

**Families with young children**

An interactive worship bag is available for your child in the Narthex (lobby of the church).

**9:25 AM — At the ringing of the bell, please prepare for worship in silence.**

**9:30 AM — All stand as able at the ringing of the bell to begin worship.**

*The ministers enter the church in silence.*

*All remain standing as able for*

**The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Second Sunday of Advent**

*The Siaw Family*

Leader As the nights lengthen and the days grow shorter,

**People We turn to you O Christ, the Light of the world.**

Leader We remember your coming long ago, and that you are with us now,

**People And we look for your coming again as we wait for the celebration of your birth.**

*Two candles are lit.*

Leader As the light from these candles shines among us, may the blessing of Christ Jesus come to us;

**People Jesus blessed his followers with the words "Peace be with you"**

**Help us to remember that only in God can we find true peace.**

Leader As we look at these candles, we remember that the light of Christ brings peace to the world.

Let us pray together in silence.

*In the silence, you may*

Breathe in: My peace is in God;

Breathe out: Whose light shines among us.

Leader May we carry the Peace of Christ with us on our way.

**Hymn Introduction****O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Musical Setting by Cynthia Dobrinski

BELLS OF ST. JOHN'S

Cathy Brittingham, flautist

**Advent Candle-Lighting Hymn  
#56 vss. 3 & 4, The Hymnal 1982****O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1,

*Processionale*, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law,  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

4 O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
free them from Satan's tyranny  
that trust thy mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave. **[Refrain]**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

## **The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant 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 for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

## **The First Lesson: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

## **The Psalm Appointed: 72:1-7, 18-19** *(read in unison)*

p. 685, Book of Common Prayer

**1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;  
2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;  
3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.  
4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.  
5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.**

**6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.  
7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon  
shall be no more.  
18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!  
19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.**

## **The Second Lesson: A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans**

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

*All stand in body or spirit for*

**The Sequence Hymn (9:30 AM)**  
**#722, Wonder, Love & Praise vss. 3 & 4**

**The desert shall rejoice**

Words: Gracia Grindal  
Music: *Sterling*, Joy F. Patterson (b. 1931)

3 The desert shall rejoice  
and blossom as a rose:  
for the tongue of the mute shall sing  
and the lame will dance with gladness.

### **The Holy Gospel**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Matthew 3:1-12

**People Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

**People Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Sequence Hymn continued*

4 The desert shall rejoice  
and blossom as a rose:  
for the ground will become a pool  
and the dry land springs of water.

*All are seated as invited by the preacher.*

### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Stephanie Yancy, Interim Rector

*All remain seated for a moment of silence following the sermon.*

*All stand in body or spirit for*

### **The Nicene Creed**

p. 358 Book of Common Prayer

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and  
glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People *(The People say the responses in bold)*

Leader Brothers and sisters, as we joyfully await the coming of the Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world.

For the peace of the world and for our unity in Christ, let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For our Presiding Bishop, Sean, and for Samuel and Jennifer, our bishops in the Diocese of North Carolina. For all who minister in your Church, let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place, let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth, let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For travelers; for the sick and the suffering; for the hungry and the oppressed; and for those who are in prison, let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list: **Ivory, Rev. Pat, Charlotte, Carol, Megan, Joe, Tammy.** We pray for those whose needs are known to you alone, and for all those we name to you now...Let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For all those celebrating their birthdays this week, especially Tammy Warriner, Brandie Dodd, Sarah Wincovich, Diana Godwin, Henry Munkittrick, Jacob Godwin, Katharine Wendt, Josie Perez, and Ken Marsh. Let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the dead and for the dying, especially all those we name to you now...Let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Joining our voices with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ, our Lord. Let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Celebrant Let us say together the Prayer for Transition *(Composed by Lois Sauer, Licensed Lay Preacher)*

**People** **Ever-present and Holy God, as you continue to invite new people into St. John's, we ask your ongoing guidance and blessing upon us, that we may always become more fully the people and congregation you would have us to be. Keep our hearts deeply grounded in your divine love, that we may grow in steadfast love and gentleness for one another. Inspire our leadership with wisdom and creativity to navigate the ongoing changes that lie before us. In this season of transition, we particularly pray for our Sr. Warden Camille, vestry, staff, search committee, our Interim Rector, Rev. Stephanie, and our eventual new rector. Fill all of us with courage, kindness, and patience as we walk the Way of Love with one another and with the broader diverse community around us. All this we ask in the name of your son Jesus, who lives and reigns in each of us every day. Amen.**

Celebrant God of joy and exultation, you strengthen hands that are weak; you bring good news to the poor and give hope to those who live in fear. Look upon the needs of your people this day. Make us grateful for the good news of salvation and keep us faithful in your service until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

p. 360, Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

**ALL** **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

Remember to sanitize hands, before and after touching common items like offering plates or after shaking hands at the Peace.

*Please be seated.*

## **Welcome & Parish Announcements**

### **The Holy Communion**

#### **The Offertory**

*If you are viewing our livestream, you may wish to prepare your financial offering for mailing at this time. Anyone may give online at [www.stjohnswf.org/give](http://www.stjohnswf.org/give) OR Text "STJOHNSWF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.*

#### **Offertory Anthem (9:30 AM)**

#### ***We Await Your Holy Birth***

Text by Herb Frombach/Music by David Lantz III

CANTATE

*Come and become the King of kings. Come when herald angels sing.  
Come and become the Son of Man on earth. We await Your holy birth!*

*Come and become Emmanuel. Come into our hearts to dwell.  
Come and become the Son of Man on earth. We await Your holy birth.*

*The royal rose is blooming amid a winter night.  
The tender stem of Jesse will come and bring us light!*

*Come and become the flesh of God. Come where mortal sinners trod.  
Come and become the Son of Man on earth. We await Your holy birth.*

*Come live in me. Come set me free. Come in the night. Come, bring Your light!*

*Please stand in body or spirit for*

#### **The Doxology**

*(7:45 am—spoken)*

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

*(9:30 am—sung—Hymn 380 vs. 3)*

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

*Please stand in body or spirit for*

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

p. 367 Book of Common Prayer Eucharistic Prayer B

Officiant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Officiant Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Officiant It is right, and a good and joyful thing....

...who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus—Holy, holy holy (7:45 AM spoken—9:30 AM sung)**

Music by Jonathan Dimmock

**#850, Wonder, Love and Praise**

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

*Please stand or kneel in body or spirit.*

**Celebrant** We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation...  
...Therefore, according to his command, O Father,  
**All** **We remember his death,**  
**We proclaim his resurrection,**  
**We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant Continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all ...  
...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 forever. **Amen**

*Celebrant* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**All** **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.**

*All stand in body or spirit for*

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**#866, Wonder, Love, and Praise**, Music by Owen Burdick

**At 7:45 AM** (*spoken*)

**At 9:30 AM** (*sung*)

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ  
our Passover is  
sacrificed for us.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**  
**Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;**  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

*The People stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues*

**The Communion of the People** (*please sanitize your hands before coming forward*)

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion or to receive a blessing (instead of the bread and wine) at the altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest to signal the clergy. If you need a gluten free wafer, please extend your hands with palms down. If you need to be served in your seat, please inform an usher.

At this time, we will refrain from offering the common cup (drinking from a common chalice) and will offer the wine by intinction only (dipping the communion wafer in the cup of wine.) If you wish to receive the wine, please hold the wafer in your fingers as the chalice bearer comes to you and take care to dip only the wafer into the wine (and not your fingers.) If you are not comfortable receiving the wine this way, please know that receiving only the consecrated bread at Holy Communion (or the wine only) is still considered full Communion.

**Communion Hymn** (9:30 AM)  
**#67, The Hymnal 1982**

**Comfort, comfort ye my people** Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684);  
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.  
Music: *Psalm* 42, melody Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people,  
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
of the peace that waits for them;  
tell her that her sins I cover,  
and her warfare now is over.

2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to new repentance  
since the kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
let the valleys rise to meet him  
and the hills bow down to greet him.

- 3 Make ye straight what long was crooked,  
make the rougher places plain;  
let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits his holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord  
now o'er earth is shed abroad;  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that the word is never broken.

### **The Postcommunion Prayer**

Celebrant Let us pray.

**All O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Celebrant blesses the People.*

**(9:30 AM) All children & youth here today are invited to join the clergy at the church door during the next hymn. Our youth will help send us out with the words of Dismissal.**

### **The Dismissal Hymn (9:30 AM) #616, The Hymnal 1982**

#### **Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

Words: James Montgomery

Music: *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*, German folk song;  
adapt. and harm. *A Student's Hymnal*, 1923, after Henry W. Davies (1869-1941)

1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

2 He comes with succor speedy  
to those who suffer wrong,  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.

3 He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth:  
before him on the mountains  
shall peace, the herald, go;  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall bow down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

5 O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious,  
all blessing and all blest:  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his Name shall stand for ever,  
his changeless Name of Love.

## The Dismissal

Children of the Parish  
All

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

## Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Setting by David Schelat



*Celebrate Christmas  
with St. John's*

DEC 24  
CHRISTMAS EVE

4PM FAMILY-FRIENDLY EUCHARIST WITH  
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (NOT STREAMED)

7PM TRADITIONAL EUCHARIST WITH HANDBELLS,  
CANTATE CHOIR & WIND ENSEMBLE  
(LIVESTREAMED)

DEC 25  
CHRISTMAS DAY

8AM CHRISTMAS MORNING EUCHARIST IN-PERSON  
(NOT STREAMED)

DEC 28

9:30AM CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS  
(LIVESTREAMED)

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