

Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025



The greenery on the altar was arranged by Jane Kile-Cantata.

ST. JOHN'S CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Ripp Hardaway, Rector

The Rev. Matthew Bloss, Associate Priest

Riva Heron, Seminarian

Jenny Montgomery, Executive Assistant to the Rector Desiree Moultrie, Director of Finance and Operations

Grace Symmons, Director of Communications

Ben Sykora, AV Tech Lead

Valerie Thompson, Director of Music & Organist Kelly Jackson, Director of Family Ministry & Parish Life

Marjorie Nolan, Director of Children's Ministry & Events

Lauren Koops, Assistant Youth Minister Emily Lehmuth, Director of Nursery Care

Art Gonzalez, Sexton

James Bangert, Assistant Sexton

WORSHIP MINISTERS

Acolytes John Michael & Mary Elizabeth, Brandon Hartman Curti

Altar Guild Alice Jewell, Val Felger, Veronica Crolley

Greeters Sandy & Betsy Payson
Lay Readers Valerie Briell, Linda Lund

Ushers Matthew Eckmann, Kathy Simmons Children's Chapel Winne Nolan, Marjorie Nolan Curtis Parchman, Olivia Carlson, Parker Barber

Marie Fedrick, Marjorie Nolan Pam Reitz, Kathy Simmons Rick Warren, Kay Geurin Liz Carlson, Dave Golson

Audrey DeGrasse, Marjorie Nolan

PRELUDE | Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (*Wachet auf*) – Johann Gottfried Walther *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* (Sleepers, wake! A voice is calling) – Johann Sebastian Bach

OPENING HYMN | Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment

Hymn 70

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.

ADVENT II WREATH LIGHTING: PEACE

Together Lord God, as we continue our journey through this holy season of Advent, keep our hearts and minds ever-fixed on the peace that you will for all humankind. With each passing day, help us to tame our hands, our tongues, and our minds. Let our passion and zeal never give way to wrath, and instead, let all that we think, say, and do, be a reflection of the peace that awaits us in your coming reign. Amen.

Celebrant We light this candle for the sake of peace. For peace in our minds, peace in our homes, and peace in our world. Come Prince of Peace, and lead us to that kingdom where no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness and no strength is known but the strength of love. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP p. 355

Together 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.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL | offered at both services!

Children, preschool through 3rd grade, are invited to follow the Child Crucifer to Children's Chapel during the Song of Praise

SONG OF PRAISE | Prepare the Way, O Zion (v 1 & 3)

Hymn 65

COLLECT BCP p. 211

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



by Joel Raney, Orchestration by Ed Hogan

Narration

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)

Christmas Day in the Morning

Arranged with new music by Joel Raney

Incorporating "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" (Traditional English carol); "I Saw Three Ships" (Traditional English carol); "Softly the Wind Blows" (words by Joel Raney; Tune: *Bunessan*, Traditional Gaelic melody); and "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (Latin carol, 14th c.; Tune: *In Dulci Jubilo*, Traditional German melody)

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, Have you heard? Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day, Have you heard? To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas day, on Christmas day. I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas day in the morning.

Whither sailed those ships all three on Christmas day, on Christmas day? Whither sailed those ships all three on Christmas day in the morning?

Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem on Christmas day, on Christmas day. Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem on Christmas day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas day, on Christmas day. And all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas day in the morning!

Softly the wind blows over the manger; brightly the star shines, flooding the sky. Angels are singing, shepherds are kneeling, God's love revealing, Jesus is born.

And all the souls on earth shall sing on Christmas day, on Christmas day.

And all the souls on earth shall sing on Christmas day, on Christmas day,

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Give ye heed to what we say, Jesus Christ is born today. Heaven and earth before Him bow for He is in the manger now. Christ is born today, today! Christ is born today!

Have you heard? Christ is born on Christmas day in the morning.

Narration

The Christmas story began long before Jesus was born. The scriptures are filled with detailed predictions – voices from history declaring that a Savior was on the way. (*Come, Messiah.*)

The prophet Isaiah wrote that God would bring comfort to all people, that a voice would be heard in the wilderness, a voice of one calling: "Prepare the way for the Lord." (*Come, Messiah.*)

Come Messiah, Come Emmanuel

Arranged with new music by Joel Raney

Incorporating "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Words by Charles Wesley, 1744; Tune: Hyfrydol)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; (Come, Messiah.)

From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee. (Come, Messiah.) Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;

Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. (Come, Messiah.)

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King;

Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring. (Come, Messiah.)

By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone.

By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Come, come, Messiah. Come, come, Messiah.

Come, Messiah, come, Emmanuel.

Come, Messiah, come, Emmanuel, come!

Narration

Around 2,000 years ago, events began to unfold signaling the Messiah was on His way. An angel first appeared to a young girl named Mary and told her she was chosen to bring the promised Savior into the world. (*Have you heard?*)

Just before Mary was due to deliver her child, she and Joseph learned that they had to take a long journey required by the Roman tax census. (Have you heard?)

When they arrived in Bethlehem, there were no rooms left – only a stable. (Have you heard?)

It was that night, in that stable, the miracle birth took place.

Have You Heard?

Arranged with new music by Joel Raney

Incorporating "Away in a Manger;" "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" and "Angels We Have Heard on High"

There's a promise foretold, there are signs to behold, there's a manger awaiting a King. There are shepherds nearby, there's a star in the sky, there are angels preparing to sing.

Mary wrapped her firstborn Son in cloths and placed Him in the only cradle available.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay; the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger; there He lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger. Such a Babe, such a place, can He be the Savior? Ask the saved of every race who have found his favor.

Now in awe we behold, as the prophets foretold, a manger that cradles a King. And the shepherds nearby saw the star in the sky, as the angels began to sing.

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo. Have you heard? Christ is born!

Narration

He came to earth from heaven, our God and Lord of all; His shelter was a stable, His cradle was a stall.

For the poor and meek and lowly, He came to earth, our Savior holy.

Celtic Christmas Lullaby

Words and Music by Joel Raney

SOLO: Atlas Thompson, alto

In a lowly stable in Bethlehem, under starlight glowing above, A gift was given, a Child was born, and heaven spilled over with love.

From a quiet hillside near Bethlehem came shepherds seeking the Child; And they fell to their knees as they worshipped Him, Mary's baby, so tender and mild.

And the manger cradled a holy sight, and the stars began to sing.
As the angels danced in the morning light, all the bells of heaven did ring!
And the rocks and rivers and mountains rejoiced; and the whole wide world did sing, "Emmanuel, Emmanuel. Welcome the newborn King."

And as Mary whispered a lullaby, heaven's angels sang of His birth, Of joy to the world, of love's pure Light, and the promise of peace on earth.

And the manger cradled a holy sight, and the stars began to sing.

As the angels danced in the morning light, all the bells of heaven did ring!

And the rocks and rivers and mountains rejoiced; and the whole wide world did sing, "Emmanuel, Emmanuel. Welcome the newborn King."

Narration

As the newborn King lay there in the manger, the world around Him began to change. The Bible tells of a strange light in the heavens, of an angel appearing to shepherds leaving their sheep and hurrying away to see the Child. On that holiest of nights, in the tiny town of Bethlehem, the course of history was forever altered.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Incorporating "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Music by Joel Raney Words by Phillips Brooks, 1868

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, And praises sing to God the King and peace to all on earth.

O Holy Night

Incorporating the Tune: Londonderry Air (Traditional Irish melody)

Arranged by Joel Raney Words by John S. Dwight, 19th c.

DUET: Becky Luft, soprano; Alan Hanks, tenor

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of our dear Savior'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 wearing world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O holy night, O night divine, when Christ was born! Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts we by His cradle stand. Over the world a star is sweetly gleaming To lead the wise men from a distant land.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; With all our hearts we praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever more. O holy night, O night divine, when Christ was born!

Come and Adore Him

Incorporating Tunes: *Loch Lomond* (Traditional Scottish melody) and *Adeste Fidelis* (from John F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751)

Arranged by Joel Raney Words attr. to John F. Wade, 1751 Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

SOLO: George Allen, bass

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold Him, born the King of angels. Come, and let us adore Him.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above: "Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" Come, and let us adore Him.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. Come, and let us adore Him.

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold Him, born the King of angels. Come, and let us adore Him.

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. Come, and let us adore Him.

Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, come!

Narration

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

SOLO: Denise Marshall, soprano

Have you heard? Have you heard?

Good people all, this Christmastime, consider well and bear in mind

What our good God for us has done in sending His beloved Son.

With Mary holy we should pray to God, with love this Christmas Day.

In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;

To whom God's angels did appear which put the shepherds in great fear.

"Arise and go," the angels said, "to Bethlehem, be not afraid.

For there you'll find this happy morn, a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.

Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,

To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

And all the souls on earth shall sing

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and vofice;

Give ye heed to what we say, Jesus Christ is born today.

Heaven and earth before Him bow for He is in the manger now.

Christ is born today, today! Christ is born today!

Have you heard? Christ is born on Christmas day in the morning. Rejoice!

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP p. 377

Celebrant O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. Revelation 4:11

OFFERTORY | Here We Come A-Caroling – Old English Wassail Song, arr. Carrie Kraft

Eric & Valerie Thompson

ADVENT DOXOLOGY | tune: Veni Emmanuel

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.

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A; BCP p. 361

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 | Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (from Deutsche Messe - Schubert, arr. Proulx)

Hymn S 130

Hymn numbers beginning with an S indicate Service Music, found at the front of The Hymnal 1982

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

(The people stand or kneel.)

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 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

FRACTION ANTHEM | Jesus, Lamb of God (from Deutsche Messe by Schubert, arr. Proulx)

Hymn S 164

*Hymn numbers beginning with an S indicate Service Music, found at the front of The Hymnal 1982.

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Give us your peace, give us your peace.

THE INVITATION

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.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

BCP p. 365

During communion, prayer teams are available to pray with you in the alcoves on either side of the altar.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Of the Father's Love Begotten (Divinum mysterium) - Wilbur Held, Craig Phillips, Gilbert M. Martin

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

SENDING FORTH EUCHARISTIC VISITOR(S)

Celebrant

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that [N. and] all those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

All

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN | Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Hymn 59

BCP p. 366

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE | Suisse Noel – Louis Claude Daquin

Valerie Thompson, Organist



DIRECTOR

Valerie Thompson

PIANIST

Eric Thompson

NARRATOR Clark Hendley

A/V TECH LEAD

Ben Sykora

SOPRANO

Becky Luft

Denise Marshall Vickie Varteressian

Fran Velich

ALTO

Carrie Martin

Sue McLane Atlas Thompson

Linda Williams

TENOR

Anne Denison Alan Hanks Susan Morgan

Jaime Pruna

BASS

George Allen Jean McLane

DECORATIONS

Stacey Griffin Allyson Ludington

Denise Marshall

ORCHESTRA

Faustino Becerra, Violin

Jim Farrell, Viola

Lucia Cuellar-Ysaguirre, Flute/Piccolo

Melanie Thompson, Oboe

Ryan Mueller, Trumpet

Angel Inchaurregui, Trombone

Juan Riveros, Percussion

Collin Winters, Percussion





- visitor connection card
- event info and sign ups
- latest eNews
- worship bulletin PDF
 - and more!

Church Office Holiday Closures: December 23 at noon - December 26 and December 30 at noon - January 2.

End of Year Giving Reminder

All contributions intended for the 2025 calendar year must be received in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2025. Contribution Statements will be emailed by January 15, 2026. To request a printed statement, please call Desiree at (830) 625-2532. If you itemize deductions, please wait to file your tax return until you have received your 2025 Contribution Statement, as the IRS requires a dated statement before filing.

2025 Year-End Ministry Reports

All ministry leaders are asked to submit their 2025 Year-End Ministry Report to Jenny (jenny@stjohnsnb.com) by Monday, December 29. These reports will be shared at the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2026. Please provide a brief paragraph describing the major events and activities of your ministry this year.

Advent Journey - Self-guided Art Walk | Guide avatilable at at stjohnsnb.com/AdventJourney

Experience the Advent Journey in the Sanctuary yard and foyer. The artwork inspired by Luke 1–2 that traces the story of Christ's coming. Move from painting to painting, reflect on the scripture, and behold the wonder of the season.

Ren Faire Soda & Mead Bar Volunteer Opportunity benefitting Family Promise | Dec. 5–7 & Dec. 12–14 Volunteer shifts require three adults per shift. Learn more and sign up at link at the QR code above.

All-Ages Salt Dough Ornament Painting | TODAY at 10 a.m.

Gather in the Parish Hall to paint old-school salt dough ornaments and enjoy Christmas carols.

Daughters of the King Organizational Meeting | TODAY at 12:30 p.m. | Conference Room

We are meeting to discuss and plan the discernment dates for 2026, starting on Jan 4th with The Service for Preparation for Membership during the 11 a.m. service. Please RSVP in the Church Center app!

Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, December 10 at 11 a.m. | The Reel Seafood and Grill | More info in Church Center!

Holy Visitations for Advent | December 14 - 21 | Weekdays 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Weekends 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Advent can rush past in a blur, but this season invites us to pause, breathe, and prepare our hearts. As we *greet with joy the coming of Christ*, the sanctuary will be open for a week of quiet prayer and reflection.

Children's Nativity Pageant | Sunday, December 14 at 11 a.m. | sign-ups are open in Church Center!

Come hear the greatest story ever told! All children ages 0–11 (non-members welcome!) are invited to participate in our annual Children's Nativity Pageant. Contact Marjorie Nolan (marjorie@stjohnsnb.com) for more details.

Teen Girls' Second Sundays: Ugly Christmas Sweaters and Yap!! | Sunday, December 14 | 5 - 7 p.m. | Francis Home

Men of St. John's Christmas Party | Friday, December 19 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Hendley Home (557 Apex Ave.) All men are invited to celebrate the season together. Please RSVP in Church Center.

Christmas Eve Services | Wednesday, December 24 | 4 p.m. (Family), 7 p.m. (Traditional), 10:30 p.m. (Traditional) Our family service is often very full. To help make room for visiting families and little ones, *we invite those without children to consider attending one of our later services.* This year we're also offering a new 10:30 p.m. service, ending just as Christmas Day begins—a beautiful way to behold the wonder of the Nativity.

Christmas Day Service | Thursday, December 25 at 8:45 a.m.

Baptism Sunday | Sunday, January 4 Email Jenny (jenny@stjohnsnb.com) if you are interested in being baptized.

Mustang Island Family Camp | Session 9 with Fr. Matthew | July 23-26

Join Fr. Matthew and other St. John's families for a long weekend of sun, sand, worship, and rest. Enjoy chapel, beach time, crafts, and time together on the coast. **Register TODAY - spots fill quickly!**