



St. John's Episcopal Church

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

Third Sunday of Advent
10 a.m. 17 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

Voluntary **People, Look East**
Wayne L. Wold

Hark! the glad sound (*Stand*) **Hymn 72**

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.*

Kyrie **Hymn S 96**

The Collect of the Day

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

The Celebrant continues

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come
among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,
let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver
us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and
the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the First Book of Kings

Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the older men who had attended his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?" They answered him, "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever." But he disregarded the advice that the older men gave him, and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and now attended him. He said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, "Lighten the yoke that your father put on us'?" The young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus you should say to this people who spoke to you, "Your father made our yoke heavy, but you must lighten it for us'; thus you should say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins. Now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'"

The king answered the people harshly. He disregarded the advice that the older men had given him. When all Israel saw that the king would not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What share do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, O David." So Israel went away to their tents. [1 Kings 12:6-11, 13, 16]

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

Psalm 82

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



- 1 God takes his stand in the council of / heaven; *
he gives judgment in the midst / of the gods:
- 2 "How long will you judge un/justly, *
and show favor to / the wicked?
- 3 Save the weak and the / orphan; *
defend the humble / and needy;
- 4 Rescue the weak and the / poor; *
deliver them from the power of / the wicked.
- 5 They do not know, neither do they understand;
they go about in / darkness; *
all the foundations of the earth / are shaken.

- 6 Now I say to you, / 'You are gods, *
and all of you children of / the Most High;
- 7 Nevertheless, you shall die like / mortals, *
and fall / like any prince."
- 8 Arise, O God, and / rule the earth, *
for you shall take all na/tions for your own.

A Reading from the Second Book of Kings

In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent Shaphan son of Azaliah, son of Meshullam, the secretary, to the house of the Lord, saying, "Go up to the high priest Hilkiyah, and have him count the entire sum of the money that has been brought into the house of the Lord, which the keepers of the threshold have collected from the people; let it be given into the hand of the workers who have the oversight of the house of the Lord; let them give it to the workers who are at the house of the Lord, repairing the house, that is, to the carpenters, to the builders, to the masons; and let them use it to buy timber and quarried stone to repair the house."

The high priest Hilkiyah said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord." When Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, he read it. Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "The priest Hilkiyah has given me a book." Shaphan then read it aloud to the king. When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes.

The king went up to the house of the Lord, and with him went all the people of Judah, all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the prophets, and all the people, both small and great; he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the house of the Lord. The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord, keeping his commandments, his decrees, and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. All the people joined in the covenant. [2 Kings 22:3-6, 8-11; 23:2-3]

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

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding (*Stand*) **Hymn 59**

The Gospel

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might

believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. [John 1:6-8, 19-28]

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.....Christ the Appletree
Stanford Scriven

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.....56, 60, 54

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.

The Blessing

Tell out, my soul (Stand) Hymn 438

The Dismissal BCP 366

Voluntary..... Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661
J. S. Bach

Tower Bells

St. John’s Episcopal Church

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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



GIVING

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

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, John Larson, Mert Dollar, Jim Dodd, Petrina Herring, Leslie, Bob, Glen and Jean, Kathy Shields, Chris Carter, Doug, Kathryn Scheidegger, Patty Coumbe, Jeanette Elkins, Dayle

The Departed: Tom Ogorek, Lana Johnson, Lucille, Lisa Waddell, The Rev. Katharine “Kit” Tapers Wallingford, Nancy Middleton

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