

# CHRISTMAS EVE (MIDNIGHT MASS)

December 24, 2023

11 p.m. Solemn 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

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**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.

**Worship Schedule:** Our non-holiday Sunday schedule is: 8 a.m. Holy Communion in the church; 9 a.m. Family Worship Service [NOTE: No Family Worship Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> or Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>] (Family Morning Prayer in the church on the first, second, third, and fifth Sundays of the month and Holy Communion in the chapel 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. The 11 a.m. is also livestreamed. Please see page 7 for our services this week or visit [StJohnsSav.org](http://StJohnsSav.org).

**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.

**For Guests and Visitors.** We extend a warm welcome to guests and visitors worshipping with us today. We hope that you WILL JOIN US AGAIN AND LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

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

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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 – THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS

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Solemnity, in modern dictionaries, means “grave” or “serious”: a solemn face is the one you wear to hear bad news and to funerals. But what the word originally meant was something grand, stately, splendid, and magnificent. A solemnity is an event of great dignity, and of great delight, an occasion of reverent rejoicing, a feast! That's still the meaning of the word when we speak of a “Solemn Eucharist” – it is a service in which music, vestments, ceremonial (including incense) aspires to a dignified delight. It is a service in which we attempt to respond both inwardly and outwardly in a fashion that corresponds, so far as we are able, to the greatness of the thing which we celebrate. And what is greater than that God himself is incarnate, and born of the virgin? What more awesomely great, than that the infinite God has made himself at home in our finitude, the almighty maker of the world wrapped in swaddling bands and laid in a manger? What more awesome than that the Son of God has become Son of Man, so that the sons of men might become the sons of God? His birth moved the angels to sing “Glory be to God on high”, and we cannot do less, in our churches and in our homes, to keep the feast of Christmas with the most solemnity we can muster!

# 10:40 p.m. Prelude for Christmas

*Featuring organ and strings*

# 11 p.m. Solemn Eucharist of Christmas

*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.*



**CARILLON** (*At the ringing of the bell, all kneel*)

**OPENING HYMN** (*All stand*) #12 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*..... Adeste Fideles

### Mutual Salutation

*Priest.* The Lord be with you;

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Priest.* Let us pray. (*All kneel*)

### THE ANTE-COMMUNION

**The Collect for Purity** (*Remain kneeling*)..... *Prayer Book*, p. 67

**The Summary of the Law** ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 69

**KYRIE ELEISON** *Communion Service in E (Sung by the choir)*..... Harold Darke

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.

### The Collect

**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 Lesson:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 *Unto us a child is born. (All sit)*

**T**HE PEOPLE THAT walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

**The Epistle:** Titus 2:11-15 ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 98

**HYMN #22 From Heaven High (Sung by the Choir)**..... Vom Himmel Hoch

**HYMN #23 From Heaven High, Part II (All stand, sung by all)**..... Vom Himmel Hoch

**The Holy Gospel:** St. Luke 2:1-14 (*Remain standing*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 98-99

**The Nicene Creed (*Remain standing*)**

**I** BELIEVE IN ONE GOD the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. **Amen.**

**Welcome and Announcements (*All sit*)**

**The Address**

**THE OFFERTORY**

**Sentences (*All stand*)**

**B**RETHREN, 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 made rich. *2 Corinthians 8:9*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM (*All sit*) *In the Bleak Midwinter* (Text: Christina Rossetti) .....Harold Darke**

Soloists: Abbey Terry, *soprano*; Larry Preston Roberson, *tenor*

1. In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan. Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen snow on snow, Snow on snow. In the bleak midwinter, long ago.
2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain. Heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
3. Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day. A breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay. Enough for him, whom angels fall down before. The ox and as and camel, which adore.
4. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

**Presentation of Alms (*All stand*) Doxology #139.....Old Hundredth**

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; / Praise Him, all creatures here below; /  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; / Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*At the offering:* All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

**A Bidding Prayer for Christmas (*The congregation remains standing*)**

**The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed**

The Prayer for Christ's Church (*All kneel*). ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 74

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession (*All kneeling until Blessing*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 75

**A**LMIGHTY 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.**

Absolution and Comfortable Words..... *Prayer Book*, p. 75

SURSUM CORDA #734 ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 76

*Priest.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Priest.* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Priest.* 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,)*

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

**SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS** *Communion Service in E (sung by the choir)* ..... Harold Darke

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of, hosts Heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory 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: Institution, Oblation, Invocation ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 80

The Lord's Prayer (*Said with the congregation*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 82

**O**UR 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.**

Prayer of Humble Access (*Said with the congregation*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 82

**W**E 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** *Communion Service in E (Sung by the choir)* ..... Harold Darke  
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.

*Receiving Communion.* Those who are baptized and admitted to communion (e.g. by being confirmed) are invited to receive the sacrament. In the current circumstances, communion is in one kind only, and by the hand only. You may kneel or stand to receive.

**HYMN #197** *Let All Mortal Flesh*..... Picardy  
**MOTET** *Let All Mortal Flesh* (Text at Hymn #197)..... Edward C. Bairstow  
**HYMN #33** *Silent Night, Holy Night*..... Stille Nacht  
**Prayer of Thanksgiving (Said with the congregation)**..... *Prayer Book*, p. 83  
**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #713 (All stand)**..... Healey Willan  
**The Blessing (All kneel)**..... *Prayer Book*, p. 84  
**The Last Gospel: St. John 1:1-14 (All stand)**  
*Minister:* The beginning of the Holy ✠ Gospel according to St. John.  
*Response:* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

**I**N the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to be come the Sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, *[all genuflect or kneel here for a short space]* (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

✠ *Response after the Gospel:* **Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN #27** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (All stand)* ..... Mendelssohn  
**POSTLUDE** *Angels From the Realms of Glory* ..... Regent Square



## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

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**Celebrant:** Fr. Gavin G. Dunbar

**Preaching:** Fr. Jonathan I. Jameson

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

**Verger:** Mr. B. Ray Summerell

**Vestry Offering Chair:**

Mrs. Graham P. Sadler (Dolly)

**Usher Chair:** Dr. James S. McClellan, Jr.  
Mr. Frank Somoskey

**Master of Ceremonies:** Mr. Carter C. Hubbard

**Musicians:**

Organist and Choirmaster, Dr. Jonathan Murphy  
and Assisting Organist, Mrs. Angela M. Fisher

**Strings:**

Larisa Elisha, Violin I; Barbara White, Violin II;  
Marsha Krantz, Viola; Steven Elisha, Cello; and  
Carl Polk, Contractor, Librarian, and Arranger

### UPCOMING WORSHIP: WEEK OF CHRISTMAS

Tues.-Fri., Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> –Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>

8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Online

**Tuesday: Feast of St. Stephen,**  
(church office is closed)

12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

**Wednesday: St. John, Evangelist**

12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

**Thursday: Holy Innocents**

12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> (Christmas 1)**

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

10 a.m. Sunday School (adults only)

11 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Church/Online

## MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS 2023

The Music for Christmas given by:

- Mr. & Mrs. Timothy E. Coy
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Ross
- Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Christopher L. Osteen
  - Mrs. M. Linda Pounds
- Mr. & Mrs. David Barrow III
- Mr. & Mrs. Graham P. Sadler
- Mr. & Mrs. Brian D. Harlander
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Compton
- Mr. & Mrs. L. Allan Reynolds, Jr.

In honor of, thanksgiving for,  
celebration of:

- In honor of Sarah T. Hall  
by Mr. & Mrs. Scott Howard;
- In gratitude to Steven Branyon for his many  
years of selfless dedication to St. John's  
by Mrs. Angela Fisher
- In honor of Steven Branyon by  
Mr. & Mrs. Neil H. Victor

In loving memory of:

- McDonald A. Fawcett by his family
- Mr. & Mrs. William Worsham by  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Patrick Worsham
- Mr. & Mrs. Eugene M. Pearson by  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Patrick Worsham
- William H. and Catherine G. Helmken by  
Mrs. Gary M. Schubert

# 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  
Associate Rector – The Rev. Jonathan Jameson..... (858) 583-2309 jameson@stjohnssav.org  
The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert (Retired) ..... (931) 327-5489  
Assisting Priest – The Rev. J. Patrick Hunt..... (912) 777-9968  
Organist & Choirmaster (Interim)– Dr. Jonathan Murphy ..... choirmaster@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 – Ms. Doreen Karls ..... (912) 232-1251 dkarls@stjohnssav.org  
Communications Coordinator ; Administrative Assistant to the  
Organist & Choirmaster — Mrs. Robert J. Terry (Abbey).....(912) 232-1251 aterry@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, Jr.... (912) 232-1251 svanderlip@stjohnssav.org  
Buildings Manager – Mr. Sinisa Domazet.....sdomazet@stjohnssav.org  
Acolyte Director and Master of Ceremonies – Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr..... chubb44850@aol.com  
Verger – Mr. B. Ray Summerell .....(912) 777-9532 rsummerell@stjohnssav.org

### **Wardens and Vestry**

Senior Warden: Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.; Junior Warden: Mr. E. Brian Culver;  
Clerk of Vestry: Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth); Treasurer: Mr. Robert L. Sparks;  
Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan); Chancellor: Dolly Chisholm

**The Vestry:** Mrs. Benjamin W. Baxter (Cathy), Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Dr. J. Davidson Carson (David), Mr. E. Brian Culver, Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry), Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings (Stacy), Mrs. Thomas C. McCay (Connie), Mrs. Paul M. Pressly (Jane), Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth),

Mr. Robert L. Sparks, Mr. Mark D. Stevens, and Mr. Richard Wright (Rick)

**Vestry Emeriti:** Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. Edwin H. Culver

Chancellor Emeritus & Vestryman Emeritus: M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.

President, Women of St. John's..... Mrs. Paula W. Walker  
Co-President, Chancel Society .....Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan & Mrs. Linda H. Pounds  
President Emeritus, Chancel Society ..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers  
President, Men of St. John's..... Mr. Sean F. Finnegan