



St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



God thinks you are fabulous,
and so do we.

The First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023+Holy Eucharist+ Rite I

Straight and gay, rich and poor, and every color and age, St John's is a place of Radical Kindness, warm and open Christ-Followers who celebrate God's grace and love and cherish one another. We are proud and grateful to serve as a "neighborhood church" for the tri-cities: College Park, East Point and Hapeville. Everyone needs a place to be cherished. We invite you to make St John's yours!

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The Word of God

ADVENT LITANY

The Congregation stands as the procession enters. The Advent candle(s) are lit

Cantor: Heavenly Father, you have created a universe of light: forgive us when we return to darkness. Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.



“Lord, have mer-cy.”

Cantor: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world: cleanse and heal our blinded sight. Christ, have mercy.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy.

Cantor: Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts: renew us in faith and love. Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Cantor: Heavenly Father, you call us to repent of our sins: soften our proud and stubborn hearts. Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Cantor: Lord Jesus, you declared the forgiveness of God: teach us to forgive one another. Christ, have mercy.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy.

Cantor: Holy Spirit, you search our hearts and show us the truth: direct us in your way of righteousness. Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Cantor: Heavenly Father, you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son: forgive us our unreadiness to receive him. Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Cantor: Lord Jesus, you were proclaimed by John the Baptist: help us also to prepare your way. Christ, have mercy.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy.

Cantor: Holy Spirit, you speak through the prophets: make us attentive to hear your word. Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Cantor Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts. Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Cantor Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives. Christ, have mercy.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy.

Cantor Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer: fill us with your heavenly gifts. Lord, have mercy.

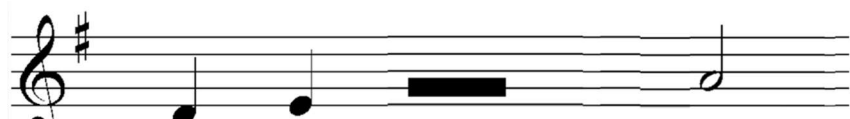
Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Cantor: Christ have mercy

Congregation: Christ have mercy

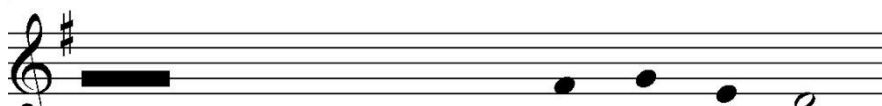
Officiant: Lord have mercy.

Cantor



Bles-sed are you holy and living one

People



You come to your people and set them free

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel- vs. 1 and 2

Blue Hymnal- 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Ministry of the Word

The congregation is seated.

The Lessons

FIRST READING:

Charles Mizelle

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND READING :1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Flo Webster

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened

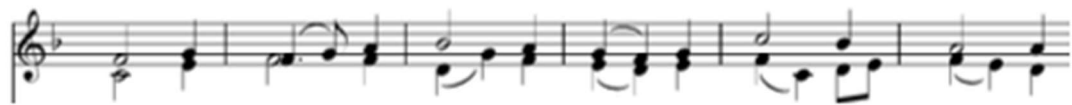
among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader : The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*All stand for the singing of the Gospel Hymn
and reading of the Gospel.*

Gospel Hymn- *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* - **Hyrfidol-** (Blue Hymnal 66)



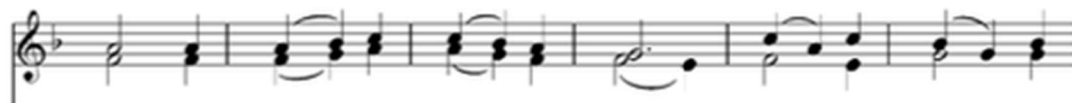
Come thou long ex-pec-ted Jesus born to set thy
Born thy peo-ple to de-liev-er born a child and



people free, from our fears and sins re-lease-us let us
yet a king, born to reign in us for ev-er now thy



find our rest in thee. Isra-els strength and con-so-la-tion
gracious kingdom bring. By thine own e-ter-nal spirit



hope of all the earth thou art. Dear de-sire of
rule in all our hearts a-lone, By thine all suff-



eve-ry na-tion Joy of ev'-ry long-ing heart
icient me-rit raise us to thy glor-ious throne.

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Mark..

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his

slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Homily- The Rev. Tim Black

THE NICENE CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

JANE GRAHAM

All remain standing.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: 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.

Lord Jesus, hear us.

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.

Lord Jesus, hear us.

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.

Lord Jesus, hear us.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially: Joseph our president, Brian our governor, and Bianca, our mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Lord Jesus, hear us.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We pray today for Eleanor Buchanon, Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell, Melissa Brady, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Richard Pflieger, Mike Spring, Linda Brown, Vicky Tucker, Daniel Hudson, former president Jimmy Carter, Keith Huffstetter and Newell Anderson.

We also pray for the people of Ukraine and of Israel and Palestine and an end to bloodshed there and other places of violent conflict.

The congregation is invited to add their petitions.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear especially Keme Jacobs and Rosalynn Carter, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed John and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

The congregation is invited to add their petitions.

Celebrant: Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

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

THE PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

We conclude the Passing of the Peace by singing:

God is so good; God is so good.
God is so good; God's so good to me

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant says:

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:2

OFFERTORY HYMN- Have Thine Own Way-LEVAS 145 (*Red and Black Hymnal*)

The congregation stands as the offering is brought forward by the Ushers

DOXOLOGY- *Tune- Greensleeves, trad.*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. — Praise God, all crea - tures
here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. — Praise
Fa - ther, Son, — and Ho - ly Ghost. This, this — is
Christ the King, — whom shep - herds guard — and an - gels sing;
haste, haste — to bring him laud, — the babe, — the son — of Ma - ry.

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues:

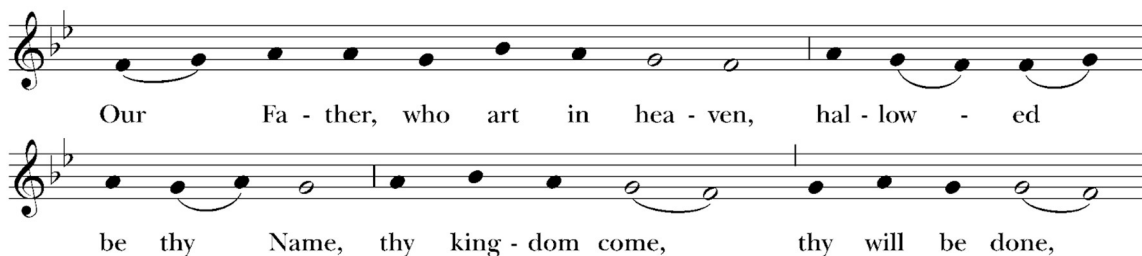
All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

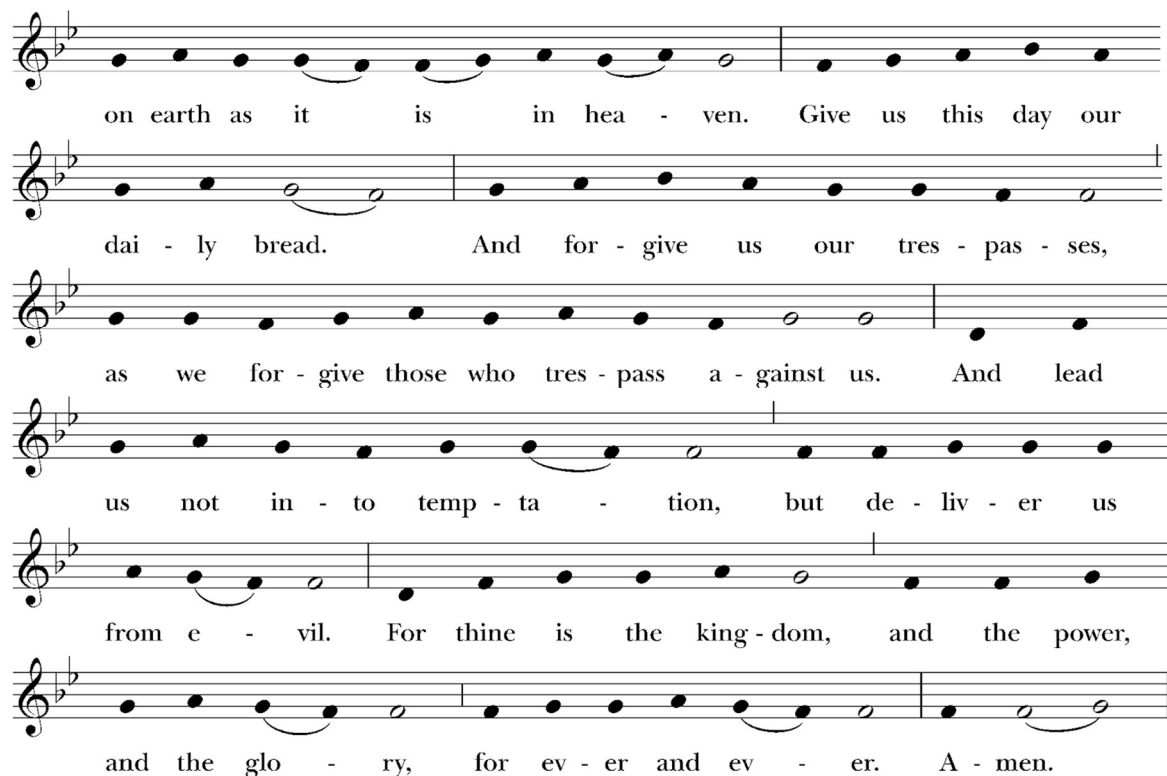
And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to pray:

Celebrant and People- The cantor will sing the starting pitch and the congregation can join in accompanied by the shruti box

People and Celebrant



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,



on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome at God's table.

DISTRIBUTION

We share communion in both kinds available by either intinction (dipping the host in wine) or drinking from the common cup. For common cup, hold out one hand for bread only, two hands for bread and wine or put your hands in a prayer position for a blessing. If you desire healing prayers, simply remain at the rail after receiving communion and the priest or a healing minister will pray with you.

COMMUNION HYMN- Go, Tell it on the Mountains - Blue Hymnal 99

The people stand or kneel, as able:
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful

people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. 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 honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Priest blesses the people: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: *How Firm a Foundation- Blue Hymnal 636*

Priest: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord, alleluia, alleluia

People: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

Join us for Coffee Hour



Immediately following church
go through the double doors to the left at the
front of the church to the Hospitality Suite

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

College Park Kids' Choir Winter Concert Is Today at 4:00 PM at St. John's. Come hear the choir we helped start for the College Park community. You are guaranteed to get in "the holiday spirit" with their offering of song.

Please send in your financial pledges for 2024. Fill out a pledge card at church or download one on our homepage at www.stjohnscollegepark.org. Everyone on the mailing list got a pledge card in the mail, but if you need another please email info@stjohnscollegepark.org and we will send you one.

We will be collecting gifts for Emmaus House Through December 17. We are focusing our efforts on gifts for teens. To take part, scan the QR code and fill out the form indicating which gift(s) you will bring in OR get an ornament from the tree and turn in during offertory. Bring your gifts to the church office Tues-Thurs. 10-2 or Sunday Morning. To join in this wonderful ministry, contact Hope King at booksandbatty@gmail.com

Diocesan Confirmation Next Sunday- Pray for Hope King this week as she is being confirmed next week at the Diocesan service at the Cathedral at 4 PM. If you are interested in going and need a ride, speak with Father Tim.

St Nicholas / Second Sunday Brunch Next Sunday- Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share and enjoy Sunday Brunch together in Bott Hall after church.

Wednesday Night Supper is taking a break for December and returns at 530 on 1/10

TIME CHANGE: Advent Bible Study will be at 6 PM for 2 more Wednesdays- We are reading the nativity stories in scripture for the next two Wednesday evenings. Join us online or in person. The zoom address can be found in our weekly news letter.

Subscribe to Eagle Notes: To sign up, please email us at info@stjohnscollegepark.org or go to our website homepage, scroll to the bottom of the page, and hit the “sign up for our newsletter” link.

Online Prayer and Fellowship Groups: “Second Cup” – fellowship time- Mondays 11:00 AM – Noon – 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305 / Morning Prayer on Zoom Tuesday and Thursday- 10 AM - Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305 / Compline Night Prayer Thursday – 7:00 pm Meeting ID: 843 7684 4017 Password: 848486

Give by Texting- Use text messaging to give to St. Johns. Just text 73256 and enter our code 3480 as the message. You will be taken to the giving page where you can make your selections. You can also set up online giving through a link in our weekly email. **Make Prayer Requests Online:** <https://forms.gle/UTa6iMfrukhurgD8>

Sunday December 3, 2023	Vestry
Readers: Charles Mizelle & Flo Webster Prayers of the People: Jane Graham Cantor & Verger: Val Valverde Priest in Charge: The Rev. Tim Black Church Administrator: Terry Glover	Daniel Hudson, Hospitality Archie Polk, Evangelism Michael Proscia, Jr. Warden Pat Roberts, Sr. Warden Val Valverde, Worship & Music Sherran Davis, Clerk Richard Pflieger, Treasurer



Christmas at St. John's

Christmas Eve

10:00 AM -Holy Eucharist: Advent 4

3:30-Christmas Carol Sing

4:00- Holy Eucharist: The Feast of the Nativity

Christmas Day

10:00 AM- Holy Eucharist

