



St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



God thinks you are fabulous,
and so do we.

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 10,, 2023+Holy Eucharist+ Rite II
Feast Of St. Nicholas of Myra Sunday for Children

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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WELCOME TO ST JOHN'S

We are honored that you have chosen St. John's as your place of worship today. We hope you will experience worship with your whole being. You might kneel, stand, pray, sing, listen, read, shake hands (or hug), eat, drink, sing, and even sometimes

smell incense. Whatever posture you choose today, your presence here is all that is required for you to be in prayer with us.

Know that in worshipping God, there are no “mistakes,” but we know it can be confusing. Our bulletins are designed with you in mind and have most rubrics (directions) in italics. If you find you’re out of sync with whatever is going on, do not worry. You may even have a St. John’s Parishioner volunteer to help.

Our worship calendar is “color-coded,” and we are in a “blue” season called Advent. Advent is a time of preparation. Priests wear “sarium blue” vestments, we light candles, and we have special prayers that point us toward the blessed day when God was born into the world as a human being in the person of Jesus Christ.

Please fill out a visitor card so we can get to know you and invite you into life together at St. John’s. St. John’s is a small church with a very big heart that loves well and enjoys life together. We work hard to be a place that practices the radical kindness and hospitality of Jesus and where you can learn that “God thinks you are fabulous - and so do we.” We will be praying for you and hope to get to know you today.

Peace

Tim+
The Reverend Tim Black
Priest-in-Charge

Restrooms: *are either to the left or right doors at the front of the church. To the left: go into the room across the hall (the Hospitality Suite), and the restroom is to the right. Right-hand doors: go immediately to your left and down the hall. It is to the right at the end of the hall. Join us after church and experience our hospitality.*

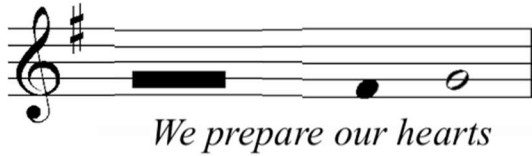
The Word of God

ADVENT LITANY

*The Congregation stands as the procession enters. The Advent candle(s) are lit .
The Congregation stands as the Choir and Priest enter. The Priest or one appointed chants followed by the response. The Advent candle(s) are lit.
Cantor or Priest*



People



Priest or Cantor: For the coming of Messiah,

Congregation: We prepare our hearts.

Priest or Cantor: For the coming of light,

Congregation: We prepare our hearts.

Priest or Cantor: For the peaceful kingdom,

Congregation: We prepare our hearts.

Priest or Cantor: For the time when you will judge the poor with righteousness,

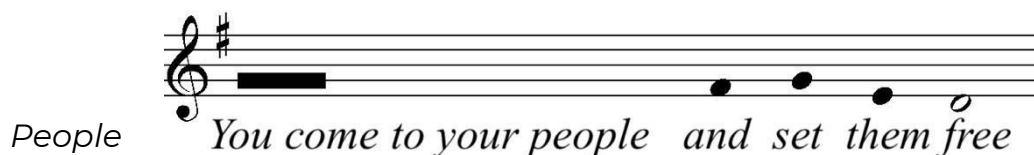
Congregation: We prepare our hearts.

Priest or Cantor: For the time when the wolf shall lie down with the lamb

Congregation: We prepare our hearts.

Priest or Cantor: For the day when the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Congregation: We prepare our hearts.



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Grant, Almighty God, that your church may be so inspired by the example of your servant Nicholas of Myra, that it may never cease to work for the welfare of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel- vs. 1 and 3

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, 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. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel
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The congregation is seated.

The Ministry of the Word

FIRST READING: 1 John 4: 7-14

Gabi Shelton

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand for the singing of the hymn and reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Hymn- *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Blue Hymnal 112

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children (and parents!) are invited to come to the steps for the homily.

Homily- Carol Nabeel (with some help from a few friends)

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

Grace and Nanette Lunsford

All remain standing.

For what and for whom do we give thanks today?

The congregation is invited, out loud or silently, to name their blessings and thanksgiving.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop and Rob, our Bishop, for Tim, our priest and for all deacons, priests and bishops

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for our school partners, Liberation Academy, and their parents, children and staff. We pray especially for the children and teachers as they enter into testing season.

We pray for all who are sick, in need or in any kind of trouble: Eleanor Buchanon, Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell, Melissa Brady, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Vicky Tucker, Daniel Hudson, Mike Spring, Lisa Norton-Rotella and The Rev. Geoffrey Halenza.

We also pray for those who have died. We pray for Keme Jacobs and Henry Kissinger.

Silence

Please add your petitions, out loud or silently.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

Priest : Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. 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 (3X)

God's so good to me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

The Holy Communion

The Priest says:

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

OFFERTORY HYMN- *Away in a Manger*



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



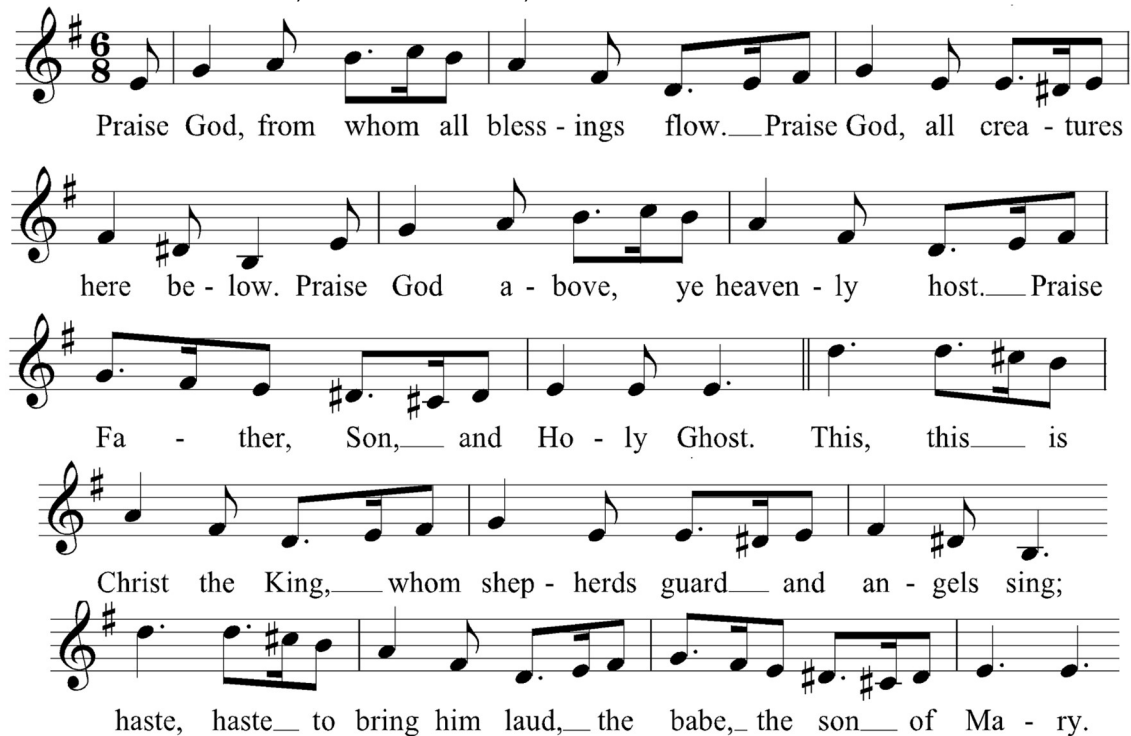
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

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.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant and People:

It is right and good and joyful to give you thanks, Almighty God, creator and maker of all things, because in the love and faith of your saints like St. Nicholas of Myra, you have given us an example of goodness, compassion, mercy and love that we might have for one another and the world. Therefore we praise you and give you thanks, and join with all of your angels, who sing this song:

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Priest:

We praise you, O God, for sending your beloved child Jesus born, just like we were, as a baby and nurtured by his family. Jesus grew up like we are growing up. He was taught in his temple, played with his friends, and was guided by his parents. Jesus grew up to love and bless children and care for us all—especially the sick, the poor, and left out. Jesus taught everyone that God loves us like a parent, and he calls us his friends. Jesus lived and died like one of us. He was triumphant over death, and freed us to live as your beloved children..

One night, when Jesus was at the table with his friends, he took some bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. As you do this, remember me.” As supper was ending, Jesus took some wine. Again, he gave thanks, gave it to his friends, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

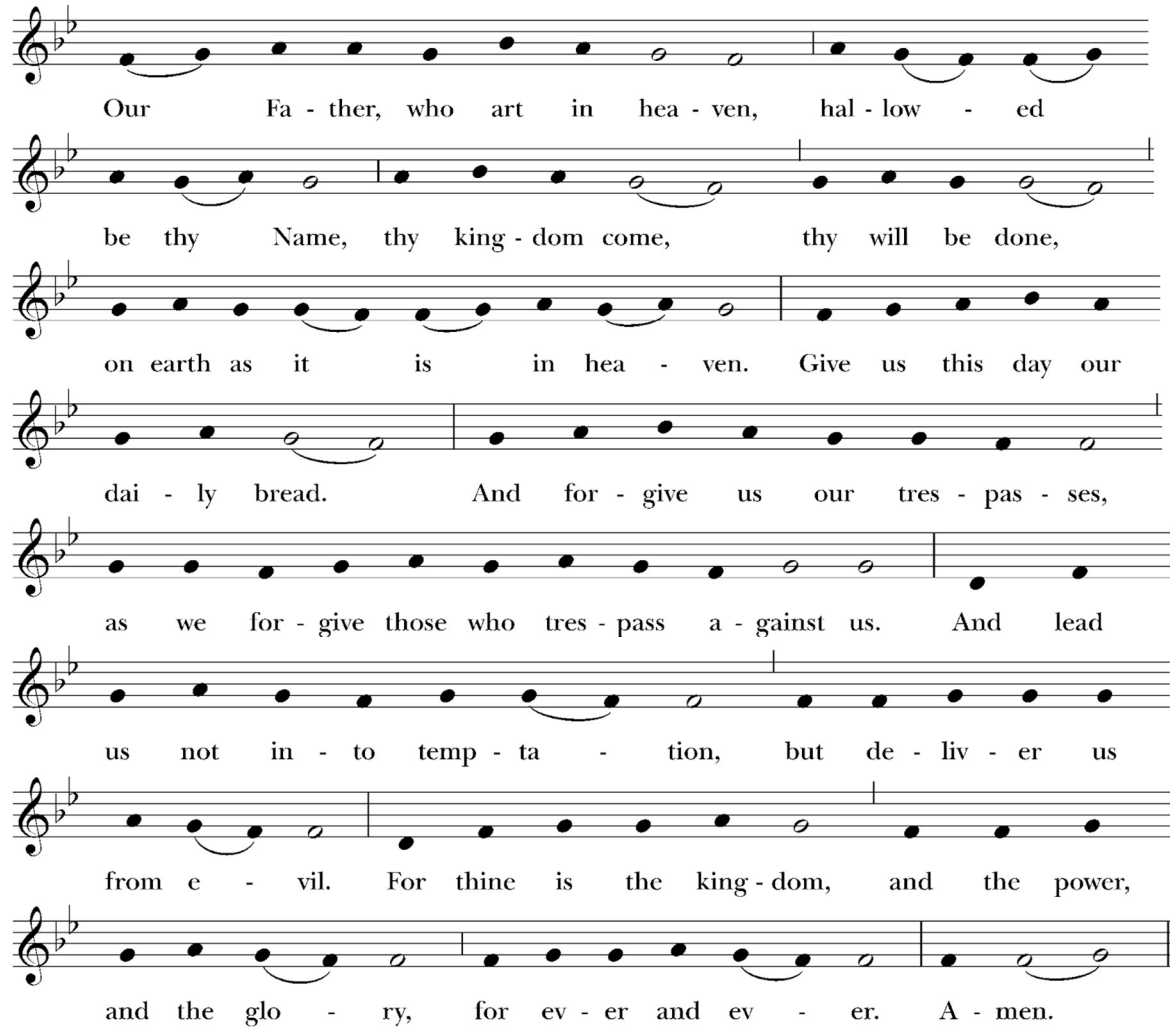
Around your table, as your children, O God, we remember Jesus Christ, who came in love, lived in love, and died in love, who was and is and is to come. We offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and we offer to you our lives. Pour out your Spirit upon this bread and wine so they can be your body. Send down

your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, so we can show your love, work for your justice and bring your peace.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. Amen.

And now, singing and holding hands, we pray the prayer you taught your friends:

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 the 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. If you need to stay seated and not come to the rail, the Eucharistic Ministers will bring communion to you.

COMMUNION HYMN- *What Child Is This?* - Blue Hymnal 115

The people stand or kneel, as able:

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, God, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To Christ, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. 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 :

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending (Regents Square)



1. Lo, he comes with clouds de-scending once for our sal-
2. Ev-ery eye shall now be-hold him robed in dread-ful
3. Those dear to- kens of his pas-sion still his daz-zling
4. Yea a- men let all a-dore thee high on thine e-



-va-tion-slain; thou-sand thou-sand Saints de-scen-ding
ma-jes- ty; those who set at nought and sold him
bod-y bears; cause of end-less ex- ul- ta- tion
ter - nal throne; Sa -vior take the power and glo- ry



swell the tri- umph of his train Al- le- lu - ia
pierced and nailed him to the tree dee- ply wail-ing
to his ran- somed worsh-ip-ers; with what rap-ture
claim the king dom for thine own. Al- le - lu - ia



Al- le- lu- ia Christ the Lord re- turns to reign
deep- ly wail-ing shall the true Mes- si- ah see.
with what rap-ture gaze we on those glor-ious scars.
Al - le- lu - ia! Thou shalt reign and thou a - lone.

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

People: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.



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

PEACE ON EARTH

Christmas Day

10:00 AM- Holy Eucharist



SUNDAY BRUNCH TODAY AFTER CHURCH- Everyone please join us. There's plenty of food! To get to Bott Hall, go down the stairs to the right at the front of the church or outside and around. Let an usher know if you need to use the elevator.

Wednesday Night Supper is taking a break until January 10, 2024.

Advent Bible Study Wed. 6 PM Online or In-person- We are taking a look at the nativity story in Luke this Wednesday evening. Join us online or in person. This will be our last week until January 10. The zoom address can be found in our weekly newsletter or by emailing info@stjohnscollegepark.org

We will be collecting gifts for Emmaus House Until Next Sunday. We are focusing our efforts on gifts for teens. To take part, get an ornament from the tree and scan the QR code on it for a list of gifts. Fill out the bottom portion and turn in during offertory. Bring 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

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.

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- You can use your phone’s text messaging capabilities 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. To subscribe to the weekly email, please contact our administrator at info@stjohnscollegepark.org

Make Prayer Requests Online: <https://forms.gle/UTa6iMfrukhfurgD8>

The alter flowers this Sunday are given in loving memory of George David Houser by Richard Durepo and Jonathan Reed.

Sunday December 10, 2023 Reader: Gabi Shelton Prayers of the People: Grace & Nanette Lunsford Verger: Lisa Norton-Rotella Priest in Charge: The Rev. Tim Black Church Administrator: Terry Glover	Vestry Daniel Hudson, Hospitality Archie Polk, Evangelism Michael Proscia, Jr. Warden Pat Roberts, Sr. Warden Val Valverde, Worship & Music Sherran Davis, Clerk Richard Pflieger, Treasurer
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St. Nicholas