

**SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
& AFRICAN PALMS USA**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**Sunday, December 28, 2025**

**8am & 10:30am**

**MORNING PRAYER**



3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832  
Phone: (301) 774-6999 | Website: [www.stjec.org](http://www.stjec.org)

*~ CALLED BY CHRIST IN LOVE, TO LIVE IN TRUTH AND ACTION ~*

# Welcome to St. John's Church

*We are a diverse faith community committed to carrying out Christ's mission in the world around us. We love the beauty of worship, and live into the faithful and constant commitment towards seeking social and economic justice and reconciliation among all peoples. We come from across the globe, with varied family configurations, educational backgrounds, occupations, interests, and talents and invite you to join us. If you are visiting our church for the first time, please introduce yourself to an usher or a member of the Clergy. We have a small gift for you from the parish. If you are seeking a spiritual home, please speak with the Clergy.*



## **Please join us for Coffee and fellowship following the worship service**

If you are a guest with us today, please know that you are welcome to enjoy fellowship, coffee, and tea with us in the Parish Hall following the service.

## **Children are welcome at all services**

If you have little worshipers with you today who might enjoy coloring, Play-Doh, or a Rubik's cube, these can be found at either entrance.

**The Nursery is open from 8am to 12pm for children age 5 and under.**

## **SUNDAY @ ST. JOHN'S**

8am	<i>Worship with Eucharist, no music, in the Sanctuary</i>
9am	<i>Adult Forum in the undercroft Meeting Room</i>
9:45am	<i>Holy Household Half-Hour, Intergenerational "Sunday school" in the Parish Hall</i>
10:30am	<i>Worship with Eucharist and choir in the Sanctuary</i>

## DAILY MORNING PRAYER

### Rite Two

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy, which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:10, 11*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.     **BCP pg. 79**

*Silence may be kept.*

**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.**

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

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.  
*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**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. Alleluia**

*Officiant and People*

**Alleluia. To us a child is born; Come let us adore him. Alleluia**

## **Jubilate**

**BCP pg. 82-83**

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;\*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God;\*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving.  
go into his courts with praise;\*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

**For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting;\*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**Psalm 147:13-21**

- 13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!

**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.**

**Alleluia. To us a child is born; Come let us adore him. Alleluia**

## The Lesson

### Isaiah 61:10-62:3

*Reader*      A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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.  
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

**Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7**

*Reader* A Reading from the Letter to the Galatians

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*People*      **The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle 21   You are God    *Te Deum laudamus***

**BCP pg. 95**

**You are God: we praise you;  
You are the Lord; we acclaim you;  
You are the eternal Father:  
All creation worships you.  
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
    Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
    heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;  
    Father, of majesty unbounded,  
    your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
    and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.  
You, Christ, are the king of glory,  
the eternal Son of the Father.  
When you became man to set us free  
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.  
You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come and be our judge.  
    Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
    bought with the price of your own blood,  
    and bring us with your saints  
    to glory everlasting.**



## A reading from the Gospel according to John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God**

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

*Officiant*    The Lord be with you.

*People*       **And also with you.**

*Officiant*    Let us pray.

*Officiant 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Suffrages B*

- V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**  
V. Day by day we bless you;  
R. **We praise your name for ever.**  
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
R. **Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.**  
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
R. **For we put our trust in you.**  
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;  
R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

## **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **A Collect for Sundays**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Collect For Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen**

*Prayers for those on our hearts and minds may be offered silently or aloud.*

**Anne, Sara, Aurora, Katie, Carole, Ivy, Steve, Celeste, and Mary.**

## **Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

**Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Offering Plates are available outside both doors.

## TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

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*Use this list to pray and to show your love and concern for the sick, shut-in, bereaved, or those merely in need of prayer. If you wish to submit a name, please contact the office at [accounting@stjec.org](mailto:accounting@stjec.org).*

*In case of pastoral emergency, please call 301-774-3619 or email [pastoralcare@stjec.org](mailto:pastoralcare@stjec.org).*

Anne Elliott

Sara R.

Aurora

Katie Fairbanks

Carole

Ivy Choe-Branstetter

Steve Ruff

Celeste McGee

Mary Persinger

*If you are ill for an extended period, are hospitalized, need a visit or Eucharist brought to you, want your home blessed, are celebrating a birth, adoption, or want specific prayers for any number of celebrations or sorrows, please email: [pastoralcare@stjec.org](mailto:pastoralcare@stjec.org).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*Epiphany* a service of light

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10 @ 5PM**  
**Pageant . Chalk Blessing . Spaghetti Dinner**

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- Join us on Saturday, January 10th at 5pm as we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world. The evening begins with the Christmas/Epiphany Pageant, evening prayer service followed by a casual spaghetti dinner in the Parish Hall. We invite you to worship and stay for fellowship immediately following the service.

- **FREE AUDIOLOGY SCREENING**

Join us on Sunday, January 18th from 12-2pm **in** the Prayer Room for FREE hearing screenings. Specialists from Olney Family Hearing will be providing the free screenings. Results will be available immediately. Should additional evaluation be recommended you may follow up with any audiologist of your choice, including Olney Family Hearing.

- **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

Food Pantry needs for this week include: Sardines | Taco Kits | Jelly | Beef Stew | Milk (large) | Snack Stack Crackers | Pudding Cups | Cereal.

Thank you for your generous support through food donations this year. Your donations have made a meaningful difference for the individuals and families we serve.

# SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL & AFRICAN PALMS USA

## Diocese of Washington

The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, *Bishop*

## STAFF

The Reverend Henry P. McQueen, *Rector*

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Joe Powers, *Interim Head of School*

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Eoin Benson, *Sexton*

Selva Selvarajah, *Verger*

## VESTRY

Will Lederer, 2026 - *Formation*

Bill Fleming, 2026 - *Sr. Warden*

Mary Kerr, 2026 - *Pastoral Care*

Andrew Hamill - *Treasurer*

Aparna Williams - *Asst. Treasurer*

Julie Metcalf - *Registrar*

Bree Bruemmer, 2027 - *Stewardship*

Carmen Jones, 2027 - *Evangelism*

Becca Roberson, 2027 - *Jr. Warden, Outreach*

Becky Hast, 2028 - *STJES*

Mary Lou McMaster, 2028 - *Worship*

Rob Schellhase, 2028 - *Parish Life*

## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832

(301) 774-6999 - Welcome@stjec.org

~ On the Land of the Piscataway Nation ~