

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

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

**8am & 10:30am**

**HOLY EUCHARIST**



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>                              |

## COME JOIN US

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### TODAY

- Acolyte/ EM/ Lector Training @ 9am OR 12pm
- Newcomer's Coffee Hour @ 12pm
- Youth Group Meeting @ 12pm
- T'ween Faith Club Meeting @ 2pm

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

- Family Ice Skating @ 12-2pm

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- National Cathedral Blue Christmas Service @ 7pm

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

- Gift Wrapping & Christmas Cookies @ 6:30pm

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

- Casserole Club Meeting @ 12pm
- Cookies & Milk Prayer Partner PJ Party @ 12pm

# HOLY EUCHARIST

10:30AM

Prelude

*The people stand.*

10:30AM

Hymn #67

Comfort, comfort ye my people



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



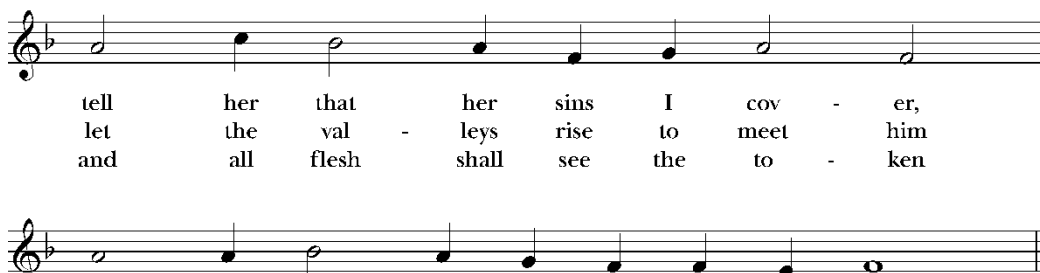
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
 let the val - leys rise to meet him  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
 and the hills bow down to greet him.  
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

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

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

8AM

Gloria

BCP pg. 356

Glory to God in the highest,  
 and peace to his people on earth.  
 Lord God, heavenly King,  
 almighty God and Father,  
 we worship you, we give you thanks,  
 we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
 Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take away the sin of the world:  
     have mercy on us;  
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
     receive our prayer.  
 For you alone are the Holy One,  
 you alone are the Lord,  
 you alone are the Most High,  
     Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
     in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

10:30AM

Wait for the Lord

Ostinato Chorale

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6:33, 7:7; Taizé Community, 1984  
 Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
 © 1982, 1983, 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

*People*

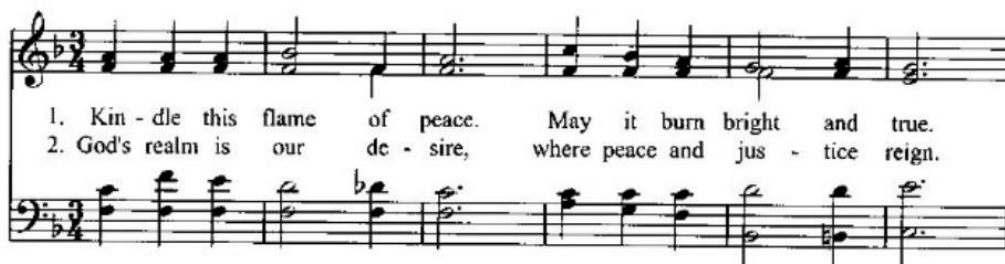
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Advent candle is lit.*

10:30AM



1. Kin - dle this flame of peace. May it burn bright and true.  
2. God's realm is our de - sire, where peace and jus - tice reign.



Light-ing the way that is of God, the jour - ney we pur - sue.  
Hea - ven and earth com - bined as one, when Christ shall come a - gain.

WORDS: Gary L. Lake Dillensnyder, 2009

MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM  
SM

*Kneel as you are able.*

Heavenly Father, you call us to repent of our sins: soften our proud and stubborn hearts. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you declared the forgiveness of God: teach us to forgive one another. Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you search our hearts and show us the truth: direct us in your way of righteousness. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will, and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

### **Isaiah 11:1-10**

*Lector*      A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.



He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat  
straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.  
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the  
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling  
shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.

## **Romans 15:4-13**

*Lector* A reading from Saint Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";  
and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";  
and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";  
and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

*The people stand.*

*Unison*

1 I - sai - ah the proph - et has writ - ten of old how  
2 Yet na - tions still prey on the meek of the world, and

God's new cre - a - tion shall come. In - stead of the thorn tree the  
con - flict turns par - ent from child. Your peo - ple de - spoil all the

fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the lamb. The  
sweet - ness of earth; the bri - ar and thorn tree grow wild. God,

moun - tains and hills shall burst forth in - to song, the peo - ples be  
bring to fru - i - tion your will for the earth, that no one shall

led forth in peace; for the earth shall be filled with the  
hurt or de - stroy, that wis - dom and jus - tice shall

know - ledge of God as the wa - ters cov - er the seas.  
reign in the land and your peo - ple shall go forth in joy.

Text: Joy Patterson, 1982. © 1982, The Hymn Society. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music: melody from *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Austin C. Lovelace, 1979.

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## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (3:1-12)**

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

*People*

*The people stand.*

**The Nicene Creed**

**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

*Deacon* God calls us to love one another. As a sign of that love, let us lift up our prayer to God for the needs of all people throughout the world, saying: O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the peace of the world, that our instruments of war may be transformed into instruments of peace, and that nations shall cease to learn war any more.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church, that we may become more and more a means of grace and peace in the world.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all people of good will who seek to cast off the works of darkness, that we may be enlightened through our service of others in the name of Christ.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need especially **Anne, Sara, Sloane, Aurora, Katie, Stephen, Carole, Tom, Ron, Greg, Ivy, Steve, Celeste, and Mary**, that we may be alert to the presence of Christ in them and ready to reach out in love.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all the departed, that we may be comforted in knowing they are in the nearer presence of God.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are assembled here today, that we may be clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ and go forth from this place to be Christ in the world.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have asked for our prayers, that we may faithfully wait upon God with confidence in that love which sustains us in every moment of our lives.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

*Officiant* We praise you, Lord our God, that you have called us to be your people and the instruments of your presence in the world. Grant us grace to discern your will and the strength to do it, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**



Use the QR code to donate from your mobile device.

**Anthem:** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Page



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Samuels Wells

*During Advent our Eucharistic Prayers will reflect the specific readings for each week. We invite you to listen to, rather than read, the prayers. This will also permit you to focus on the bread and the wine during these prayers. Lift your eyes towards the altar and hear our prayers to God.*

*The people stand.*

*People*           The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*People*           Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*People*           Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues.*

**8AM**

**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.**

10:30AM

**Sanctus 129** Holy, holy, holy

Robert Powell

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Great is the mystery of faith.  
*People* **Christ has died;**  
**Christ is risen;**  
**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, in the language closest to our hearts, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

أَبَانَا الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ  
لِيَبْقَدَّسَ اسْمُكَ  
لِيَأْتِ مَلَكُوتُكَ  
لِتَكُنْ مَشِيئَتُكَ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا السَّمَاءِ  
اعْطِنَا خُبْرَنَا الْيَوْمِيَّ  
اعْفُفْنَا فِي مِمَّا عَلَيْنَا فَقَدْ اعْفَيْنَا نَحْنُ أَيْضاً  
مَنْ  
لَنَا عَلَيْهِ  
وَلَا تُنْخِلْنَا فِي تَجْرِبَةٍ  
لَكِنْ نَجِّنَا مِنَ الشَّرِّ لِأَنَّ لَكَ الْمُلْكَ وَالْقُوَّةَ  
وَالْمَجْدَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ  
أَمِينَ

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

10:30AM

Fraction Anthem: My Spirit Yearns for You

Taizé Community



My spir - it yearns for you in the night, O God; I  
*Ie - de - re nacht ver-lang ik naar u, o God, ik*



seek you, O Lord, with all my soul. My spir - it  
*hun - ker naar u met heel mijn ziel. Ie - de - re*



yearns for you in the night, O God; I  
*nacht ver-lang ik naar u, o God, ik*



seek you, O Lord, with all my soul.  
*hun - ker naar u met heel mijn ziel.*

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## The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The people are seated.*

*Communion is offered to all who are called by Christ to participate. You can receive in both kinds, bread and wine or in just one. To receive communion, or a blessing, please come forward to the priest at the front of the altar. To receive bread, put your hands out, to receive wine, please drink from the chalice. For health reasons, we do not instinct (dip) the bread. To receive a blessing, cross your arms across your chest. Gluten-free host is available. Please make your needs known to the priest.*

### **Sending Prayers for Eucharistic Visitors**

*Deacon* In the name of God and this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People* **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The people stand.*

*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

### Hymn #65

Prepare the way, O Zion



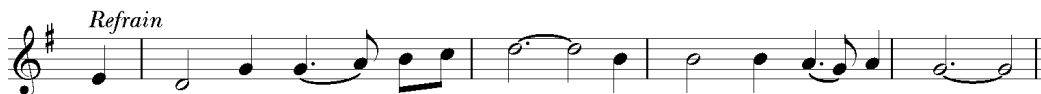
- 1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920) Copyright ©1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt. Copyright ©1930 by permission of Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

## 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.

Sloane Lewis

Aurora

Katie Fairbanks

Stephen Simpson

Carole

Tom Dry

Ron Blackburn

Greg Downing

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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- **HISTORY THROUGH RACIAL PERSPECTIVE**

Join us on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for a hybrid meeting to share updates on our ongoing work exploring the history of our parish and community through the lens of race. We will meet in person in the Meeting Room, or you can join us via Zoom. The Zoom link can be found in Friday's Bell Tower. For more information, please see Deacon Nancy or Fr. Henry.

- **WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S SOUP & SALAD/COOKIE EXCHANGE**

Ladies of St. John's, please join us for our annual Soup & Salad/Cookie Exchange on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the home of Mathy Downing - (5712 Stanbrook Lane, Laytonsville, MD). Come and enjoy soup and salads, followed by a cookie exchange. Soup and bread will be provided. Please bring a salad or appetizer to share plus a food item for the food pantry. Questions? Contact [mathy02@aol.com](mailto:mathy02@aol.com).

- **GIFT WRAPPING & CHRISTMAS COOKIES**

A ladies evening to prepare Christmas magic. Bring your gifts (for your own family and others on your list), wrapping paper and other supplies to the Parish hall, along with wine, soda, or snacks of your preference to share, for a casual evening of wrapping and fellowship on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Pizza will be provided, along with salad, and wrapping supplies to share.

- **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Washington National Cathedral's annual Blue Christmas Service invites us into hope and healing through prayer, music, and reflection on Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Contact Deacon Nancy for carpool information. <https://cathedral.org/worship/blue/> to livestream.



- **CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS & MUSIC**

Celebrate Christmas by remembering, honoring, or giving thanks for someone with a Christmas floral tribute or special Christmas music during worship. Names will be printed in the bulletins. Deadline to submit donation form is **Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**. Donations can be made online at [www.stjec.org/give](http://www.stjec.org/give) (Christmas Flower OR Christmas Music).

- **PRAYER PARTNERS MILK & COOKIES PJ PARTY**

Join us for Advent Cookies, Milk and Eggnog with your prayer partner on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 12-1pm. If you would like a prayer partner, please contact Mo. Shivaun.

- **KNITTERS & CROCHETERS**

Please consider making mittens, hats, scarfs, and other cold weather items, so that we can put them out on the “Love Your Neighbor” sign for anyone in need to take. Items may be dropped off on the bench outside the Rector’s office so that they can be hung with love outside for those who need them to stay warm.

- **TOYS FOR LOCAL KIDS**

St. John’s School 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade class along with St. John’s Church will be collecting new unwrapped toys for children aged Newborn to 16 for Olney Lion’s Toys for Local Kids toy drive. A collection box will be outside the Rector’s office through December 18<sup>th</sup>.

- **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

Food Pantry needs for this week include: Canned Chicken | Pasta Sauce Cereal (large) | Plastic Utensils Sets | Fruit Cups | Canned Red Beans Taco Kit | Sardines | Canned White Beans.



## CHRISTMAS GIVING @ ST. JOHN'S

*The season of sharing gifts is fast approaching...  
this year we have three ways to offer gifts.*

**TOYS** - In partnership with St. John's Episcopal School, we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for children through Olney Lion's Club Toys for Local Kids. Please bring in new toys for children age newborn through 16 and leave them in the box outside Fr. Henry's office by **December 18th**.

**BARS OF DOVE SOAP** - Last year we packed hygiene kits for the women incarcerated at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women. This year they are specifically asking for Bars of Dove Soap. We want to provide at least one for every person incarcerated. Please drop boxes of Dove soap in the basket outside Fr. Henry's office by **December 9th**.

**GROCERY STORE GIFT CARDS** - So many families in our area are struggling to put food on the table. Grocery store gifts cards (\$50) will be collected for families so that they are able to purchase items for their holiday meals. Gift cards may be placed in the collection plate or given to Deacon Nancy. Gift cards will be collected through **December 24th** - Christmas Eve.

*Spirit* of   
—GIVING—



## Christmas Altar Flowers

CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE IS **DECEMBER 19TH**

Return completed form along with your check for **\$50** made payable to:  
**St. John's** (Christmas Flowers on Memo Line)  
place in Sunday's Collection Plate or mail to church office.

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ IN THANKSGIVING OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Christmas MUSIC

CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE IS **DECEMBER 19TH**

Help make St. John's beautiful and festive this joyful season.  
Please make a contribution to assist with the cost of special music on Christmas Eve  
In Memory of / In Thanksgiving of / In Honor of family and friends.

**Make checks payable to: St. John's (Music on Memo Line)**

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ IN THANKSGIVING OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# 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*

rector@stjec.org

The Reverend Shivaun Wilkinson, *Associate Rector*

associate@stjec.org

The Reverend Nancy Stockbridge, *Deacon*

deacon@stjec.org

Tammy Turner, *Parish Administrator*

accounting@stjec.org

Cambria Van de Vaarst, *Minister of Music*

music@stjec.org

Africanpalms@stjec.org

Joe Powers, *Interim Head of School*

Joe.Powers@stjes.org

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 ~