

ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist: Rite II

December 24, 2023
10 a.m.

Welcome to St. John's!

Advent,
Advent,
The time it runs.
Candles burn
brightly on the wreath,
To show us that very quickly now,
It is approaching, holy night.
Then it is accomplished even faster.
Consider: With calm and contemplation
Do you have much more of this wonderful time.
unknown author

Preparation for Worship

The organ's chimes are a signal that it is time to take your seat in a pew, refrain from talking, and be in prayer and meditation as preparation for our worship together. The organ voluntary is an opportunity when, if we are properly prepared, we may hear the voice of the Holy Spirit in the confines of our mind.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

*The Congregation joins in the portions printed in **bold italics**.*

There are no organ voluntaries during Advent.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
 Would someday walk on water
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy
 Would save our sons and daughters?
 Did you know that your baby boy
 has come to make you new?
 This child that you deliver will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
 Will give sight to a blind man?
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy
 Would calm the storm with his hand
 Did you know that your baby boy
 has walked where angels trod?
 When you kiss your little baby you kiss
 the face of God?

Bridge:
 The blind will see, the deaf will hear
 The dead will live again
 The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
 The praises of the Lamb
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy
 Is Lord of all creation?
 Mary did you know that your baby boy
 Will one day rule the nations?
 Did you know that your baby boy
 was heaven's perfect Lamb?
 This sleeping child you're holding is the great
 "I Am"?

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 CCLI # 192010.

THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Book of Common Prayer (BCP), p. 355*
And blessed be his kingdom, now, and for ever. Amen.

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.***

KYRIE ELEISON

Sung by the choir

Viadana

Kyrie eleison - Christe eleison - Kyrie eleison
 (Lord have mercy - Christ have mercy - Lord have mercy)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
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.

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the

Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15, Magnificat*(In place of a Psalm)**Recited by all in unison*

*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.*

Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the

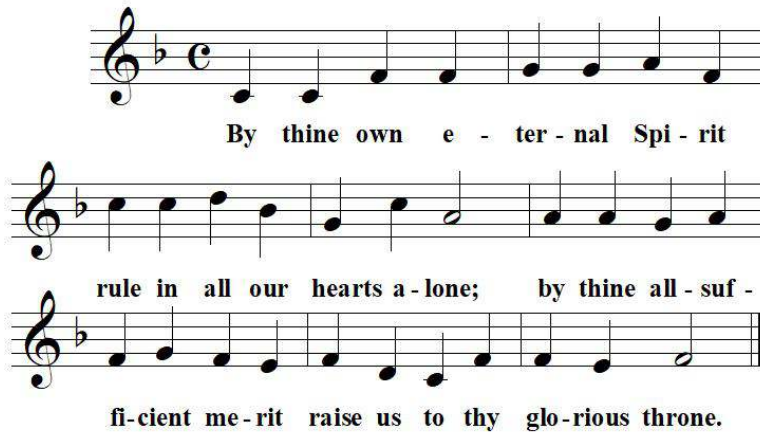
eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 66, stanza 4 *All stand, as able*

Tune: STUTTGART



By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit
rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -
fi - cient me - rit raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will

be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be

barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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

THE SERMON

The Nicene Creed

All stand, as able

BCP, p. 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

All kneel, as able

Form I, BCP, p. 383

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Luke’s Church, Merritt Island, and St. Edward’s

Church, Mount Dora.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the bishops and clergy of The Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, for Michael, Presiding Bishop, for Justin, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Joseph, our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority.

Heavenly Father, watch over and protect our nation's military members and their families, especially, *David, Luke, Jeremy, Craig, Dobson, Murray, Joel, Mack, Sergio, Ryan, Jimmy, Carl Jr., Matthew, Julian, Andrew, Jim, Brandon, Kyle, Nate, Evan, Patrick, Clay, Ian, Ricky, and Geoffrey.*

Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this city of Melbourne, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, in the air or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering.

We pray for our brothers and sisters who cannot be here with us today especially *Barbara, Jan, Bryan, Lilian, and Brenda.* And for those on our weekly prayer list, *Richard, Frank, and Carl.* *Silence*

Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for

them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.
Lord, have mercy.

God of peace and justice, we pray for all those who live under armed conflict in the Holy Land, Ukraine, Sudan, Iran and other places around the world. We pray for those with power over war or peace and those commanded to fight; for wisdom, compassion and restraint to guide their decisions. We pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. *Amen.*

The celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Holy Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus

Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

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.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

All sit

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

(Eucharistic Prayer A)

BCP, p. 361

At the Offertory, Cantic

Magnificat

J. F. Davidson

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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

1. One wed - ding dress, long put a - way And
 2. To Mar - y, yet to be a bride, The
 3. E - li - za - beth so long for a wife No

one still to be worn With God all things are
 an - gel Ga - briel came. With God all things are
 moth - er - hood for her! With God all things are

pos - si - ble; Two ba - bies will be born.
 pos - si - ble; She hears her ba - by's name.
 pos - si - ble, She feels her ba - by stir.

Richard Leach. ©1996, Selah Publication.. Used with permission under OneLicense A-740052.

All things come of Thee, O Lord.
And of Thine own have we given Thee.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
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 because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

Sanctus and Benedictus Viadana
(sung by the choir)

*Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus
 Dominus Deus*

*Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coelli et terra gloria tua.
 Hosanna in excelsis.*

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
 Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel, as able

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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, 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

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!***

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The usher will indicate when it is time for your row to come forward to the altar rail to receive Communion. If you wish to receive Communion in your pew, please let the usher know and it will be brought to you. When you go forward, an usher will indicate where to kneel at the rail, then hold your hands in front of you, one on top of the other, to receive the bread. Due to COVID restrictions, wine is by "intinction" only. No one sips from the common cup. If you wish to receive the wine, after the clergy places the bread in your hand, just hold it out for the chalice bearer, who will dip it in the wine and place it on your tongue. If you do not wish to receive the wine, simply consume the bread and cross your arms over your chest when the chalice bearer comes by, then return to your

seat.

At the Distribution, Chorale, “Savior of the nations, come” Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
(Organ setting by J. S. Bach)

The Postcommunion Prayer

All kneel, as able

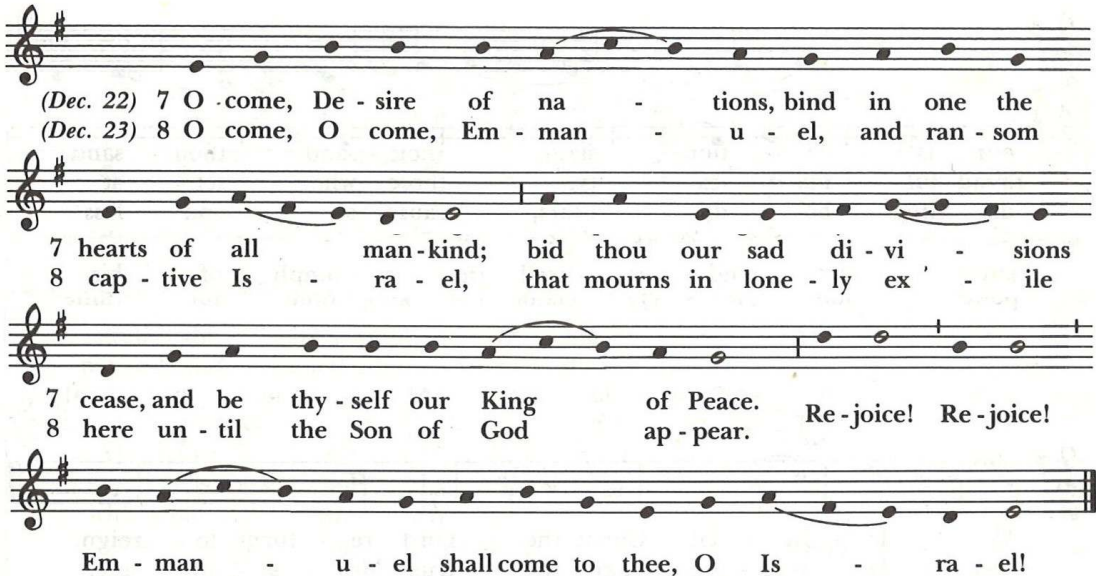
BCP, p. 366

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

Hymn 56, “O come, O come, Emmanuel” (stanzas 7-8)

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL



(Dec. 22) 7 O - come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som

7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile

7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace. Re - joice! Re - joice!
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with “The Song of Mary” on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.;
adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

LM with Refrain

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

Thanks be to God!



THIS MORNING'S MUSIC

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the season of the Church Year consisting of the four Sundays before Christmas. There are rumblings in the greater liturgical community of the possibility of moving the season of Advent so that it would begin around the first Sunday of November, which would make it possible to begin our Christmas celebrations two or three weeks before December 25, thus putting us a little more in line with our social and commercial observation of Christ's birth. Many of the same people are pushing the idea of making Christmas a movable date and making Easter a fixed date! It would make a lot of sense for Christmas to be in the middle of the last (or next-to-last) week in December, and thus avoid the very difficult situation which we face today when Advent 4 and Christmas Eve collide. Would you be in favor of this change?

Advent IV is traditionally a Marian day – we hear the *Magnificat*, the song Mary sang after learning that she is to bear the Christ Child, in both sung form as a canticle at the Offertory and read as the Gospel lesson. A *canticle* is a biblical text that most believe was sung instead of spoken. The *Magnificat*, along with the *Nunc dimittis*, Simeon's song upon his realization that he has indeed seen "my salvation" as he has been promised, have been used as the principal canticles for Evening Prayer for many years.

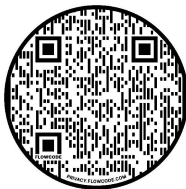
During this season of Advent we have each Sunday offered pairings of stanzas of the hymn "Savior of the nations, come" with organ settings of the tune NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND by various composers. The text is attributed to Saint Ambrose (340-397) who is known as the father of Latin hymnody. Martin Luther's translation was put into English by William M Reynolds, son of a captain in the Revolutionary War.



VISITORS AND GUESTS: Welcome to St. John's! We hope you will stay after the service for an opportunity to chat. Nibbles, coffee and bottled water will be provided in our Parish Hall. If you have questions about baptisms, weddings, membership, or any other need we can respond to, please call the Church Office at: 321-254-3365. And if you wish to know more about this church or to be included on our weekly and newsletter mailing lists, please call the office or email us at office@stjohnsmlb.org.

SIGN OUR VIRTUAL GUEST BOOK!

Scan the QR code at right or visit stjohnsmlb.org and click on Virtual Guest Book to let us know you were here and pass on any comments you would like to make!



THE ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY CANDLE may be given in memory of a loved one, or to commemorate some occasion. Contact the church office at office@stjohnsmlb.org or 321-254-3365.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Sharon Tuten, John Seymour.

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK: Randy & Eloise Evans, Bill & Teresa Chernault.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, Dec 24, 10 a.m.

No Christian Ed. Resumes Feb 4.

Christmas Eve Festival Worship

Sunday, Dec. 24, 8 p.m. Carols, 7:45 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship, Rite I, with music.

Monday, Dec. 25, 11 a.m.

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 31, 10 a.m.

ADULT AND YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. The adults continue our study of the epistles of Peter in

the Parish Hall. **Youth** will meet in the chapel.

TGIF: Men's Bible study, Fridays, 8 a.m., at La Loma Coney Island, 1180 Aurora Rd, Melbourne, 32935. 321-254-8559.

COFFEE HOUR. A sign-up sheet to bring snacks, or assist with set-up/clean-up, on Sunday morning is in the Parish Hall.

THANK YOU FR. TERRY! Fr. Terry Highland will retire from his official position as Priest Associate here at St. John's effective Jan. 1. No, the Highlands aren't going anywhere! Fr. Terry is focusing his time and energy on serving as the Diocesan Chaplain to the Daughters of the King. We will have a special coffee hour to thank Fr. Terry and Mary on Sunday, Jan. 7. Fr. Terry will preach that morning.

RECTOR'S VACATION: Fr. Eric Turner, Rector, will be on vacation Jan 13 through Jan 20. The Rev. Susan Davidson will preach and celebrate on Sunday, Jan. 14.

SUNDAY MINISTRIES

	Dec 24 10 a.m.	Dec 24 8 p.m.	Dec 25 11 a.m.
Greeters	A. Weeks Rev. Davidson	A. Weeks	A. Weeks
Ushers	J. Bond L. Miller	J. & S. Hamilton	B. Chernault J. Miller
LEM	J. Hamilton	R. Huffman	K. Oas
Altar Gld	D. Miller- Caldwell	TBD	K. Oas
Daughter	J. Miller		
Counter	K. Wilson		
AV	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz

MILITARY MEMBERS: Help keep our military personnel up-to-date on the Prayers of the People. Let us know before the end of the year if a member now on the list is still active, or if you have a new one to add. There is a form available in this bulletin for you to do that. You can put the form in the offering plate, or hand it to one of the ushers.

We will remove all others starting in January.

ST. JOHN'S CHAT is a great way to keep up with St. John's news and information! If you are not subscribed to this list, please email office@stjohnsmlb.org. Note that this is separate from the weekly "**St. John's eNews**" which comes out every Thursday at 4 p.m. You may request a subscription to that list as well!

DAILY BREAD: If you can help serve please contact the office or Jackie Bond. The next service day is Jan 4.

PRAYER IS AVAILABLE at the altar rail immediately following the service.

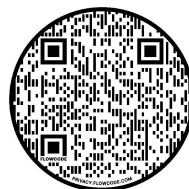
A PRAYER REQUEST BOX is now available from the St. John's Order of the Daughters of the King in the Sanctuary beside the votive candles. We have taken a vow to pray for others and we take this vow seriously. In lieu of access to the prayer box, please give prayer requests directly to any Daughter listed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S: Let Dr. D know that you'd like to be a part of the music in the parish. Singers and instrumentalists are welcome. There are no auditions; all that is necessary is an ability to read music and a willingness to be faithful.

LOANING OF CHURCH ITEMS: If you would like to borrow tables, chairs, cribs, linens, etc. please speak with Fr. Eric or Deborah Miller-Caldwell, Jr. Warden. Please contact Deborah at farxpert@gmail.com, Fr. Eric at eric@stjohnsmlb.org, or call the church office at 321-254-3365.

ST. JOHN'S OUTREACH FOCUS for December is designated for the Diocesan Missions. **Rev. Steven and Mary Dass** serve in Sao Paulo, Brazil ministering among homeless children and adults in the 'red light district' of Sao Paulo. You can learn more on their blog at spmercyministry.com. **Rev. Loren and Linda Fox** serve in support of other missionaries. They live in northern Thailand, working in various parts of Asia. You may email ReachUs@EngagingTheAdventure.org. Anything in the blue envelopes, or clearly marked for outreach in the month of December will go to the Diocesan Missions.

DONATE TO ST. JOHN'S ONLINE! You can now make a safe and convenient donation to St. John's via PayPal. Scan the QR code at right or visit stjohnsmlb.org and click on Donate Now!



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, John 1:1-18, Psalm 147 or 147:13-21. To find all the lessons visit the webpage: lectionarypage.net and click on the date.



You are personally invited to join a community of women who believe in the power of prayer, service to others, and the sharing of the gospel to expand the Kingdom of God. You can find out more about the DOK St John's Chapter by contacting Mary Highland at 321-831-2796 or mhighland7@gmail.com.

Christmas Poinsettia Memorials 2023

Christmas Flower Memorials are given
to the glory of God and . . .

In thanksgiving for the blessing of family; and in loving memory of Madge, Cyril, Jean, Ken, Doug, & Glenn, given by Ian & Marie Johnson, and Lisa Baughman.

In loving memory of my parents, and parents-in-law, Orville & Opal Hopkins, and Forrest & Connie Ball, given by Debra Ball.

In thanksgiving for our Choir and Organ Scholar, given by Dr. Jerry and the Rev. Susan Davidson.

In thanksgiving for this congregation and all their prayers for all of us, given by Andy Weeks.

In loving memory of Bob Oas, given by Kathy & family.

In thanksgiving for my church family and my family to whom I'm related, given by Katie Wilson.

In loving memory of Lynne and Jim Williams, given by family - mother and wife, sons, and daughter, and grandchildren.

In loving memory of Patrick Ponder and Tammy Ponder, given by Lois Ponder

In loving memory of Bob Randall, Toni Steininger, Gene Abuzzo, Ellen Peake, given by Lee & Nancy Steininger.

In loving memory of Pam Millar, given by Don Millar.

In thanksgiving for our lives together; and in loving memory of Philip & Phyllis, by Judy & Joe McLaughlin.

In thanksgiving for family, friends, and loved ones; and in loving memory of Lloyd Cole Thayer, by Lois Hilton Thayer.

In thanksgiving for my children, Ben and Kay, and Daughters of the King; and in loving memory of Robert Ben (Bob) Kendall, Margaret Price Allen, Ben Price Allen, Stella Brecker, Todd Brecker, Elizabeth and T.G. Selvedge, Martha Morris, Robert, Ben and Martha Rauls, given by Sarah Kendall.

In thanksgiving for Chase Bembridge, and Ivy Rennalls; and in loving memory of Lilla Lawrence, Edna Rance, Pethra Salmon, Enid Salmon, George Rennalls, given by Keith & Marie Salmon.

In thanksgiving for the loving families of Russ Kenworthy, Shannon Dexter, and Laci Carroll; and in loving memory of Gloria, given by Jack Kenworthy.

In loving memory of Dallas, Dale, Kimberley, Dane, Barbara, Caroline, given by Roberta Ardinger-Smith.

In loving memory of Jim Williams, given by Brenda Williams.

In loving memory of Thelma Ruth Benfield, given by Ron, Eddie, Linda, Les.

In thanksgiving for Karen S. Britt, and Susan S. Morton, by Al Sykes; and in loving memory of Beth Sykes, given by Al Sykes.

In thanksgiving for God's love and blessings. Guidance from the Holy Spirit; and in loving memory of our parents, given by Richard & Ellen Huffman.

In thanksgiving for Irving & Julie Highland and healing prayers for Mary Highland; and in loving memory of Paul Ketterer, Mary Lou Ketterer, Pete Ketterer, given by Terry & Mary Highland.

In thanksgiving for the birth of Emerson Louise Johnson by Rev. Eric & Charlene Turner.

In loving memory of Russ & Francis Turner, and Teak Sherbondy, by Rev. Eric & Charlene Turner.

In loving memory of Ellen & George Muir, Carol Rich, given by Richard Muir.

In loving memory of Frances, George, Jean, Gary, Ryan, Lynn, Thomas, given by Jan & Chuck Strissel.

In thanksgiving for my children and grandchildren, by Linda Fletcher.

In loving memory of Sheron Pierce and Rose White by the Pierce family; and for Mary Schmalowski by her family.

In thanksgiving for God's many blessings of this life and in loving memory of Robin Loftus Grogan forever in our hearts! Given by Bill & Teresa Chernault.

In thanksgiving for my children, Mark, Heather, Danielle, and Ed. My grandchildren, Ava, Marko, Amelia, and Beau Michael; and for special blessings in my life, given by Deborah Miller Caldwell.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

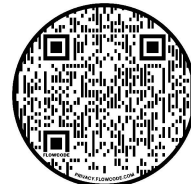
- Sun (12/24) Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10 a.m., also Live Streamed.
Christmas Eve Festival Worship, 8 p.m. Carols, 7:45 p.m.
- Mon (12/25) Christmas Day Worship, Holy Eucharist Rite 1, 11 a.m. also Live Streamed.
AA, 7 p.m. Parish Hall.
- Mon & Tue (12/25-26) Church office closed.
- Thurs (12/28) Staff Meeting, 9 a.m., Rector's Office
- Fri (12/29) TGIF, Men's Bible Study, 8 a.m. La Loma Coney Island Restaurant, 1180 Aurora.
- Sun (12/31) Lessons & Carols, 10 a.m., also Live Streamed.
Remembrance for Benjamin Echols, viewing in Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m., remembrance
in the park at 6:30 p.m.

All Zoom and Livestream links are available by visiting stjohnsmlb.org > Parish Life > Calendar, then clicking on the event. Or you may email office@stjohnsmlb.org and we will send you the link.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*... is a worshipping community, guided by scripture,
growing as servants of Christ, and sharing His love in word and deed.*

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Jackie Bond, Office Assistant

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The Vestry of St. John's Church

Kathy Oas, Sr. Warden
Deborah Miller-Caldwell, Jr. Warden
Elizabeth Chludzinski, Treasurer
Susan Badgio, Assistant Treasurer
Katie Wilson, Secretary

Serving thru 1/2024

Skip Alcorn, Susan Badgio,
Deborah Miller-Caldwell

Serving thru 1/2025

Jackie Bond, Jamie Hamilton, Kathy Oas

Serving thru 1/2026

Jack Kenworthy, Amy Lacy