

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 22, 2024

8:00am & 10:30am

HOLY EUCHARIST



Romare Bearden

The Visitation (1941)

3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832

Phone: (301) 774-6999

Website: 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



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 & discussion group in the undercroft Meeting Room</i>
9am	<i>Choir Rehearsal in the undercroft Choir Room</i>
9:30am	<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 & High School Youth Group in The Gathering Space upstairs</i>
12-1pm	<i>Hand Bell Choir in the undercroft Choir Room</i>

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE: Bagatelle

The people stand.

Opening Hymn 60

Creator of the stars of night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse
3 When this old world drew on toward night,
4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now
5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,
* 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
3 not as a mon - arch, but the child
4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,
5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low
6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.
2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

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

The musical score is written for a vocal line and an ostinato chorale accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The vocal line consists of two phrases: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and "Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!". The accompaniment is an ostinato chorale, consisting of a repeating rhythmic pattern of chords in the bass clef and a melodic line in the treble clef. The first phrase of the vocal line is followed by a repeat sign, and the second phrase is also followed by a repeat sign.

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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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

MICAH 5: 2-5a

Reader A READING FROM THE PROPHET MICAH

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

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

CANTICLE 15 THE SONG OF MARY

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his
Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit as
it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

HEBREWS 10:5-10

Reader A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

When Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken
pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin
offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he
added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first
in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we
have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus
Christ once for all.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The People stand

Sequence Hymn 265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meck - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by scers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - al
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - al
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - al
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - al

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Petman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Shivaun Wilkinson

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, pg. 358

**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 **Carolyn, Ron, Celeste, Jessica, Paula, Mary Helen, Jere, Tim, and Mary**, 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.**

CONFESSIOIN/ ABSOLUTION

BCP, pg. 360

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.



Use the QR code to donate from your mobile device.

ANTHEM CHIAPANECA

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.

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.**

**Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,
Que ton nom soit sanctifié,
Que ton règne vienne,
Que ta volonté soit faite sur la
terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre
pain de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses
Comme nous pardonnons aussi à
ceux qui nous ont offensés.
Et ne nous soumetts pas à la
tentation, mais délivre-nous du
mal, car c'est à toi
qu'appartiennent le règne,
la puissance et la gloire, aux siècles
des siècles.
Amen.**

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 WLP 873

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Those who
eat my flesh and drink my blood a - bide in me and

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a 2/4 time signature, then changes to 3/4. The piano accompaniment follows the same time signature changes. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (Bb).

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: 437 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

1 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord!
2 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his Name!
3 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his might!
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*. Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Birmingham*, from *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm. *Songs of Praise*, 1925.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE: Creator of the stars

TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

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.

In case of pastoral emergency, please call 301-774-3619 or email pastoralcare@stjec.org.

Carolyn Shepherd

Ron Blackburn

Celeste McGee

Jessica Brice

Paula Fangboner

Mary Helen

Jere Rowland

Tim Wittig

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas at
ST. JOHN'S



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24th

10:30am Family Interactive Service
7:00 & 10:00pm Choral Eucharist

*

CHRISTMAS SERVICE
December 25th

9:00am Eucharist

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:00 & 10:30am Morning Prayer

*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4
Feast of Epiphany

5:00pm Service of Light and Dinner

OFFICE CLOSED

December 24 through January 1, 2025

EPIPHANY SERVICE

Please join us as we celebrate the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ on **Saturday, January 4th** at 5pm. The evening begins with a wonderful evening Epiphany prayer service followed by a casual spaghetti dinner in the Parish Hall. We invite you to worship and stay for fellowship with the all parish Spaghetti Dinner immediately following the service in the Parish Hall.



Epiphany a service of light

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4 @ 5PM
Evening Prayer . Chalk Blessing . Spaghetti Dinner

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*

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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
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~ On the Land of the Piscataway Nation ~