



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - SAVANNAH

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

DECEMBER 24, 2025

5:00PM

WELCOME

Our mission is to build a community in Christ that is grounded in historic faith, reverent worship, and is committed to sharing the life-transforming truth of the Gospel.

Everything you need to participate fully in the liturgy is included or indicated in this leaflet.

The hymns are sung from the red *Hymnal 1940* located in your pews.

Nursery care is available from 4:45PM - 6:30PM in Cranmer Hall.

Please speak to an usher for assistance with the location of the nursery.

For information on worship and other events of the Parish, see the separate Parish Paper located at the back of the Nave.

PAGEANT & HOLY COMMUNION

Please maintain a reverent silence before the service

The Mass setting is the *First Communion Service* by John Merbecke (c.1510-c.1585)

VOLUNTARY: Hark! the herald angel sing

Timothy Ravalde (b. 1988)

The People stand as the Clergy enter and sing

Hymn 12 "O come, all ye faithful" Verses 1-4

ADESTE FIDELES

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold him, Born the King of angels:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord

2. God of God, Light of Light
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb:
very God, begotten, not created

Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God in the highest;

Refrain

4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks by night draw nigh to gaze;
we too with thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Refrain

After the hymn, a child comes forward and lights the Christmas Candle

The People standing, the Priest says

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| | The Lord be with you. |
| <i>People</i> | And with thy spirit. |
| <i>Priest</i> | Let us pray. |

The People kneel, and the Priest continues with

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 67

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.*

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

BCP, p. 69

KYRIE ELEISON (*sung by All*)

The Hymnal 1940, 710



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The People remain kneeling and the Priest says

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| | The Lord be with you. |
| <i>People</i> | And with thy spirit. |
| <i>Priest</i> | Let us pray. |

The Priest continues with the Collect, to which the People respond

Amen.

The People sit

THE LESSONS

The Epistle: Titus 2:11-15 *Christ gave himself for us*

BCP, p. 98

All stand and join in singing

Hymn 13 "While shepherds watched their flocks by night" (*sung by All*)

WINCHESTER OLD

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind

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

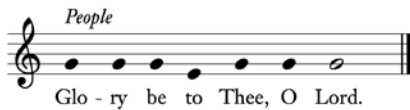
6. "All glory be to God on high
and on the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heav'n to men
begin and never cease."

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:

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Priest The ✠ Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, in the second chapter,
beginning at the first verse.



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.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, All sing



The People sit and remain seated throughout the Pageant

THE 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 the manger: and to make this place, dedicated to his beloved disciple, glad with our songs of praise.

The People join in singing

Hymn 43 “Away in a manger” (*sung by All*)

CRADLE SONG

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

THE FIRST LESSON: Luke 2:8-14

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

The People join in singing

Hymn 42 “Angels we have heard on high” Verse 1

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.

THE SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:15-16

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

The People join in singing

Hymn 42 “Angels we have heard on high” Verse 2

GLORIA

1. 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.

THE THIRD LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11

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, Saying, 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. When 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And 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.

The People join in singing

Hymn 42 “Angels we have heard on high” Verses 3 & 4

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.

The Priest stands and pronounces the following blessing

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.*

Children, with or without their parents or grandparents, are invited to the Chancel steps for

THE CHILDREN’S ADDRESS

THE NOTICES

THE OFFERTORY

The People stand and the Priest begins the Offertory with a sentence of scripture. After which, the People sit.

THE ANTHEM

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.
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.

Enough for him, whom cherubin,
Worship night and day,
A breast full of milk,
And a mangerfull of hay.
Enough for Him, whom angels,
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel, Which adore.

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.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Music: Harold Darke (1888-1976)

THE PRESENTATION

The People stand as the alms and oblations are presented and sing

Hymn 139 “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Priest then says

People All things come of thee, O Lord,
and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

THE BIDDINGS

Priest Of your charity, I bid your prayers for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed:
Rest ☩ eternal grant unto them, O Lord;
People and let light perpetual shine upon them.
Priest May they rest in peace.
People Amen.

THE PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH

BCP, p. 74

The Priest begins by saying

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church.

The People kneel and the Priest continues with the prayers

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP, p. 75

A Priest bids the Confession, the People kneel, and the following Confession is said by all

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.

The Priest alone stands and pronounces the Absolution which is followed by

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

BCP, p. 76

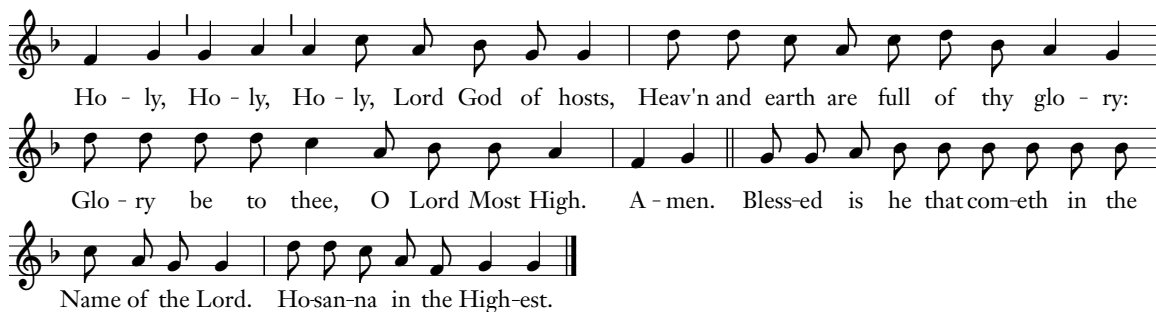
The Priest then says

| | |
|---------------|---|
| | The Lord be with you |
| <i>People</i> | And with thy spirit. |
| <i>Priest</i> | Lift up your hearts. |
| <i>People</i> | We lift them up unto the Lord. |
| <i>Priest</i> | Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. |
| <i>People</i> | It is meet and right so to do. |

The Priest faces the Altar and continues with the proper preface, after which is sung

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS (*sung by All*)

Hymnal, 711 & 797



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy glo - ry:
Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. A - men. Bless-ed is he that com-eth in the
Name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the High-est.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION, OBLATION, & INVOCATION

BCP, p. 80

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*said by All*)

BCP, p. 82

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 Priest kneels and the People join in saying

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

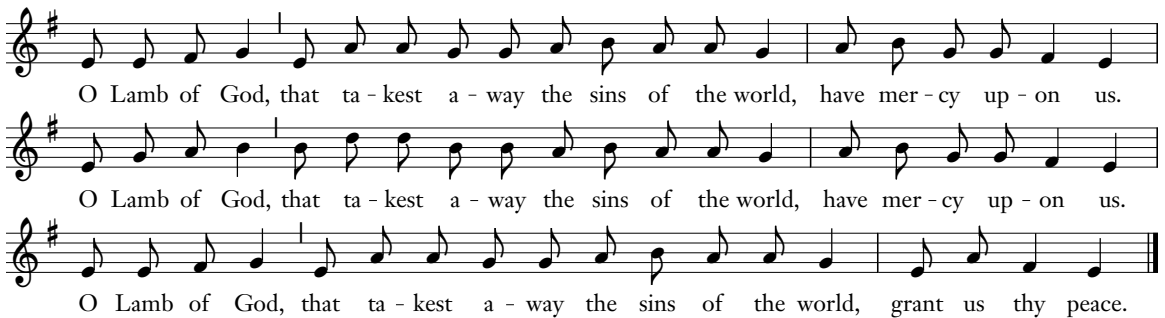
BCP, p. 82

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.

Then is sung

AGNUS DEI (*sung by All*)

Hymnal, 712



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Those who are baptized, have attained to years of discretion, and have been admitted to communion (which at St. John's, is normally by confirmation, but for visitors may have taken place by other means) are welcome to receive the Sacrament. All others are welcome to receive a blessing at the altar rail by kneeling and crossing your arms over your chest.

To receive the Host, please place your right hand over left, at the level of your chest, and lift the Host to your lips. To receive the chalice, keep your head and neck straight, lightly grasp the bowl or stem of the chalice and guide it to your lips.

Self-intinction (dipping) of the Host is not permitted for hygiene reasons. If you do not wish to receive the chalice, you may depart after receiving the Host, or cross your arms over your chest.

THE COMMUNION HYMNS (*sung by All*)

Hymn 36 "What child is this"

GREENSLEEVES

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe the Son of Mary.*
2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading?
Refrain
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him,
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Refrain

1. Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath oped the heaven'ly door and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in the dark street shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises ring to God the King
and peace to men on earth.
3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.
4. Where children ure 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 today.
we hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake, at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at thy birth.

After Communion, the Priest says

Let us pray.

The People kneel and join in saying

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

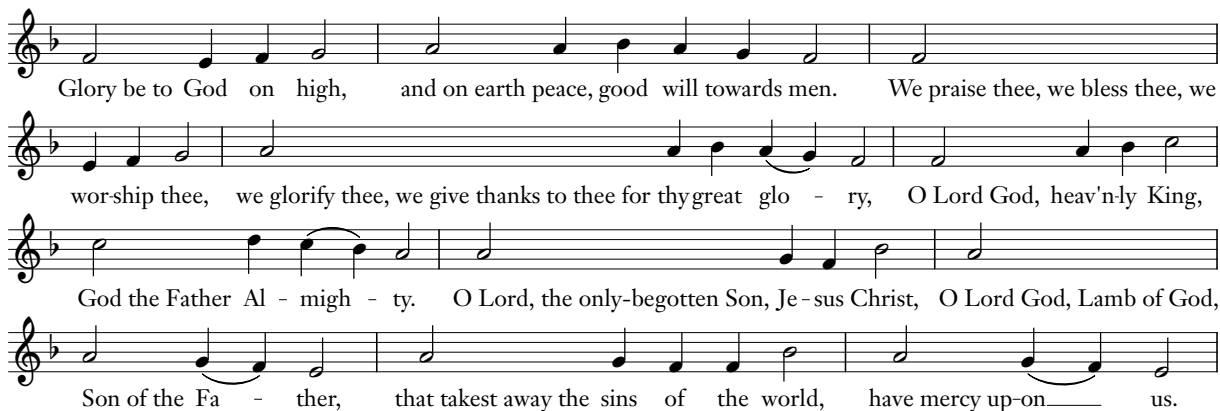
BCP, p. 83

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.

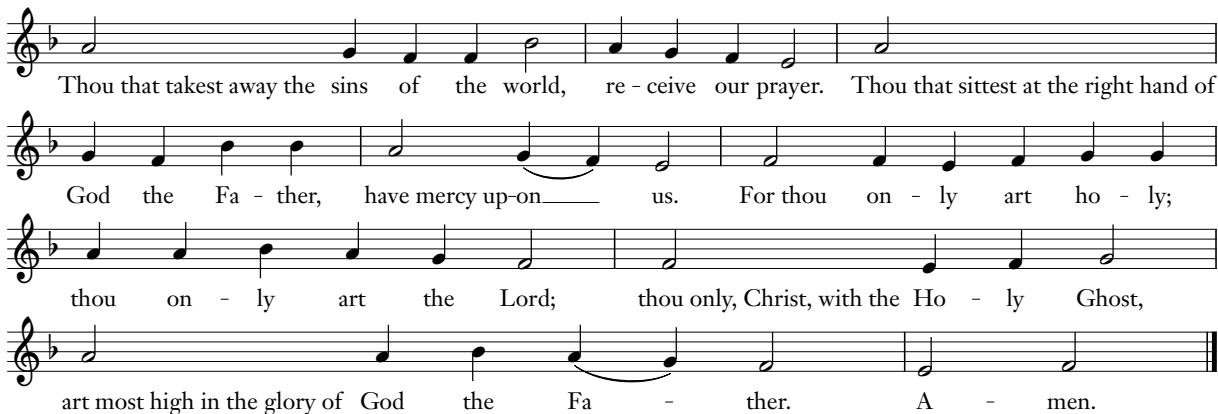
The People stand and join in singing

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *(sung by All)*

Hymnal, 739



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give 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.



The People kneel and Priest (or Bishop, if present) pronounces a blessing to which they respond
 Amen.

The People stand and join in singing

Hymn 40 "God rest you merry gentlemen"

GOD REST YOU MERRY

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
 let nothing you dismay,
 remember Christ our Saviour
 was born on Christmas Day;
 to save us all from Satan's power
 when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort 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 pow'r and might
Refrain

2. From God our heavn'ly Father
 a blessed angel came
 and unto certain shepherds
 brought tidings all the same
 how that in bethlehem was born
 the Son of God by name
Refrain

5. Now to the Lord sing praises
 all you within this place,
 and with true love and brotherhood
 each other now embrace;
 this holy tide of Christmas
 doth bring redeeming grace.
Refrain

The People remain standing and a Priest says

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.
 People Amen.

VOLUNTARY: Sussex Carol

Timothy Ravalde (b. 1988)

The People are invited to be seated for the voluntary or depart quietly.

WAYS TO GIVE

To support the ministry of St. John's Church, please consider one of the following options below:

- You may place your offering in the plates as the ushers pass through the Nave.
- You can text 1928BCP to 73256 to receive a link where you can donate online.
- You can visit our website www.stjohnssav.org and click "give."
- You can mail your check to:

St. John's Church
1 West Macon Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

Clergy

The Right Reverend Frank Logue, *Bishop*
The Reverend Gavin Dunbar, *Rector*
The Reverend Jonathan Jameson, *Associate Rector*

Honorary Assisting Clergy

The Right Reverend Paul Lambert, *Bishop (retired)* DEPO
The Reverend J. Patrick Hunt, *Assisting Priest*
The Reverend David Thurlow, *Assisting Priest*

Vestry

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara) | Mr. Charles J. Ezelle |
| Mrs. L. Allan Reynolds, Jr. (Beverley) | Mr. Stephen D. Ezelle |
| Mr. Douglas P. McManamy | Mr. R. Scott Howard |
| Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague (Mary) | Mr. Richard Wright (Rick) |
| Mrs. Patrick Worsham (Jane) | Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry) |

Vestry Emeriti

Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. Edwin H. Culver, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.,
M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq. (Ty), *Chancellor Emeritus & Vestryman Emeritus*

Officers of the Vestry

| | |
|--|---|
| Mr. Graham P. Sadler, <i>Senior Warden</i> | Mrs. Duncan Pindar (Terry), <i>Junior Warden</i> |
| Mr. Floyd Whittington, Jr., <i>Treasurer</i> | Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan), <i>Assistant Treasurer</i> |
| Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert, <i>Clerk of Vestry</i> | Dolly Chisholm, <i>Chancellor</i> |

Women of St. John's

Melanie Finnegan, *President*

Chancel Society

Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan and Mrs. Linda H. Pounds, *Co-Presidents*

Men of St. John's

Mr. Benjamin Baxter, *President*