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

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 3, 2023

8:00am & 10:30am

HOLY EUCHARIST



3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832 Phone: (301) 774-6999 Website: <u>www.stjec.org</u>

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 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	Worship with Eucharist, no music, in the Sanctuary	
9am	Adult Forum: Book & discussion group in the undercroft	
	Meeting Room	
9am	Choir Rehearsal in the undercroft Choir Room	
9:30am	Holy Household, Intergenerational "Sunday school" in the Parish Hall	
10:30am	Worship with Eucharist and choir in the Sanctuary	
12-1pm	Middle & High School Youth Group in The Gathering Space upstairs	
12-1pm	Hand Bell Choir in the undercroft Choir Room	

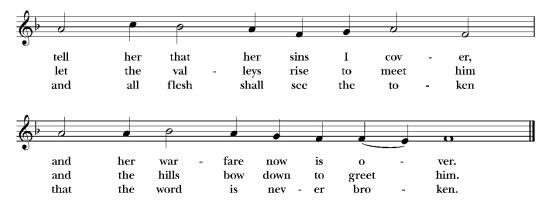
HOLY EUCHARIST

Prelude: We're Getting Ready for Jesus to Come

Carol McClure Children's Choir 3-5

The people stand

10:30am **Opening: The Hymnal #67** Comfort, comfort ye my people 1 Com fort, com fort ple, speak ye peace, thus ye my peo -2 Hark, the voice of one in des - ert that cri eth the 3 Make straight what long was crook make the rough - er ye ed, O 4 saith God; fort those who sit dark our com in ness far call and near, ing us to new re - pent ance pla - ces plain; let your hearts bc true and hum - ble, ing 'neath their sor load. rows' Speak mourn -ye to Je the king since dom now is here. Oh, that warn ing be - fits reign. as his ho ly For the glo ry 0 ø Ο ru sa - lem of the peace that waits for them; cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way; the Lord oſ o'er earth is shed a - broad; now



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*.

Opening Acclamation

BCP pg. 355

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

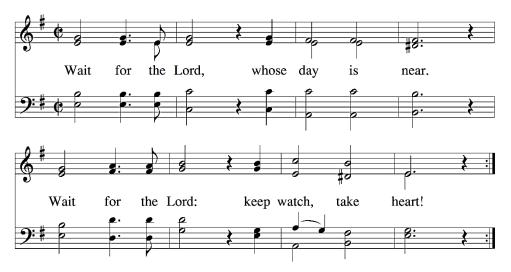
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 God the Father. Amen.

10:30am Gloria



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

PeopleThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd 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



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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.**

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God, 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 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him: his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

PeopleThe Word of the Lord.PropleThanks be to God

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

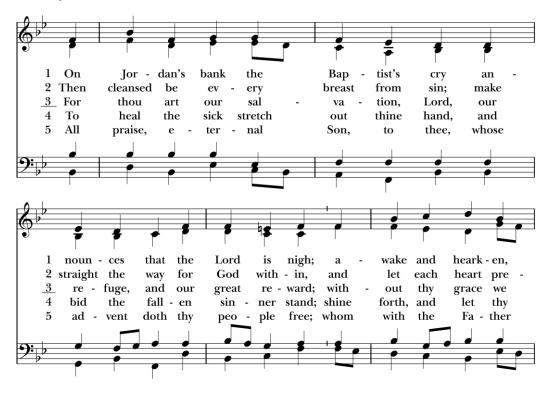
Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

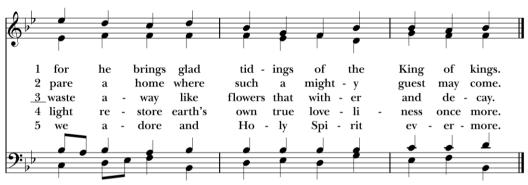
PeopleThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God

The people stand

The Hymnal #76

On Jordan's bank





Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

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"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"
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John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

PeopleThe Gospel of the LordPraise to you, Lord Christ

THE SERMON

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.

Prayers of the People

Celebrant

Let us lift our prayers to God, 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, **Let us pray to the Lord.**

That those leading governments, those in authority, and all members of God's church will know the Lord's favor in fervent efforts to end injustice, poverty, and war,

Let us pray to the Lord.

That those who live in this world will know the Lord's favor in our care for the environment,

Let us pray to the Lord.

That those who are sick, injured, hospitalized, or those who suffer from any grief or trouble especially **Julie**, **Jim & Jane**, **Andrew**, **Howard**, **Janice**, **Nancy**, **Joseph**, **Mark**, **Kim**, **Peter** will know the Lord's favor in abundant health and strength.

Let us pray to the Lord.

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

That those who prepare for the celebration of Christ's arrival may know the Lord's favor in their preparation, **Let us pray to the Lord.**

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**

PeopleThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

Silence



Use the QR code to donate from your mobile device.

Anthem: Come to Us, Emmanuel	Children's Choir
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Carol McClure

	The Lord be with you.
People	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 our thanks and praise.

Constant God, with you a thousand years are like one day. We thank and praise you because you have not been slow about your promise, but have patiently waited that all might come to repentance.

In John the Baptist you sent a herald who embodied the prophecies of your chosen people and announced the coming of your Son Jesus Christ. Through

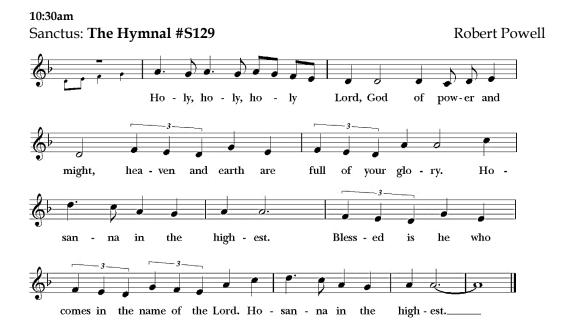
baptism you offer us the forgiveness of sins, and after the water of cleansing you clothe us anew in your Spirit.

You invite us into the heritage of your prophets and the destiny of your saints. In your Son's death you lay down your life for us, and in raising him from the tomb you inaugurate your eternal kingdom of peace.

And so we join angels and archangels and the company of heaven, singing forever of your glory,

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.



Holy God, you call your people to wait for and hasten the day of your coming. We long to open wide the gates and spread apart the everlasting doors that you, our king of glory, may enter among us, and we may say, "Here is our God."

Fulfill our hopes and send now your gracious Spirit on your people and on these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

Gentle God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your lambs in your arms. Speak tenderly to all who linger under the shadow of exile, imprisonment, exclusion, or rejection. Give your children the joy of knowing that they have served their term, that their penalty is paid, that they shall receive back from your hand double for all that they have ached to lose.

Where your people are isolated on a mountain top, cry to them that their mountain will be laid low; where they are in the valley of despair, whisper to them that they shall be exalted.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, hasten the coming of our new day begun, when we shall see the wonder of your tender face, when the grass never withers and the flower never fades because you are all in all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

A period of silence is kept

10:30am



Fraction Anthem: The Hymnal #S156

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion is offered to all who are called by Christ to participate. 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. 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.



Words: James Montgomery (1771-1845), alt. Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876). Copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications.

Let us pray.

The people stand

Celebrant and People

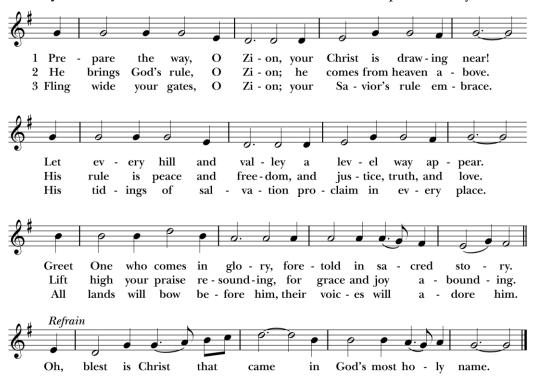
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

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

The Hymnal #65

Prepare the way, O Zion



Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Maestoso

Kinderman

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 <u>accounting@stjec.org</u>.

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

Julie Jim & Jane Lawton Andrew Erickson Howard Bonham Nancy Winter Joseph Sears Mark Evans Kim Irish Peter McWilliams

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: <u>pastoralcare@stjec.org</u>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MONDAY MISSION COOKIE EXCHANGE – MMS annual cookie exchange on Tuesday, December 12th at 7pm at the home of Mathy Downing. Soup and bread will be provided. We ask each person (or household) to please bring a salad or side dish to share, cookies to swap, and items to contribute to the Food Pantry. For the address, contact <u>mms@stjec.org</u>.

CASSEROLE CLUB MEETING – Sunday, December 17th at 12pm in the Parish Hall. Holidays can be a difficult time of the year for many. The Casserole Club offers the opportunity to gather with others grieving the loss of a loved one. Drop-ins always welcome.

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS & SPECIAL 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 Monday, December 18th.

600	Return	Contribution deadline is DECEMBER 14 completed form along with your check for <u>\$25</u> made payable to: <u>\$1. John's (</u> Christmas Flowers on Memo Line)	<u>81H</u>
		place in Sunday's Collection Plate or mail to church office.	
	In Thanksgiving of:		
	In Honor of:		
	IN MEMORY OF:		

Help n Please make a co In Memor	nake St. John's beautiful a Intribution to assist with the ry of / In Thanksgiving of /	CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE IS <u>DECEMBER 18</u>t and festive this joyful season. e cost of special music on Christmas Eve / In Honor of family and friends. <u>hn's (Music on Memo Line)</u>	Ш
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 Michael B. Curry, *Presiding Bishop* The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, *Bishop*

STAFF

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The Reverend Deacon Nancy Stockbridge, Deacon deacon@stjec.org

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> Lourdes Hurtado Africanpalms@stjec.org

Margery Bank, Head of School Margery.bank@stjes.org

Jon Chai, Sexton

Carl Ridenour, *Head Verger* Selva Selvarajah, *Verger*

VESTRY

Glen Drew – Treasurer Aparna Williams – Asst. Treasurer Anna Mazzucco, 2024 Christian Ed. Carolyn Schopp, 2024 - STJES Stephen Simpson, 2024 – Stewardship / Sr. Warden Julie Metcalf - Registrar Barry Gough, 2025- Evangelism/Jr. Warden Phil Reiff, 2025 - STJES Alan Soukup, 2025 - Worship LinsayCooper, 2026 - Parish Life Bill Fleming, 2026 - Outreach Mary Keer, 2026 - Pastoral Care

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832 (301) 774-6999

~ On the Land of the Piscataway Nation ~