



St. John's Episcopal Church

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
St. John's welcomes you.

First Sunday of Advent
10 a.m. 3 December 2023

We invite you to prepare for the service in quiet meditation and prayer.
Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982.
"BCP" refers to pages in the red Book of Common Prayer.

THE WORD OF GOD

Tower Bells

VoluntaryCome now, Savior of the nations, BWV 599
J. S. Bach

Lo! He comes with clouds descending (Stand)Hymn 57

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant continues

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.*

KyrieHymn S 96

The Collect of the Day

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

Prayed by a family of the Parish

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.*

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant." So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

[2 Samuel 11:2-6, 14-15]

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

Psalm 14

The choir sings the first verse; all join for the remaining verses.



- 1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is / no God." *
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;
there is none who does / any good.
- 2 The Lord looks down from heaven u/pon us all, *
to see if there is any who is wise,
if there is one who seeks / after God.
- 3 Every one has proved faithless;
all alike have / turned bad; *
there is none who does good; / no, not one.
- 4 Have they no knowledge, all those evil/doers *
who eat up my people like bread
and do not call u/pon the Lord?
- 5 See how they tremble with / fear, *
because God is in the company of / the righteous.
- 6 Their aim is to confound the plans of the af/flicted, *
but the Lord is / their refuge.
- 7 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of / Zion! *
when the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice and Is/rael be glad.

A Reading from the Second Bood of Samuel

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan said to David, "Now the Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die." [2 Samuel 11:26-12:7a, 9, 13]

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

"Thy kingdom come!" (Stand).....Hymn 615

The Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking

place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” [Mark 13:24-37]

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

Children’s Chapel

Pre-K through 3rd grade children gather at the front steps of the chancel for a blessing before processing to Children’s Chapel.

The Sermon

A brief period of silence follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed (*Stand*).....**BCP 358**

The Prayers of the People (*Kneel*) **BCP 383**

The Confession & Absolution..... **BCP 360**

The Peace..... **BCP 360**

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory.....**Advent Repsonsory**
 Richard Marlow

If you are worshipping with us in person, we encourage you to place your gift in the offering plates as they are passed in the pews. For instructions on online and text giving, see the back panel of this bulletin.

Presentation of Gifts (*Stand*)..... **Hymn 66**

Eucharistic Prayer B **BCP 367**

The Sanctus **Hymn S 130**

The Lord’s Prayer **BCP 364**

The Fraction Anthem **Hymn S 164**

Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at St. John’s. Approach the altar in a double line in the center aisle. Stand or kneel at the rail and receive the bread in your hand. You may sip the wine directly from the common cup, or you may allow the Eucharistic Minister to dip the bread in the cup and return it to you. If you do not wish to receive the bread or wine for any reason, fold your arms across your chest, and the priest will give you a blessing instead.

If you would like to receive Communion but are unable to walk to the rail, tell a greeter, and a minister will be happy to bring Communion to you at your pew.

Communion Hymns.....**61, 64, 73**

The Postcommunion Prayer (*Kneel*)..... **BCP 366**

Sending of Eucharistic Visitors

If Eucharistic Visitors are sent forth to take Communion to the sick or homebound, the following is said.

Celebrant N., we send you forth in the Name of this Congregation, to N. 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, one cup.

Sending of Las Posadas Figures

The Blessing

Watchman, tell us of the night (*Stand*) **Hymn 640**

The Dismissal **BCP 366**

Voluntary..... **Themes by Cauchefer-Choplin**
 Improvisation

Tower Bells

**St. John’s
 Episcopal Church**

211 North Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32301
 (850) 222-2636 | www.saint-john.org

Welcome!

Since 1829, St. John’s Episcopal Church has sought to love Christ and our neighbors in Tallahassee and the world. Whether you are a lifelong Christian or it is your first time entering a church, welcome. We are glad you are here.

About Today’s Readings

Today’s first two readings are selected with the Bishop’s permission to support St. John’s yearlong, parishwide journey through the Bible. The gospel is the regularly assigned gospel of the day. To view the usual lectionary readings, visit lectionarypage.net.

Your Gift Makes a Difference



St. John’s runs solely on the generosity of its members. Give today via the offering plate; or text STJOHNS to 73256; or scan this code with your phone to give online. You can also mail your gift to St. John’s Episcopal Church, Attn: Finance Office, 211 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301. Every gift, large or small, sustains the church you love.

Childcare

Free, professional childcare is provided 9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. each Sunday.

Hearing System

To access our hearing loop system, set your hearing aid to tele-coil or “t” telephone mode. If your hearing aid does not have this capability, wireless headsets are available at the north tower entrance or from an usher.

Weekly Services

SUNDAY

8 a.m.....Holy Eucharist (Rite I).....Sanctuary
 10 a.m..... Holy Eucharist (Rite II).....Sanctuary
service is livestreamed

WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m..... Evensong..... Chapel
Sung by the Choristers
 12:10 p.m..... Holy Eucharist (Rite II)..... Chapel
 with Healing Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please take this list home each week and commit to praying daily for your fellow parishioners.

Prayers: Julia Livingston, Kathy Hall, Hollis, Deacon Mike Hall, Ellen Sloyer, Kathy Shields, Lucille and Bob, Theresa, Diana Daktere, Mert Dollar, Jim Dodd, Petrina Herring, Leslie

The Departed: Gordon Dean, Tom Ogorek, Lana Johnson

Our Clergy: The Rev. Lonnie Lacy, Rector; The Rev. Leslie Roraback, Associate Rector; The Rev. Bill Trexler, Priest Associate; The Rev. Dcn. Joe Bakker, The Rev. Dcn. Mike Hall, The Rev. Dcn. Linda Liebert-Hall, Deacons