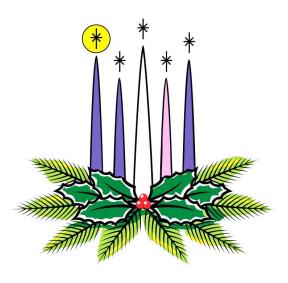
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL & AFRICAN PALMS USA

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 30, 2025 8am & 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 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	T. JOHN'S
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8am	Worship with Eucharist, no music, in the Sanctuary
9am	Adult Forum in the undercroft Meeting Room
9:45am	Holy Household Half-Hour, Intergenerational "Sunday school" in the Parish Hall
10:30am	Worship with Eucharist and choir in the Sanctuary

COME JOIN US

TODAY

Advent Wreath Making @ 12pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Christmas Tree Lighting @ 6:30pm - St John's School

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

• Lessons & Carols / Advent Dinner @ 5pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

- Newcomer's Coffee Hour @ 12pm
- Youth Group Meeting @ 12pm
- T'ween Faith Club Meeting @ 2pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

• Neuro-Spicy Group @ 1:30pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

• National Cathedral Blue Christmas Service @ 7pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

• Gift Wrapping & Christmas Cookies @ 6:0pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

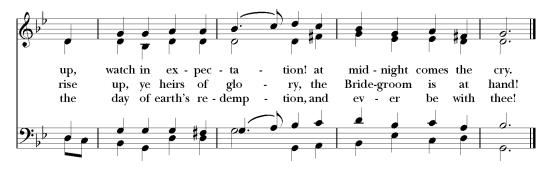
- Casserole Club Meeting @ 12pm
- Cookies & Milk Prayer Partner PJ Party @ 12pm

HOLY EUCHARIST

10:30AM Prelude

The people stand.





Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.

Music: Llangloffan, melody from Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, 1865

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

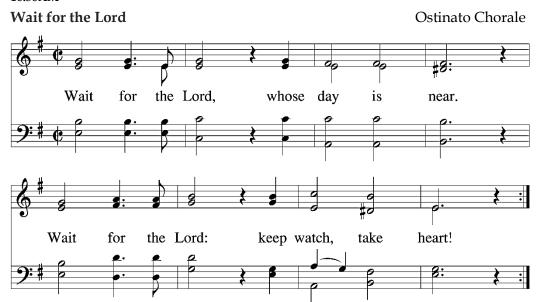
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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



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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

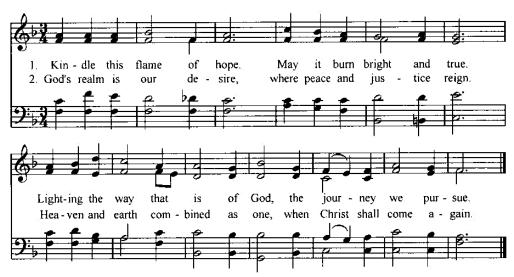
The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.



WORDS: Gary L. Lake Dillensnyder, 2009

MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM SM

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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.

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 2:1-5

Lector A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

People

Psalm 122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *

 "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing * within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city * that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, * the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD.

- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, * the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
 "May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls * and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
 I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
 I will seek to do you good."

Romans 13:11-14

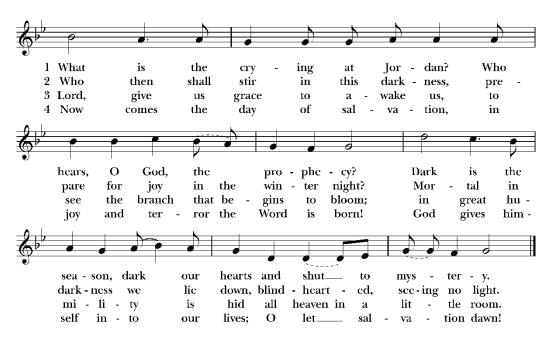
Lector A reading from Saint Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The people stand.



Words: Carol Christopher Drake (b. 1933), alt. Copyright © 1971, Carol C. Stone. Music: St. Mark's. Berkeley, Irish melody from Danta De: Hymns to God, Ancient and Modern; harm. Norman Mealy (1923-1987).

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (24:36-44) People Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ

THE SERMON

The Rev. Shivaun Wilkinson

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:

12

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.



Use the QR code to donate from your mobile device.

Anthem: Out of the Wintry Gloom Shepherd

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Samuels Wells

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

The people stand.

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 God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues.

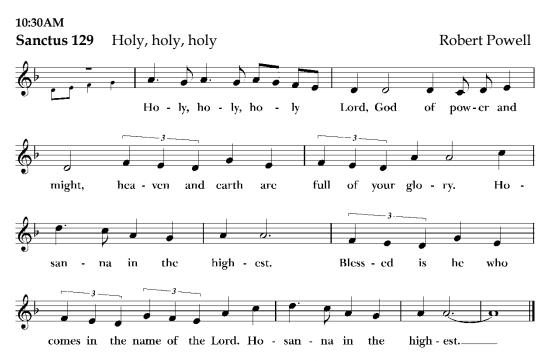
8AM

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



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

Great is the mystery of faith.

People Christ has died; Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues.

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

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

Padre nuestro,
que estàs en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre;
venga a nosotros 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 la tentación,
y líbranos del mal.
Amén.

The Breaking of the Bread

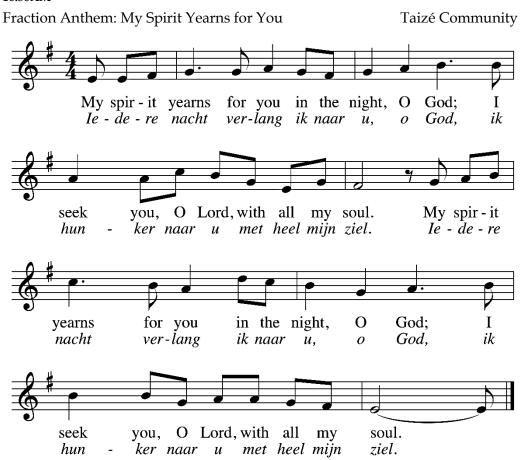
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

10:30AM



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The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The people are seated.

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

Sending Prayers for Eucharistic Visitors

Deacon In the name of God and this congregation, I send you forth bearing

these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the

communion of Christ's body and blood.

People We who are many are one body because we all share one bread

and one cup.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

The people stand.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Hymn #57

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending



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

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

Sara R.
Sloane Lewis
Aurora
Katie Fairbanks
Stephen Simpson
Carole
Tom Dry
Ron Blackburn
Greg Downing
Ivy Choe-Branstetter
Steve Ruff
Celeste McGee
Mary Persinger



Altar arrangements are given in loving memory of our Granddaughter
TAYLOR
by
John & Kay Flickinger

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

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Join us THIS afternoon at 12pm in the Parish Hall to make advent wreaths. Liturgy for household prayers for each week of Advent will be available for you. Wreaths, ribbons and candles will be provided.

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

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

GIFT WRAPPING & CHRISTMAS COOKIES

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

• BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Washington National Cathedral's annual Blue Christmas Service invites us into hope and healing through prayer, music, and reflection on Wednesday, Dec. 17th at 7 pm. Join Deacon Nancy to carpool to Washington DC and start the evening off with dinner and fellowship prior to the service. The service will also be livestreamed on https://cathedral.org/worship/blue/.



The festivities begin in the church with a service of Lessons & Carols, followed by appetizers, beverages, dinner & dessert in the Parish Hall. Wear something festive, bring a dish to share and join us on Saturday, December 6th at 5pm. Need childcare? Contact Mo. Shivaun @ associate@stjec.org. Please see Friday's Bell Tower for the Sign-Up Genius link for opportunities to help and to sign-up to bring a dish. Questions? Contact: Gail Rucker at lgrucker@verizon.net or Anne Gough at anniebug15@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS & MUSIC

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

PRAYER PARTNERS MILK & COOKIES PJ PARTY

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

TOYS FOR LOCAL KIDS

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

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Food Pantry needs for this week include: Spaghetti Sauce | Sardines Jelly | Meal Helper | Taco Kit | Manwich | Canned Chili | Canned Beef Stew | Pudding Cups | Plastic Knife, Fork, Spoon Sets.

CHRISTMAS GIVING @ ST. JOHN'S

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

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

BARS OF DOVE SOAP – Last year we packed hygiene kits for the women incarcerated at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women. This year they are specifically asking for Bars of Dove Soap. We want to provide at least one for every person incarcerated. Please drop boxes of Dove soap in the basket outside Fr. Henry's office **by December 12th**.

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



ChristmasAltar Flowers Contribution deadline is DECEMBER 19th Return completed form along with your check for \$50 made payable to: St. John's (Christmas Flowers on Memo Line)			
	place in Sunday's Collection Plate or mail to church office.		
GIVEN BY:			
☐ In Thanksgiving of:			
☐ In Honor of:			
☐ IN MEMORY OF:			

Christmas MUSIC CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 19TH

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

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

Make checks payable to. of the state of the the		
GIVEN BY:		
In Thanksgiving of:		
In Honor of:		
In Memory of:		

SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL & AFRICAN PALMS USA

Diocese of Washington

The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop* The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, *Bishop*

STAFF

The Reverend Henry P. McQueen, Rector rector@stjec.org

The Reverend Shivaun Wilkinson, Associate Rector associate@stjec.org

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

Tammy Turner, Parish Administrator accounting@stjec.org

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

Africanpalms@stjec.org

Joe Powers, Interim Head of School Joe.Powers@stjes.org

Eoin Benson, Sexton

Selva Selvarajah, Verger

VESTRY

Will Lederer, 2026 - Formation Bill Fleming, 2026 - Sr. Warden Mary Kerr, 2026 - Pastoral Care Andrew Hamill - Treasurer Aparna Williams - Asst. Treasurer Julie Metcalf - Registrar Bree Bruemmer, 2027 – Stewardship Carmen Jones, 2027 – Evangelism Becca Roberson, 2027 – Jr. Warden, Outreach Becky Hast, 2028 - STJES Mary Lou McMaster, 2028 - Worship Rob Schellhase, 2028 – Parish Life

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832 (301) 774-6999 - Welcome@stjec.org

~ On the Land of the Piscataway Nation ~