

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

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Sunday, December 1, 2024**

**8:00am & 10:30am**

**HOLY EUCHARIST**



3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832

Phone: (301) 774-6999

Website: [www.stjec.org](http://www.stjec.org)

# 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.*

*If you have questions, email us at [welcome@stjec.org](mailto:welcome@stjec.org)*



## **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 some 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: Book &amp; discussion group in the undercroft Meeting Room</i>
8:45am	<i>Choir Rehearsal in the undercroft Choir 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>
12-1pm	<i>Middle &amp; High School Youth Group</i>
12-1pm	<i>Hand Bell Choir</i>

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### PRELUDE: Bless This House

May Brahe

*The people stand.*

### Opening Hymn 57

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

Celebrant      Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
People          And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. 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.**

8:00AM  
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 the 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

Celebrant      The Lord be with you.  
People        **And also with you.**  
                  Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Advent candle is lit*

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*

### **JEREMIAH 33: 14-16**

Reader            A READING FROM THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Reader            The Word of the Lord.

**People            Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

## 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

Reader      A READING FROM SAINT PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN  
THESSALONICA

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

*The People stand*

Sequence Hymn 640

Watchman, tell us of the night

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise  
2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -  
3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to



are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -  
scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its  
dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray  
course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone  
are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it  
gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav-eler, a - ges  
hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.  
are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

*Two groups may sing antiphonally, alternating by sentences.*

Words: John Bowring (1792-1872). Music: *Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry (1841-1903).

Deacon            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
People            **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Shivaun Wilkinson

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

Fr Michael Kwatera, O.S.B.

**Deacon** Let us lift up our prayers to God our Father, who  
Faithfully shapes our lives for the coming of the beloved Son.

That the church will know the Lord's favor in watchful readiness  
for the revelation of Christ,  
**People let us pray to the Lord:**

That leaders of governments will know the Lord's favor in  
fervent efforts to end injustice, poverty, and war,  
**People let us pray to the Lord:**

That the sick, hospitalized, and those in need of prayer,  
especially **Ron, Harry, Celeste, Jessica, Paula, Mary Helen, Jere,**  
**Roberta, Tim, Mary, Joseph.** will know the Lord's favor in  
abundant health and strength,  
**People let us pray to the Lord:**

That this assembly will know the Lord's favor in untiring service  
until the Master returns,  
**People let us pray to the Lord:**

That those who have died, will know the Lord's favor in  
everlasting joy,  
**People let us pray to the Lord:**

*The Celebrant offers a concluding collect.*

God our redeemer, mercifully hear our prayers. Make us  
mindful of your ways once more. Renew in our lives your  
wonders of old, so that the appointed time of Christ's coming  
will find us blameless in your sight. We ask this through Christ  
our Lord. **Amen.**

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

**People** The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

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ANTHEM Creator of the Stars of Night

Raabe

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP, pg. 361

*The people stand*

**People**           The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**People**           **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People**           **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

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:

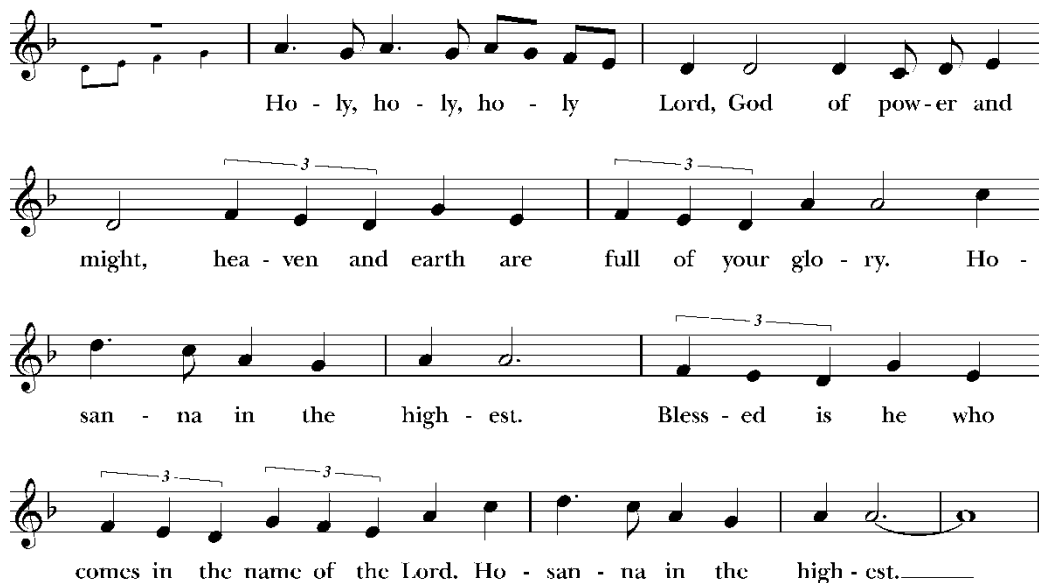
*Celebrant and People*

8:00AM

**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 S129



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. \_\_\_\_\_

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). It features a variety of note values including eighth, quarter, and half notes, as well as triplet markings (indicated by a '3' and a bracket) over groups of three notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

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

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

### **Celebrant and People**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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, 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.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,  
santificado sea tu Nombre, venga  
tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, en la  
tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy  
nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona  
nuestras ofensas, como también  
nosotros perdonamos a los que nos  
ofenden. No nos dejes caer en  
tentación y líbranos del mal.

Porque tuyo es el reino,  
tuyo es el poder,  
y tuya es la gloria,  
ahora y por siempre. Amén.

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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

**8:00AM**

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

# Fraction The Hymnal WLP 873

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Those who

eat my flesh and drink my blood a - bide in me and

I in them. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score is written for a vocal part and piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4. The vocal line is in a soprano or alto range. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand and a left hand. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood a - bide in me and I in them. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.'

Music: Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Fraction Anthems, Canticles, and Chants*. Copyright © 1997 Carl Haywood.

## The Gifts of God for the People of God

*This is God's table; 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 intinct (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.*

*The people are seated*

### **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.*

**People:** Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**


### **The Blessing**

# Recessional Hymn: 616

## Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
 2 He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
 3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,  
 4 Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;  
 5 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest;



1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!  
 2 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
 3 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth;  
 4 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing;  
 5 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest:



1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;  
 2 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,  
 3 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;  
 4 to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scend;  
 5 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

1 to take a - way trans - ges - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 2 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.  
 3 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.  
 4 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.  
 5 his Name shall stand for ev - er, his change - less Name of Love.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 72. Music: *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*, German folk song; adapt. and harm. *A Student's Hymnal*, 1923, after Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941).

## DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
 People Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** #1 IN C WTC

Johann Sebastian Bach

## 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).*

Ron Blackburn  
Harry Brooks  
Celeste McGee  
Jessica Brice  
Paula Fangboner  
Mary Helen  
Jere Rowland  
Roberta Ridenour  
Tim Wittig  
Mary Persinger  
Joseph Sears

*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).*

## LOOKING AHEAD

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### **Sunday, December 1**

- Newcomer's Coffee hour

### **Thursday, December 5**

- Christmas Tree Lighting at 6:30pm

### **Tuesday and Thursday December 3 & 5 @ 9AM**

- African Palms Packing

### **Saturday, December 7**

- Advent Dinner – Lessons and Carols at 5:00pm
- Children's Advent Party

### **Tuesday and Thursday December 10 & 12 @ 9AM**

- African Palms Packing

### **Monday, December 16**

- Women of Saint John's Soup and Salad

### **Tuesday and Thursday December 17 & 19 @ 9AM**

- African Palms Packing

### **Wednesday, December 18**

- STJES Christmas Concert at 10:20am and 6:30pm
- Vestry Meeting

### **Tuesday December 24**

- Christmas Eve Services at 10:30am, 7:00pm and 10:00pm

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **TODAY**

We Welcome Bill Stief our guest organist.

### **CALLING ALL WOMEN OF ST JOHN'S!**

Please join us for our Annual Soup and Salad dinner at the Downing home on Monday, December 16th, at 7:00. Hearty soup and vegetarian soup will be provided. Please bring either a salad or an appetizer to share. Following dinner, we will have our annual cookie exchange, so don't forget your cookies! Bring a tin or tins will be provided. Come join in the fun and enjoy a delicious meal provided by many hands. Hope to see you there!

### **AFRICAN PALMS 2.0**

We need help packing large distributors' orders. We are packing Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9 to 11am, please consider helping with this task.

### **NURSERY HELPER**

The Nursery has a need for a second leader on Sunday mornings from 10am to 12pm. If you are interested in being on the volunteer nursery rotation on Sunday mornings, please speak with Mo. Shivaun.

### **FOOD PANTRY**

Pantry needs for this week include: Sardines, Individual Chef Boyardee, Canned Tuna Fish, Individual Cereal, Meal Helpers, Canned Chili, Beef Stew, Small Shelf Stable Milk, Package Potatoes, Hotel Toiletries, Black Beans, Pudding Cups, Taco Kit, Rice, Ramen Noodles.





# *Celebrating* ADVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th @ 5pm

Start the evening off with  
Lessons & Carols at 5pm in the Sanctuary  
Followed by a Potluck Dinner in the Parish Hall  
(make something or buy something to contribute)  
St. John's will provide a Turkey, a Beef Stew, and a Vegetarian Pasta Dish,  
along with wine, soft drinks and festive mocktails.



Children are invited and welcome  
to Lessons & Carols at 5pm.

Children's Advent Party begins at  
6pm in the school gym.

Children will be escorted to the gym at 6pm for a dinner of Chicken Fingers, Mac-n-Cheese and Fruit, followed by games and advent activities. A donation of \$25 per family is suggested to underwrite childcare and the dinner.

**Please see Friday's Bell Tower to RSVP and sign-up .**

# *Christmas at* ST. JOHN'S

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19**

*St. John's School*  
Christmas Concert  
10:20am & 6:30pm

\*

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

*Christmas Eve Services*

10:30am  
Family Interactive Service

7:00 & 10:00pm  
Choral Eucharist

\*

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25**

*Christmas*

9:00am  
Eucharist



## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

8:00 & 10:30am  
Morning Prayer

\*

## **SATURDAY, JANUARY 4**

*Feast of Epiphany*

5:00pm  
A Service of Light  
followed by a  
Spaghetti Dinner



## Christmas Altar Flowers

CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE IS **DECEMBER 15TH**

Return completed form along with your check for **\$40** 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 15TH**

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*  
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Tammy Turner, *Parish Administrator*  
accounting@stjec.org

Cambria Van de Vaarst, *Minister of Music*  
music@stjec.org

Lourdes Hurtado  
Africanpalms@stjec.org

Doug Perkins, *Interim Head of School*  
Doug.Perkins@stjes.org

Jonathan Chai, *Sexton*

Selva Selvarajah, *Verger*

## VESTRY

Glen Drew – *Treasurer*  
Aparna Williams – *Asst. Treasurer*  
Vicki Hudson, 2027 – *Stewardship*  
Carmen Jones, 2027 – *Evangelism*  
Becca Roberson, 2027 – *Outreach*  
Julie Metcalf – *Registrar*

Barry Gough, 2025 – *Sr. Warden*  
Phil Reiff, 2025 – *STJES*  
Alan Soukup, 2025 – *Worship, STJES*  
Nancy Olkewicz, 2026 – *Parish Life*  
Bill Fleming, 2026 – *Formation, Jr. Warden*  
Mary Kerr, 2026 – *Pastoral Care*

**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 ~