

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021

5 p.m. Christmas Pageant & Family Eucharist



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH

The Truth of the Bible

In the Beauty of the Anglican Tradition.

Believe. Worship. Love. Serve.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

Mission. St. John's Church is building a community in Christ that is grounded in historic faith and reverent worship and is committed to sharing the life-transforming truth of the Gospel.

For Guests and Visitors. We extend a warm welcome to guests and visitors worshipping with us. We look forward to getting to know you!

Interactive Worship. The congregation participates actively in worship, and this booklet is a guide to taking part in it. It is based on the **1940 Hymnal**, and the smaller **1928 Prayer Book**.

Worship Schedule: Our current Sunday schedule is: 8 a.m. Holy Communion in the church; 9 a.m. Family Worship Service in the church [NOTE: No Family Worship on Dec. 26th] (Family Morning Prayer on the first, second, third, and fifth Sundays of the month with Holy Communion on the fourth Sundays); and 11 a.m. Holy Communion in the church on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month with Morning Prayer on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Morning Prayer is online each weekday at 8:15 a.m. Evening Prayer is at 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday in the chapel (entrance facing the mall). Evening Prayer with Holy Communion is 5 p.m. every Thursday in the chapel. Visit StJohnsSav.org for more details.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN SAVANNAH

Founded in 1841, the first rector, Stephen Elliott, was also the first bishop of Georgia, and he consecrated the present church on May 7, 1853. In 1943, one of Savannah's historic mansions, the Green-Meldrim House, became its Parish House and Rectory. Later, Macon Street in the block between the church and Green-Meldrim House was closed and laid out as the present garden Mall. Cranmer Hall, the Christian Education building, was renovated and enlarged in 2004. St. John's is one of a handful of parishes in the Episcopal Church that continues to worship using the classical Book of Common Prayer (in its 1928 edition). We are committed to transmitting unimpaired to our posterity the historic Faith and Order it sets forth, within the fellowship of the Anglican Communion.

HOW WE WORSHIP AND WHY – SANTA CLAUS

“Santa Claus” as we know him – beard, reindeer, sleigh, and all - is largely the product of 20th century advertising by a famous soft-drinks company and of a 19th century American children's poem. Yet it is not hard to discern what lies behind him: Saint Nicholas, a 4th century bishop of Myra, a port on the Aegean coast of what is now Turkey but was then the Eastern Roman Empire. He was revered as a helper of his fellow men, who brought happiness to children, families, the desperately needy, and the oppressed. In one of the stories told about him, he visited children by night and left them gifts – a familiar motif! Bishop Nicholas also is said to have attended the Council of Nicea, which affirmed the truth of the Incarnation of God in Christ. (It is the Creed of Nicea that we recite in the Eucharist). The fundamental question of Nicea was this: “Is God so mighty that he might make himself small; is he so mighty that he can love us and really enter our lives? For if God is too far away to love us effectively, then human love too is an empty promise. If God cannot love, how can man be expected to do so?” (Ratzinger). When we profess faith in God's Incarnation, we are affirming that God has become so present to us in his love, that we may therefore both receive it from him and give it to one another. Saint Nicholas – who professed faith in Christ's Incarnation, and was revered as the helper of children and those in need – symbolizes that connection of faith and love. He exemplifies the everyday miracle, of faith lived out in charity, that is at the heart of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE

5 p.m. Christmas Pageant & Family Eucharist

¶ *Front Pews are reserved for Families of Pageant Players. Children and their families are welcome to remain for the whole service, and to receive a blessing at the altar rail. Nursery care is available in Cranmer Hall. We request no photography in the service. Please silence all electronic devices. In the hush before the service begins, we prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Video Notice: Please note that that this service may be livestreamed and recorded on video for online public viewing.*

Christmas Prelude

¶ *Please stand at the entrance of the clergy.*

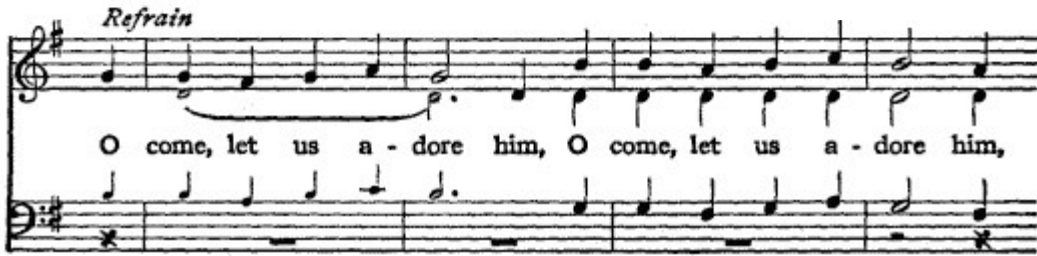
Welcome.....Fr. Dunbar

HYMN #12 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*.....Adeste Fideles

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - umph - ant, O
2 God of . . . God, . . . Light . . of . . . Light, . .
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
*4 See how the shep - herds, Sum - moned to his cra - dle,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb:
Sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove;
Leav - ing their flocks, draw . . . nigh to gaze;

Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels;
Ve - ry God, Be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
Glo - ry to God In . . . the . . . high - est;
We too will thi - ther Bend our joy - ful foot - steps;



Lighting of the Christmas Candle.....Miss Julia Sparks

THE OPENING PRAYERS

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Answer: **And with thy spirit.**

Minister: Let us pray. (*All kneel.*)

The Collect for Purity

ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ Then the Minister shall say,

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith.

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie Eleison #710.....Healey Willan

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Answer: **And with thy spirit.**

Minister: Let us pray. (*All kneel.*)

The Collect for Christmas

O GOD, who hast made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true light: grant, we beseech thee; that we, who have known the mystery of his light on earth, may also attain to the fruition of his joys in heaven: Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Epistle: (*All sit.*) Titus 2:11-15. *Christ gave himself for us.*

Clerk: The Epistle is written in the 2nd chapter of the Epistle of Saint Paul the Apostle to Titus, beginning at the 11th verse:

DEARLY BELOVED: The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

HYMN (*Stand.*): #13 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night* Winchester Old

1 While shep-herds watch'd their flocks by night, All seat-ed on the ground,
2 "Fear not," said he, for migh-ty dread Had seized their troub-led mind;

The an-gel of the Lord came down, And glo-ry shone a-round.
"Glad ti-dings of great joy I bring To you and all man-kind.

3 "To you, in David's town, this day
Is born of David's line
The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

4 "The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."

5 Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high
And on the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease."

NAHUM TATE, 1700

The Gospel: St. Luke 2:1-14. *The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.*

Priest: The Holy Gospel is written in the 2nd Chapter of St. Luke, beginning at the 1st Verse.

Response: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Response after the Gospel:

Praise be to thee, O Christ. (*All sit after the Gospel.*)

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

BELOVED in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger: and to make this place, dedicated to his beloved disciple, glad with our songs of praise.

HYMN (*Seated.*) #43 *Away in a Manger*..... Cradle Song

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, The lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord

Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look

down where he lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky, And stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh. A - men.

LESSON (*Seated*.) St. Luke 2:8-14. *The Angels proclaim Christ's birth.*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

HYMN (*Seated*) #42 *Angels We Have Heard On High* (First Verse) Gloria

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

LESSON (*Seated*) St. Luke 2:15-16. *The Shepherds go to Bethlehem.*

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

HYMN (*Seated*) #42 *Angels We Have Heard On High* (Second Verse)..... Gloria

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

LESSON (*Seated*) St. Matthew 2:1-11. *The Wise Men seek Jesus.*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, ²Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. [...] Then Herod [...] sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. ⁹When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. ¹¹And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

HYMN (*Seated*) #42 *Angels We Have Heard On High* (Third & Fourth Verses).....Gloria

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo | 4. See him in a manger laid
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. |
|---|---|

Benedictory Prayer

THE Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; And unto the fellowship of the citizens above, May the king of angels bring us all. Amen.

The Children's Talk

Children (with or without their parents and grandparents) are invited to the Chancel step to take a closer look at the Pageant with Mr. Steven Vanderlip.

THE OFFERTORY

The Priest reads the offertory sentence. Please be seated while the elements are prepared.

Offertory Sentence

Brethren, ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

The open offering at this service supports the St. John's Ministry with Children. When the offering is brought to the altar.

HYMN (*Stand*) #21 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.....St. Louis

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is giv'n!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first system contains three verses of the hymn. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C).

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But in this world of sin,

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.
 Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in. A - men.

*4 Where children pure and happy
 Pray to the blessed Child,
 Where misery cries out to thee,
 Son of the mother mild;
 Where charity stands watching
 And faith holds wide the door,
 The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
 And Christmas comes once more.

5 O holy Child of Bethlehem!
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in,
 Be born in us to-day.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Emmanuell! Amen.

DOXOLOGY #139.....Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; / Praise him, all creature here below; /
 Praise him above, ye heav'nly host: / Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Biddings and The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Minister: Rest ☩ eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
Answer: And let light perpetual shine upon them.
Minister: May they rest in peace. Amen.

The Prayer for Christ's Church

Minister: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church. *(All remain kneeling through to communion)*

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our [alms and] oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also, so to direct and dispose the hearts of all Christian Rulers, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and other Ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless ✠ thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service, and to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

THE PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

¶ *Then shall the Priest say to those who come to receive the Holy Communion,*

YE who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest stand up, and turning to the People, say,*

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon ✠ and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest say,*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

COME unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. (*Matthew 11:28*)

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (*St. John 3:16*)

Hear also what Saint Paul saith. This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (*1 Timothy 1:15*)

Hear also what Saint John saith. If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins. (*1 St. John 2:1, 2*)

¶ *After which the Priest shall proceed, saying,*

Minister: The Lord be with you

Answer: **And with thy spirit.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

Answer: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Answer: **It is meet and right so to do.**

¶ *Then shall the Priest turn to the Holy Table, and say,*

IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Proper Preface for Christmas

BECAUSE thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, was made very man, of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin. Therefore with Angels, etc.

THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS #711 & #797..... Healey Willan

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of, hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory:

Glorify be to thee, O Lord Most High. Amen. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord:

Hosanna in the highest.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again: For in the night in which he was betrayed, (a) he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, (b) he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, (c) this is my Body, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me. Likewise, after supper, (d) he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for (e) this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

WHEREFORE O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy Divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

AND we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

AND we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen.*

And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE COMMUNION

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

AGNUS DEI (*Kneeling*) #712.....Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **grant us thy peace.**

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

Receiving the Sacrament.

Those who are baptized and who have been admitted to communion (which at St. John's, is normally by confirmation, but for visitors may have taken place by some other means) are welcome to receive the sacrament. All others are welcome to receive a blessing at the altar rail (please kneel and cross arms over your breast to signify your intention).

To receive the host, please place right hand over left, palm up, at the level of your chest, and lift the host to your lips. To receive the chalice, keep your neck and head straight, and lightly grasp the bowl or stem of the chalice to guide it to your lips. For reasons of hygiene, self-intinction (dipping) of the host in the chalice is not permitted. If you are not comfortable with receiving the chalice, you may get up after receiving the host, or cross your arms over your chest. The grace of Christ is fully available to the believer by both elements or by either.

HYMN #33 Silent Night..... Holy Night

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep-herds quake at the sight,
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round you vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant so ten - der and mild,
Glo - ries stream from hea-ven a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
Radiant beams from thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in hea-ven-ly peace, Sleep in hea-ven-ly peace.
Christ, the Sa-voir, is born! Christ, the Sa-voir, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. A - men.

THE PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. (*All kneel.*)

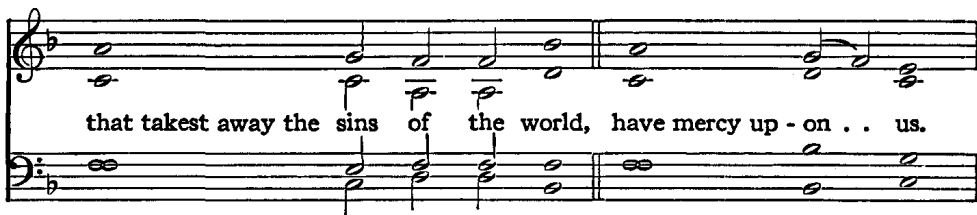
ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us who have duly received these holy mysteries with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of his most precious death and passion. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #739.....Old Scottish Chant

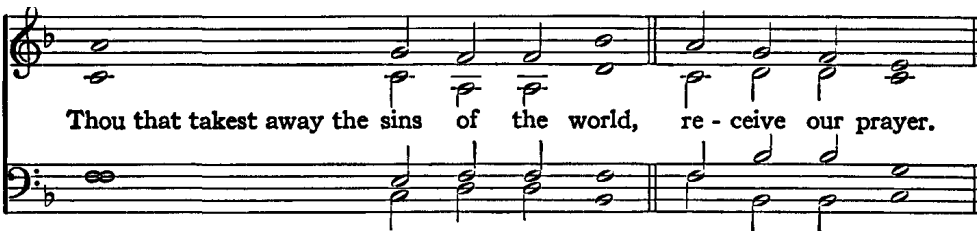
Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we glorify thee, we give
we bless thee, we worship thee, thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry,

O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Father Al - migh - ty.

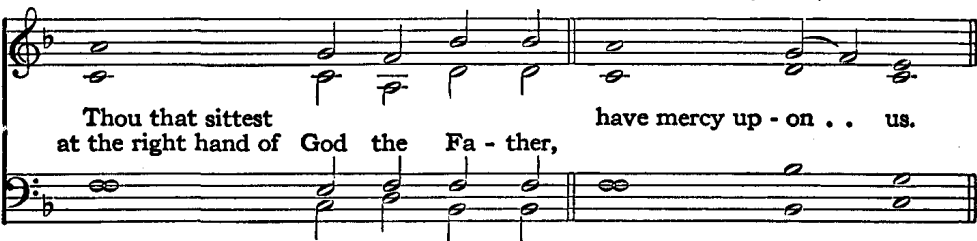
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther,



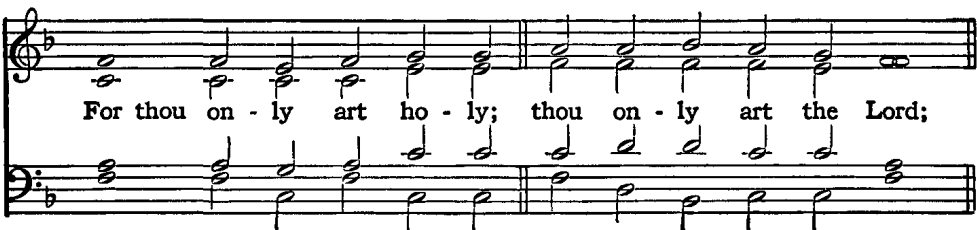
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy up - on . . us.



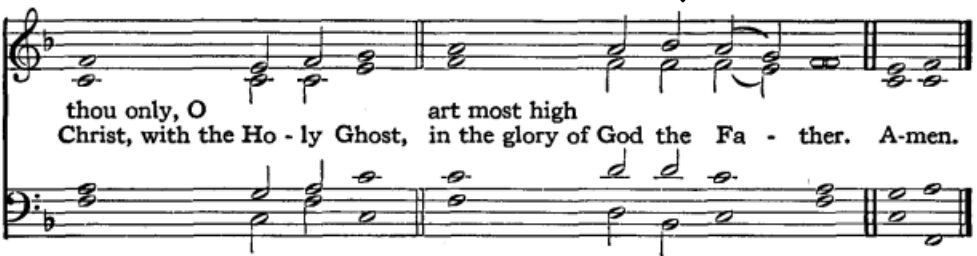
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest
at the right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mercy up - on . . us.



For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord;



thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most high
in the glory of God the Fa - ther. A-men.

The Blessing

¶ Then, the people kneeling, the Priest (the Bishop if he be present) shall let them depart with this Blessing.

THE Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the Blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

¶ Please stand as the Clergy depart.

HYMN #40 *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*.....God Rest Ye Merry



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis - may,
2 From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther A bless - ed an - gel came;



Re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - viour Was born on Christ - mas Day;
And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought ti - dings of the same;

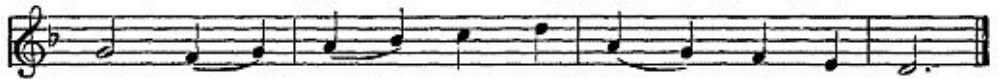


To save us all from Sa - tan's power When we were gone a - stray.
How that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by name.

Refrain



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O ti - dings of com - fort and joy!

3 "Fear not, then," said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Saviour
Of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him
From Satan's power and might."

Refrain

Bell Peal



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Rector: Fr. Gavin G. Dunbar

Assisting Priest: Fr. J. Patrick Hunt

Minister with Youth: Mr. Steven D. Vanderlip, Jr.

Verger: Mr. B. Ray Summerell

Organist-Choirmaster: Mr. R. Steven Branyon

Vestry Offering Chair: Mr. Robert L. Sparks

Ushers: Mr. Robert L. Sparks, Mr. Robert B. Turner, and Mr. R. Scott Howard

Christmas Candle Lighting: Julia Sparks

PAGEANT PLAYERS

The Blessed Virgin Mary: Virginia Glover

Saint Joseph: Robert Howard

The Archangel: Anna Chase Ross

Star of Bethlehem: Haddon Watson

The Angels: Charlotte Ezelle, Allison Smith, Louisa Sparks, Gigi Peluso, and Ellie Kate Schubert

The Shepherds: Patrick Finnegan, Hunter Brigdon, and Frank Peluso

The Sheep: Caroline Ross, Louise Glover, Carol Scott Brooks, Cate Ezelle, Reeve Peluso, and Eleanor Brigdon

The Wise Men: Wallace Glover, Will Howard, and Tripp Ross

UPCOMING WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE SOLEMN EUCHARIST
Friday, Dec. 24th at 11 p.m., Church & Online
Musical Prelude begins at 10:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY SUNG EUCHARIST
Sat., Dec. 25th at 11 a.m., Church & Online
Musical Prelude begins at 10:30 a.m.

Will feature St. John's choir and familiar Christmas music played by organ and brass.

SUNDAY, DEC. 26TH, CHRISTMAS I & FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

No nursery, breakfast, or family worship.

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

10 a.m. *Fr. Dunbar's Class only*,
(Faith & Fellowship, Children's,
and Youth classes will not meet.)

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church & Online

MONDAY, DEC. 27TH, ST. JOHN'S DAY

8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer* (online)

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with Holy
Communion*, Chapel
Church office is closed.

TUESDAY, DEC. 28TH, HOLY INNOCENTS

8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer* (online)

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with
Holy Communion*, Chapel

WED. & THURSDAY, DEC. 29 & 30TH

8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer* (online)

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer (Thursday
with Holy Communion)*, Chapel

SATURDAY, JAN. 1ST, THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST (NEWS YEAR'S DAY)

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Christmas Eve Devotion

Mary, in the days of her holy expectation,
magnified the Lord;
her spirit rejoiced in the child of her womb,
the Son of God.

For when all things lay in silence,
and night was in the midst of her course,
there leaped down, O God, from on high,
from thy royal throne,
the Word of God, thy Christ, thyself;
through woman to be born in human nature
born in time, born in us,
and we in him.

Grant me, O God, thy divinest gift,
that Emmanuel may be formed and born in me,
that I may ever rejoice and magnify thee.
Say to my soul, Peace, be still,
as was that silent night.
And send thy Word into my soul,
not for my merit, but by thy miracle;
by my desire, but of thy sole gift;
not in part, but in all
which mortal can receive.

Father, let me be born in thee as thy child:
Christ, be born in me as thy Lord:
Holy Spirit, travail and shine within;
that at I may live in thy life
and love with thy love
evermore and evermore. Amen.

SUNDAYS AT ST. JOHN'S

Join Us on Sundays for Worship in the Anglican Tradition

All services at St. John's Church are based on the biblical and historic tradition of worship transmitted in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. We hold several services and Christian education classes, which are always open to newcomers. [No breakfast on Dec. 26th]

8 a.m. EARLY SERVICE: Holy Communion (in the Church)

A quiet, said service of Holy Communion with organ but no singing. Everyone is invited to attend a continental breakfast in Cranmer Hall following this service. [No breakfast on Dec. 26th]

9 a.m. FAMILY SERVICE: Morning Prayer or Holy Communion (in the Church)

Join us for a family- and newcomer-friendly service with active participation from our youth. [NOTE: We will not have Family Worship on Dec. 26th]. Family Morning Prayer is on the first, second, third, and fifth Sundays of the month with Holy Communion on the fourth Sundays. Everyone is invited to Cranmer Hall for refreshments following this service.

10 a.m. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION [No classes on Dec. 26th, except Fr. Dunbar's class]

For Children: Cranmer Hall, 2nd Floor

For Youth: Middle & High School, Cranmer Hall, 3rd Floor

Sunday School for Adults:

- *Book of Jeremiah*, Cranmer Hall, 3rd Floor. This class is lead by Fr. Dunbar.
- *Faith and Fellowship* (Small Group), Cranmer Hall, 3rd Floor. This class will return Jan. 9th to discuss chapter 9 in *The Reason for God* by Timothy Keller. To learn more about this small group, please email Betsy Howard at betsyhoward09@gmail.com.
- *Adult Confirmation & Reception into Membership*, Cranmer Hall. Beginning Feb. 13th, Fr. Dunbar will offer a class for adults seeking Confirmation, Reception into Membership at St. John's, or a refresher/introduction to the Anglican tradition of Christianity. It will run through to Palm Sunday (April 10th), If interested in joining this class, please contact Fr. Dunbar at gdunbar@sjohnssav.org.

11 a.m. PRINCIPAL SERVICE (in the Church)

Join us for Holy Communion in the church on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month with Morning Prayer on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. This service features our choir.

11 A.M. CONFIRMATION CLASS (5th-6th grades), Starting January 2, 2022

Meet in Fellowship Hall for lunch followed by class. Students explore the fundamentals of the faith and prepare to be confirmed this spring. If interested in joining this class, please contact our Minister with Youth, Steven Vanderlip at svanderlip@stjohnssav.org.

To learn more about St. John's, visit StJohnsSav.org or call us at 912-232-1251.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - SAVANNAH

Worship in the Anglican Tradition

Parish Chartered in 1841 Church Consecrated in 1853

325 Bull Street On Madison Square OFFICE: One West Macon Street 31401

Our Mission: Saint John's Church is building a community in Christ

That is grounded in historic faith and reverent worship

And is committed to sharing the life-transforming truth of the Gospel.

www.stjohnssav.org Office: 912.232.1251 Fax: 912.232.5559 Parish House: 912.233.3845

Bishop of Georgia..... The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue
Rector - The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar..... (912) 429-3384 gdunbar@stjohnssav.org
Assisting Priest - The Rev. J. Patrick Hunt..... (912) 777-9968
Organist/Choirmaster - Mr. R. Steven Branyon..... sbranyon@stjohnssav.org
Assistant Conductor Mr. Wesley Perkins.....(912)232-1251
Assistant Organist - Mrs. Angela Fisher.....(912) 232-1251
Business Manager - Mrs. Janice W. Woods..... (912) 232-1251 jwoods@stjohnssav.org
Administrative Assistant - Mrs. John C. Nelson (Margaret)..... (912) 232-1251 mnelson@stjohnssav.org
Communications Coordinator - Mrs. Jeremy J. Harvey (Heather).....(912) 232-1251 hharvey@stjohnssav.org
Financial Administrator - Mrs. Daniel J. Mahfet (refer financial inquiries to Mrs. Woods) (912) 232-1251
Children's Ministry Director - Mrs. Joseph R. Ross, Jr. (Sarah)..... (912) 232-1251 sross@stjohnssav.org
Minister with Youth/Pastoral Intern - Mr. Steven D. Vanderlip.....(912) 232-1251 svanderlip@stjohnssav.org
Buildings Manager - Mr. Sinisa Domazet..... sdomazet@stjohnssav.org
Acolyte Director and Master of Ceremonies - Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Srchubb44850@aol.com
Verger - Mr. B. Ray Summerell.....(912) 777-9532 rsummerell@stjohnssav.org

Wardens and Vestry

Senior Warden: Mr. R. Leslie Johnson

Junior Warden - Captain John K. Ross

Clerk of Vestry: Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth); Treasurer: Mr. Holden T. Hayes;

Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan)

Chancellor: M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.; Vice Chancellor: Richard C.E. Jennings, Esq.

The Vestry: Mrs. Benjamin W. Baxter (Cathy),

Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip), Mrs. Sean F. Finnegan (Melanie), Mrs. R. Scott Howard (Betsy),

Mr. R. Leslie Johnson, Mrs. James S. McClellan, Jr. (Holly), Mrs. Paul M. Pressly (Jane), Captain John K. Ross,

Mr. Joseph Ross (Rusty), Mr. Robert L. Sparks, Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq., and Mr. Mark D. Stevens

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar

President, Women of St. John's.....Mrs. Mary Soule

President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers

President, Men of St. John's.....Mr. Sean F. Finnegan