



Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 19, 2021
Holy Eucharist Rite II with Lessons & Carols

The greenery on the altar is given to the glory of God and was arranged by Betsy Payson.

*The floral arrangement in the Narthex is given by Brian Ply and Rebecca Herring
in celebration of the first anniversary of Lucy's ordination.*

ST. JOHN'S CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Ripp Hardaway, Rector
The Rev. Lucy Strandlund, Curate
Tish Sutton, Director of Music
Ian Flores, Musician & A/V Technician

Cheryl Smith, Director of Children & Family Ministries
Jenny Montgomery, Administrative Assistant to the Rector
Desiree Moultrie, Director of Finance and Operations
Grace Symmons, Director of Communications

Hannah Hoffmann, Youth Leader
Kyle Smith, Assistant Youth Leader
Arturo Gonzalez, Sexton
Rufus Hudgins, Sexton

Everlasting Light

The Promise of Christmas

by: Lloyd Larson, Mary McDonald, Jay Rouse, Larry Shackley

Narrator: Becky and Michael Luft

Director: Tish Sutton Accompanist: Judy Smith

ST. JOHN'S WORSHIP CHOIR

Alto

Alicia Cecconi
Jan Harrison
Carrie Martin

Soprano

Becky Luft
Erica Mason
Valerie Smith
Jeannette Yue

Tenor

Kent Acord
Anne Denison
Lark Mason III
Susan Morgan
Sing Yue

Bass

Ian Flores
Mike Hagy
Bill Reeves
Leonard Oliver

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Quintin Hedrick, Clarinet
Shirley Gauthier, Flute
James Farrell, Viola
Eric Basra, Oboe
Jesse Forgione, Percussion

Ryan Pringle, Trumpet
Ryan Espita, Trombone
Adrian DeWitt, Trombone 2
Sherri Stricker, Harp

CAST

Clark Hendley, Simeon
Brynn Englefield, Choreographer
Ainsley Englefield, Dancer

SOUND TEAM

Bob Wells
Michael Saberian
Carl Nowotny

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH | Hope - Love - Joy - Peace

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and we light four candles on our Advent wreath, which helps us mark time as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. The candle we light today symbolizes the peace Christ brings.

Lighting of the first, second, third, and fourth candles.

Let us pray.

O God who draws near to us, instill in our hearts the peace only Christ can give. Help us to watch and pray with expectation as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN | Tell Out My Soul

Hymn 437

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP p. 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

GLORIA | O come, O come, Emmanuel (v. 7, 8)

Hymn 56

*O come, Desire of nations,
bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and by thyself our King of Peace.*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p. 211

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.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD | Lessons and Carols

Everlasting Light

Words and music by Mary McDonald, adapted from Isaiah 60:1-2

Narration

From eternity past, God writes His story across the heavens and now in our deepening darkness, a light shines!

Here is the visible image of the invisible God. In Him is life and His life is the light of men. The One Who existed before all things comes to us as a helpless child.

Oh, Word eternal, in You there is no darkness at all! Your light is shining from a stable in Bethlehem!

The Kingdom of God has come to us at last.

He Is the Light (Underscore)

Music by Larry Shackley

Longing for the Light (with readings)

Jan Harrison, Kent Acord, Jeannette Yue

Narration

Chosen—chosen to bear the Son of the Most High, the light of the Holy One inside me. I rejoice for God has seen me! I have been empty but now I'm filled. I have been poor but now I'm rich. The proud cannot boast for this Gift has come to the humblest of God's servants.

The unchanging One has changed me. Oh, I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I have been carried by you all my days. How can it be that I carry you?

Now, I am truly alive—alive with longing for you, my Lord, my King, my Savior, my Child.

My Soul Proclaims

*Words and music by Jay Rouse, inspired by Luke 1:44-56
Lark Mason III, Soloist*

Narration

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. (Luke 2:4-7 NIV)

Oh blessed are you Bethlehem, city of David. Though you are small among the thousands, you alone have provided shelter for the King of all kings.

Bethlehem, O Bethlehem

Words by Carl F. Alexander, Phillips Brooks, and Lloyd Larson

Music by Lloyd Larson

Bill Reeves, Becky Luft, Soloists

Narration

There were shepherds out in the fields that night. They were keeping watch over their flocks. Suddenly, the sky split wide with light and a thousand stars seemed to fall into the darkness.

Unto you is born this day, a Savior—

Stars, announcing a Savior? No—not stars, angels blazing their light into the sky!

—Who is Christ the Lord.

The Christ?! How can this be?

This will be a sign for you: you will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

A sign—from God?

Yes, from God! Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace— peace to the people with whom He is pleased!

And there between the darkness and the light, they found Him. The Baby, the Christ, the Savior.

Shepherds and Angels

Words and music by Lloyd Larson, based on Luke 2:8-14, and Traditional French Carol

Narration

God is born on earth tonight. Hush, do not awaken Him. His journey has been so long. See His mother, how she gazes at Him, uncommon Child, so very common.

A spark of light surrounds them, the flame pushing against the dark. So, this is how the light comes into the world. One Child alone brings it. All of God's promises are kept in Him, this Child of Light.

This Child of Light

Words and Music by Mary McDonald

Alicia Cecconi, Ian Flores, Soloists

Narration

In love and obedience, Mary and Joseph offer back to God the promise He gave. This Child, holy unto the Lord!

And so, it begins. Those who long for the Savior will find Him. Like old Simeon, they will cry, my eyes have seen Your salvation!

He is a light to reveal God to the nations! God does not forget our prayers!

This Is Christ the King

Words and Music by Larry Shackley, Words based on Luke 2:21-35

Narration

Rejoice! Rejoice greatly! Though we were once wrapped in darkness, the bright light of God's glory has risen on us! Shout and be glad! Welcome the Savior born for us this day. Worship Him with loud praises and singing. Joyfully, rise with all the nations and adore Him, the Everlasting Light!

Everlasting Light (Finale)

Words and Music by Mary McDonald, adapted from Isaiah 60:1-2

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC | The Winter Moon (a traditional French Carol)

Sherri Stricker, Harpist

DOXOLOGY

Hymn 380 v. 3

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below:
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING | Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
Celebrant 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

Hymn S-130

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

(The people stand or kneel.)

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 pray:

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 forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant 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.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (For live stream participants)

Faithful God, **in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I be renewed to love and to serve; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

BCP p. 365

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. To receive the bread, place one hand over the other with palms facing upward. To indicate that you would like to receive a blessing instead, cross arms over chest. Please let Fr. Ripp or Rev. Lucy know if you would like to receive a gluten free wafer.

COMMUNION MUSIC | O Holy Night (32015) Adolphe Charles Adam

Ian Flores

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;*

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient land,
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;*

*Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.*

O night, O holy night, O night divine.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCP p. 365

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

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN | The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

Hymn 265

THE DISMISSAL

BCP p. 366

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**



If you are a visitor or guest, we would love to connect with you! Please visit www.stjohnsnb.com/welcome to fill out a visitor card or email office@stjohnsnb.com and Fr. Ripp or Rev. Lucy will contact you.

Updated Procedures for Worship & Gathering

- Masks are highly encouraged while indoors at St. John's.
- The CDC recommends that everyone 2 years of age or older who is not fully vaccinated should wear a mask in indoor public places. If you are fully vaccinated, the CDC recommends that in order to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.
- We trust that you will follow CDC recommendations and Diocesan guidelines to best honor yourself and your St. John's family, especially children under 5 and others who are unable to be vaccinated.
- Communion in both kinds, bread and wine, is now being offered. We are offering the wine by intinction only at this time; if you choose to receive the wine, please sanitize your hands before coming forward. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please know that our tradition teaches that all of the spiritual benefits of Communion are present in the bread alone.
- If you test positive for Covid-19 after being on campus at St. John's, we ask that you notify our rector Ripp Hardaway or senior warden Ann Amoroso so that we may take the appropriate steps to notify those potentially affected, while respecting your privacy. If you are having any symptoms, please help safeguard our shared community by staying home and participating online.

Sunday School & Adult Christian Education on Sundays | Continues at 10 a.m.

Bible in 90 Days with Adrian & Jim will meet in the downstairs Conference Room (near offices)

Prepare the Way with Karen Fulton will meet in the Music / Multipurpose Room

The Church Office will be open Monday - Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon the week after Christmas.

Tornado Relief Donations

Checks can be made to "St. John's" with "Tornado Relief" in the memo line. We will collect monetary donations and send to the Diocesan office for disbursement.

End of Year Contributions

All contributions intended for 2021 calendar year must be received in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2021. Contribution Statements will be emailed by January 14, 2022. However, if you wish to receive a printed statement, please call Desiree at the church office at (830) 625-2532 to request one. If you are itemizing your deductions on your tax return, please wait until your 2021 Contribution Statement is received to submit your return. The IRS can disallow your contribution as a deduction if you do not have a statement dated for 2021 prior to filing.

Poinsettias are coming! Order deadline: today

Poinsettias will adorn the altar beginning Christmas Eve and can be picked up after the 11 a.m. service on December 26 or the week following under the awning on the Marguerite Street side of the church. Order yours for \$10 a plant. Make checks payable to "St. John's" with "Poinsettias" in the memo. Place form and payment in the offertory plate on Sunday or drop in the church mailbox at your convenience.

Advent Journey continues until January 6

During the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we invite you to make your way from painting to painting along Guenther Street, reflect on the scriptural inspiration, and join Mary, the angels, and the shepherds as they are filled with awe, wonder, and praise in this holy season. Visit stjohnsnb.com/adventjourney for more information & to view a reflection guide. This year we have postcards of each painting, and we invite you to pick up one or more from the narthex to send a note of love or encouragement to someone this season.

Christmas Eve Schedule of Services | December 24

3 p.m. & 5 p.m. - Family Service with Children's Homily including an adaptation of the story "Who Is Coming To Our House" with children taking part in the story telling.

8 p.m. - Traditional Service

* The 5 p.m. & 8 p.m. services will be livestreamed on YouTube

Communities In Schools Video Presentation | January 9 at 10 a.m. | Parish Hall

St John's supports the annual CIS campaign to collect school supplies for needy children but the program does so much more! This presentation will show a much deeper level of service that CIS takes to students suffering from serious mental health issues, showing students reporting on their actual experiences receiving professional counseling from CIS Site Coordinators. This is highly sensitive and confidential information that reveals the essential importance of CIS services to our school children.

Diocesan Council | February 24 - 26, 2022 | Embassy Suites Conference Center, San Marcos

Nominations for Diocesan Council delegates and alternates are now being accepted. We have spots for 6 delegates and 6 alternates. Please send your name to Jenny at jenny@stjohnsnb.com if you are interested.

Financial Peace University | Begins January 12 at New Braunfels High School

FPU will be offered at NBHS and led by St. John's parishioners Chris and Tori Smith. This class will meet each Wednesday at 6 p.m. until March 9. Contact Tori Smith for details at tori@tblackwellinsurance.com

St. John's is looking for an Audio/Visual Technician!

Responsibilities include operating, troubleshooting, and training volunteers to run the sound board and livestreaming system during services and other church activities. Interested in hearing more? Email Desiree at desiree@stjohnsnb.com