

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
10 a.m. 21 December 2025

*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 .....Herr Christ, Der Ein'ge Gottes Sohn  
Lob Sei Dem Allmächtigen Gott  
J. S. Bach

O come, O come, Emmanuel (Stand)..... Hymn 56, vv. 1, 5-7

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.

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.

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah

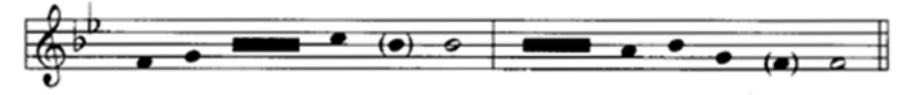
Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord  
your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz  
said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then  
Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you  
to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the  
Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is  
with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.  
He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to  
refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows  
how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before  
whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

[Isaiah 7:10-16]

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

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



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
leading Joseph / like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned  
up / on the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim,  
Benjamin, and Ma / nasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and / come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O / God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, / and we  
shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord / God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers / of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the / bread of tears; \*  
you have given them / bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our / neighbors, \*  
and our enemies / laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O / God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, / and we  
shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your / right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so / strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn a / way from you; \*  
give us life, that we may / call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord / God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, / and we  
shall be saved.

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set  
apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand  
through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel  
concerning his Son, who was descended from David according  
to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power  
according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the  
dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received  
grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith  
among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including  
yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's  
beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and  
peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[Romans 1:1-7]

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

Savior of the nations, come (Stand) .....Hymn 54

The Gospel

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.  
When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before  
they lived together, she was found to be with child from the  
Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and  
unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss  
her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel  
of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son  
of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the  
child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a  
son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people  
from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been  
spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,and they shall  
name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When  
Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord  
commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital  
relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him  
Jesus. [Matthew 1:18-25]

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)

At the end of each petition

Leader Restore us, O God of hosts;  
People show the light of your countenance  
and we shall be saved.

The Collect for the Diocese (Remain kneeling)

The Confession & Absolution..... BCP 360

The Peace..... BCP 360

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory..... *Bogoróditse Dévo*  
Sergei Rachmaninof

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 76, v.5

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
whose advent doth thy people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore.

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.....81, 60, 262

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

The angel Gabriel (Stand) .....Hymn 265

The Dismissal ..... BCP 366

Voluntary..... *Sit laus plena, sit sonora*  
William Thomas Best

Tower Bells

Christmas Eve

The 1 PM family-friendly service is offered for all ages and includes Holy Eucharist and a children’s homily with music. Childcare is available beginning at 12:45 PM.

The 4 PM service is offered in person in the church and streamed live for those who wish to worship from home. This liturgy includes Holy Eucharist with music led by the Adult Choir, Choristers, and brass. Childcare is available beginning at 3:30 PM. We encourage early arrival to this popular service.

The 8 PM service includes Holy Eucharist with music led by the Adult Choir and brass.

The 11 PM “Midnight Mass” includes Holy Eucharist with sung prayers, incense, and music led by the Adult Choir and brass.

Christmas Day

There will be one 10 AM service on Christmas Day. It will be offered in person in the church, with Holy Eucharist and Christmas carols.

Sunday, December 28

Join us for one 10 AM service the Sunday after Christmas as we continue to celebrate the birth of Christ with scripture, carols, and seasonal prayers. This service includes Holy Eucharist.

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.

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.

Large Print Bulletins

Large print bulletins are available in the south transept amd north tower for the visually impaired. Pick one up by the door or ask an usher.

Altar Flower Dedications

Altar flower dedications are a wonderful way to honor loved ones. Visit the GIVE page on St. John’s website or contact the church office for assistance.

Parish Prayer List

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

**Prayers:** Diana Daktere, Baby Honor Isabelle Strauss, John, Ben, Sharon & Nathanael Lyle, Davis Houck, Ray, Tommy, Janet Blount, Carlton Rainey, Bryant Snell, Arthur Ozolins, Jeff Merrill

**The Departed:** Ann Hingst, Ruffo Escorcia

**Our Clergy:** The Rev. Lonnie Lacy, Rector; The Rev. Leslie Roraback, Associate Rector; The Rev. Dcn. Joe Bakker, Deacon; Melanie Salsgiver, Seminarian

St. John’s  
Episcopal Church

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