

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, January 4, 2026

8am & 10:30am

HOLY EUCHARIST



3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832
Phone: (301) 774-6999 | Website: 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

TODAY

- Newcomer's Coffee Hour @ 12pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

- Epiphany Pageant Service & Spaghetti Dinner @ 5pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

- Neuro-Spicy Meeting @ 1:30pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

- Casserole Club Meeting @ 12pm
- FREE Audiology Screening

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

- Martin Luther King Day, STJEC Day of Service

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

- EDOW Convention, Washington National Cathedral

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

- Annual Meeting @ 9am

HOLY EUCHARIST

10:30AM

Prelude

The people stand.

10:30AM

Hymn #102

Once in royal David's city

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly
5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

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

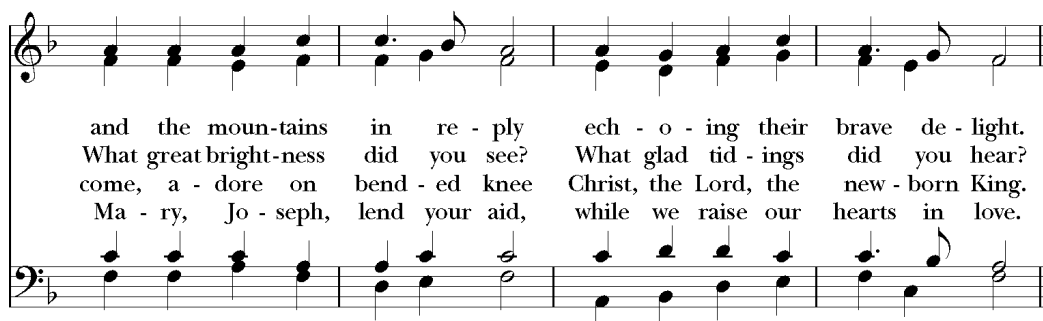
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you 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

Hymn #96

Angels we have heard on high

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;




and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

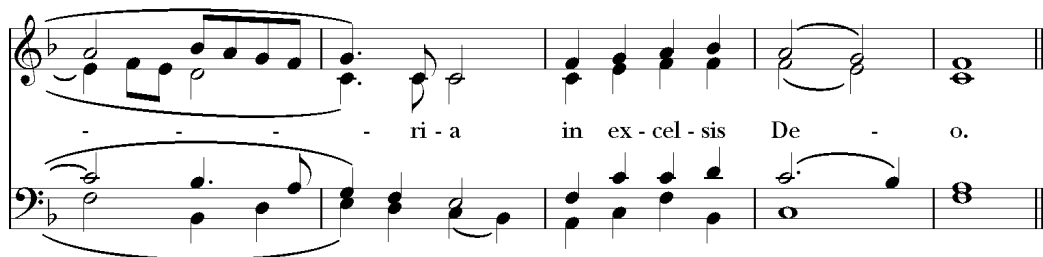
Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Copyright © by permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Lector A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."
See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84:1-8

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of
the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place
of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Word of the Lord.

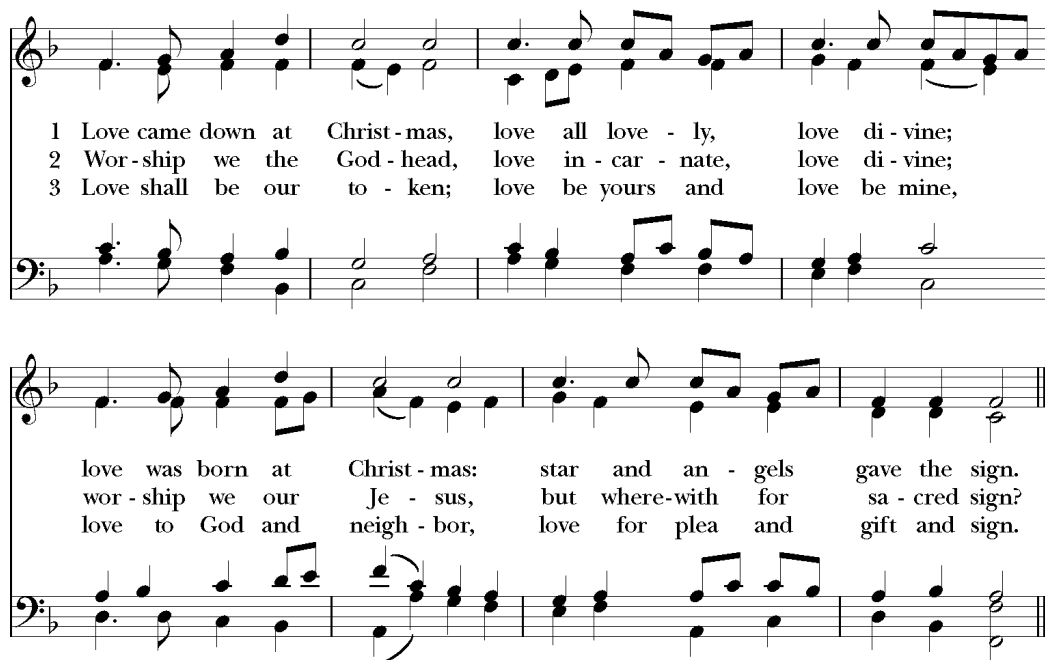
People

Thanks be to God.

The people stand.

Hymn #84

Love came down at Christmas



1 Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
 2 Wor-ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
 3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
 wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
 love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

(2:13-15, 19-23)

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Nancy Stockbridge

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.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and
humbly serve you;
People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and
Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations
of the world;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
especially, **Anne, Sara, Aurora, Katie, Carole, Ivy, Steve, Celeste,
and Mary, and those in our hearts and known to God.**
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

The celebrant adds a concluding collect.

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: Coventry Carol

arr. Wagner

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP pg. 367

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.

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:

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 125

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant continues.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,

that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.**

天におられる私たちの父よ
み名が聖とされますように
み国がきますように
みこころが天に行われるとおりに
地にも行われますように
私たちの日ごとの糧を今日もお与え
ください
私たちの罪をおゆるしてください
私たちも人をゆるします
私たちを誘惑におちいらせず、悪か
らお救いください
アーメン

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: WLP #866

Cantor *Choir* *Congregation & Choir*

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

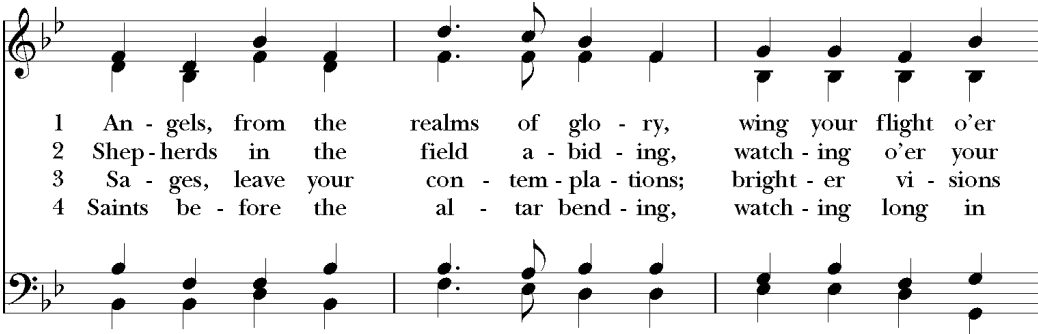
Celebrant and People

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.

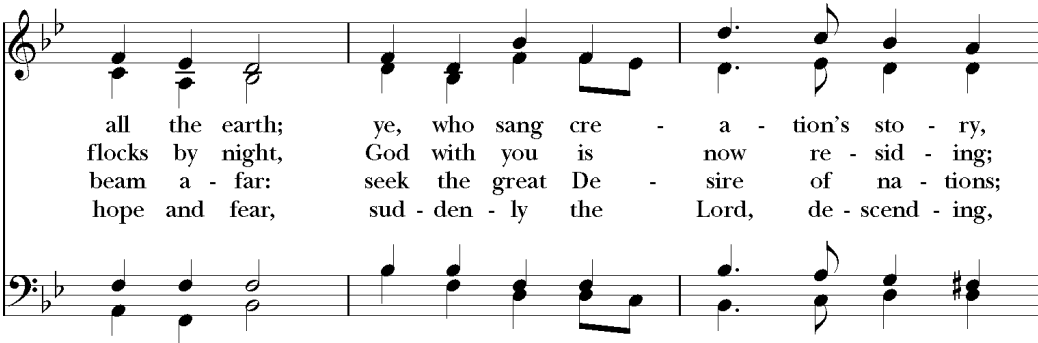
The Blessing

Hymn #93

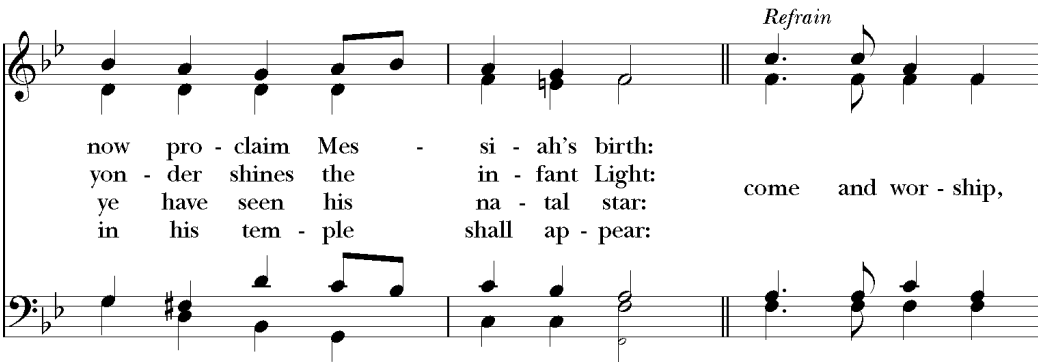
Angels from the realm of glory



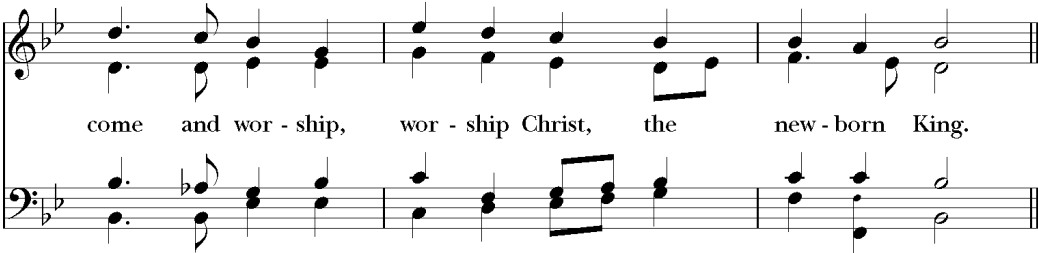
1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in



all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Refrain
 now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:



come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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

Anne Elliott

Sara R.

Aurora

Katie Fairbanks

Carole

Ivy Choe-Branstetter

Steve Ruff

Celeste McGee

Mary Persinger

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Epiphany a service of light

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

- Please 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 in the Parish Hall.
- **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.
- **DAY OF SERVICE**
In observance of Martin Luther King Day, St. John's will host a Parish Day of Service on Monday, January 19. In support of our ongoing partnership with San Mateo of Hyattsville and their expanding food ministry, parishioners will help assemble food for community distribution.

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 @ 9am

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

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rector@stjec.org

The Reverend Shivaun Wilkinson, *Associate Rector*
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The Reverend Nancy Stockbridge, *Deacon*
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Tammy Turner, *Parish Administrator*
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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 ~