in loving memory of our Mother/Grandmother, Mary Lou Grotz.

The Chapel Altar Advent Greenery is given to the Glory of God by Mary and Ron Hulse in thanksgiving for our special family.

The Chapel Altar Advent Greenery is given to the Glory of God by Susan Lang in loving memory of Betty Carroll.

The Candle in the Sanctuary Light is given to the Glory of God by Denise Cassedy in loving memory of her parents Denis and Kathleen Duggan.