



St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



God thinks you are fabulous,
and so do we.

The Eve of the Feast of the Nativity

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023, 4:00 PM

The Feast of the Nativity

Christmas Day

December 25, 2023, 10:00 AM

Holy Eucharist+ Rite II, Prayer B

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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pOriest@stjohnscollegepark.org +info@stjohnscollegepark.org+stjohnscollegepark.org

WELCOME TO ST JOHN'S

We are honored that you have chosen St. John's as your home for 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 smell incense. Your presence here is all that is required for you to be in prayer and worship with us on this Lord's Day.

Know that there are no "mistakes" in worshipping God. Still, our worship here can be confusing. The bulletin was designed with you in mind, and most rubrics (directions) are in italics. If you find you're out of sync with whatever is going on, do not worry. To God, *all of it* is prayer.

We celebrate the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel- "God With Us" during Christmas. We hope praying, singing, sharing the Eucharist, and being with God's Church is a great way to begin your Christmas celebrations. Tonight is the Eve of the Feast of the Nativity. We celebrate The Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) tomorrow morning at 10 a.M. If you are from the area, we hope to see you again soon at church or at one of our many community events in 2024. If you are visiting from out of town, we hope that when you are here, you will make St. John's as your spiritual home.

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 want to be known as a place that practices the radical kindness and hospitality of Jesus and where it is apparent that "God thinks you are fabulous - and so do we."

We will pray for you and hope to get to know you today. Please say hello to me after the service.

Peace

Tim+
The Reverend Tim Black
Priest-in-Charge
St John's, College Park

3:30 PM- Christmas Carol Singing

4:00- Christmas Eve Mass

Prelude: *O Holy Night* by A. Adam
Valverde

Soloist: Val

Upon the ringing of the bell, the congregation is invited to stand as able.

*Before processing, the Celebrant chants the Prologue to John.
There is no congregational response to this reading of the Gospel.*

Celebrant: A reading from the Gospel of John

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Processional Hymn- *O Come, All Ye Faithful, vs. 1-3 and 6 Blue Hymnal 83*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant

Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The congregation is seated.

FIRST READING : Isaiah 9:2-7

Sherran Davis

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader : The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading : Titus 3:4-7

Carol Nabeel

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Congregation stands for the Sequence Hymn and Gospel Procession.

SEQUENCE HYMN *What Child is This?* Blue Hymnal 115

The Gospel **Luke 2:1-20**

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around

them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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

Pat Roberts

All standing or kneeling, as able.

Intercessor: For what and for whom do we give thanks today?

You are invited to name your blessings and thanksgivings out loud or silently.

Intercessor: Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus, you have filled all humanity with your divine life. Hear our prayers of joy and thanksgiving as we offer our supplications to you, saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth.

Intercessor: You have entrusted the Church with good news of great joy for all people: Inspire our witness that we may spread the light of Jesus' love to all humanity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

Congregation: and peace to God's people on earth.

Let your power and compassion guide those who exercise authority on earth, that they may be servants of peace, bringing comfort and security to all who are vulnerable.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Embrace with your eternal protection all who are poor: refugees and the displaced, those threatened by violence, and families with no place to call their home.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Fill this community with hospitality and generosity that we may care for one another and celebrate the joy of your presence in our humanity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace to God's people on earth.

We entrust to your divine grace all for whom we pray, especially . . .

We give thanks for shepherds and all the vigilant who work while others sleep. We pray for all who, because of estrangement, distance, or rupture in relationships, find this to be a difficult time of year. Send your healing light down upon them and lift them up, giving them the joy and peace only you can bring. We pray for all who are sick, especially Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell, Melissa Brady, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Linda Brown, Vicky Tucker, Mike Spring, Pastor Jeffrey Halenza, Fonda Howland, and Charles Howland. Bring them healing and peace.

Glory to God in the highest heaven

and peace to God's people on earth.

We entrust into your eternal arms those who have died. Be with all those who grieve today for those whom they love but see no longer. We give thanks that they live on in your light and love.

Glory to God in the highest heaven

and peace to God's people on earth.

Priest: Loving God, the joyful message of the angels fills us with gladness as we celebrate the coming of the Christ child to live among us in vulnerable humility: Let your divine light so dwell within us, that we may treasure your words, ponder them in our hearts, and continue the work of Christ's incarnation in our day, through Jesus our Savior, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. *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

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-

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Blue Hymnal 87

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

DOXOLOGY-

Tune,

Greensleeves, trad.

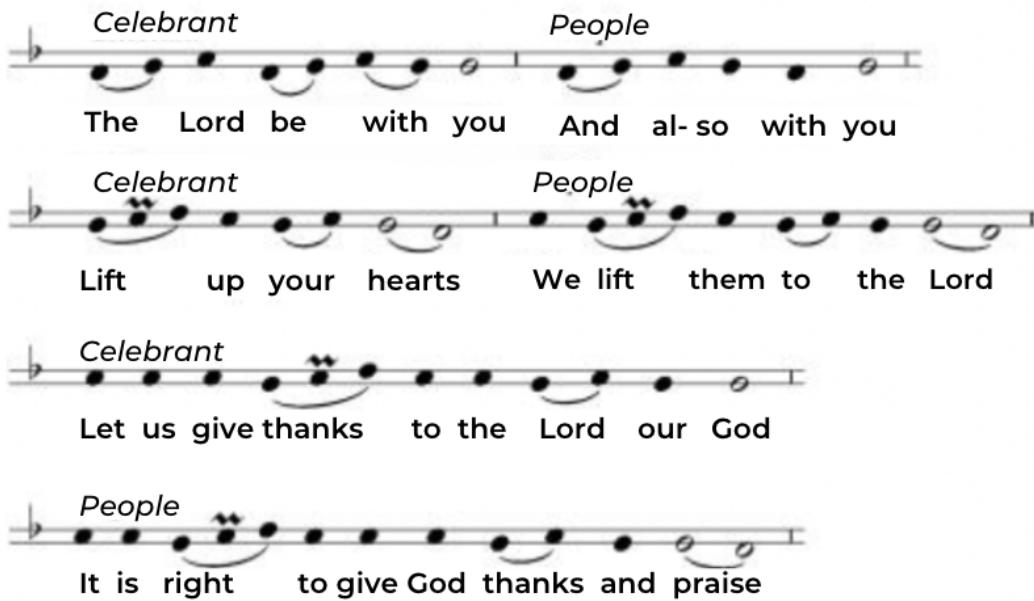




Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. This, this is
 Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Congregation remains standing, as able.



Celebrant *People*
 The Lord be with you And al-so with you
Celebrant *People*
 Lift up your hearts We lift them to the Lord
Celebrant
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People
 It is right to give God thanks and praise

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People:

*The cantor or celebrant will sing the starting pitch.
 The congregation joins 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 give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

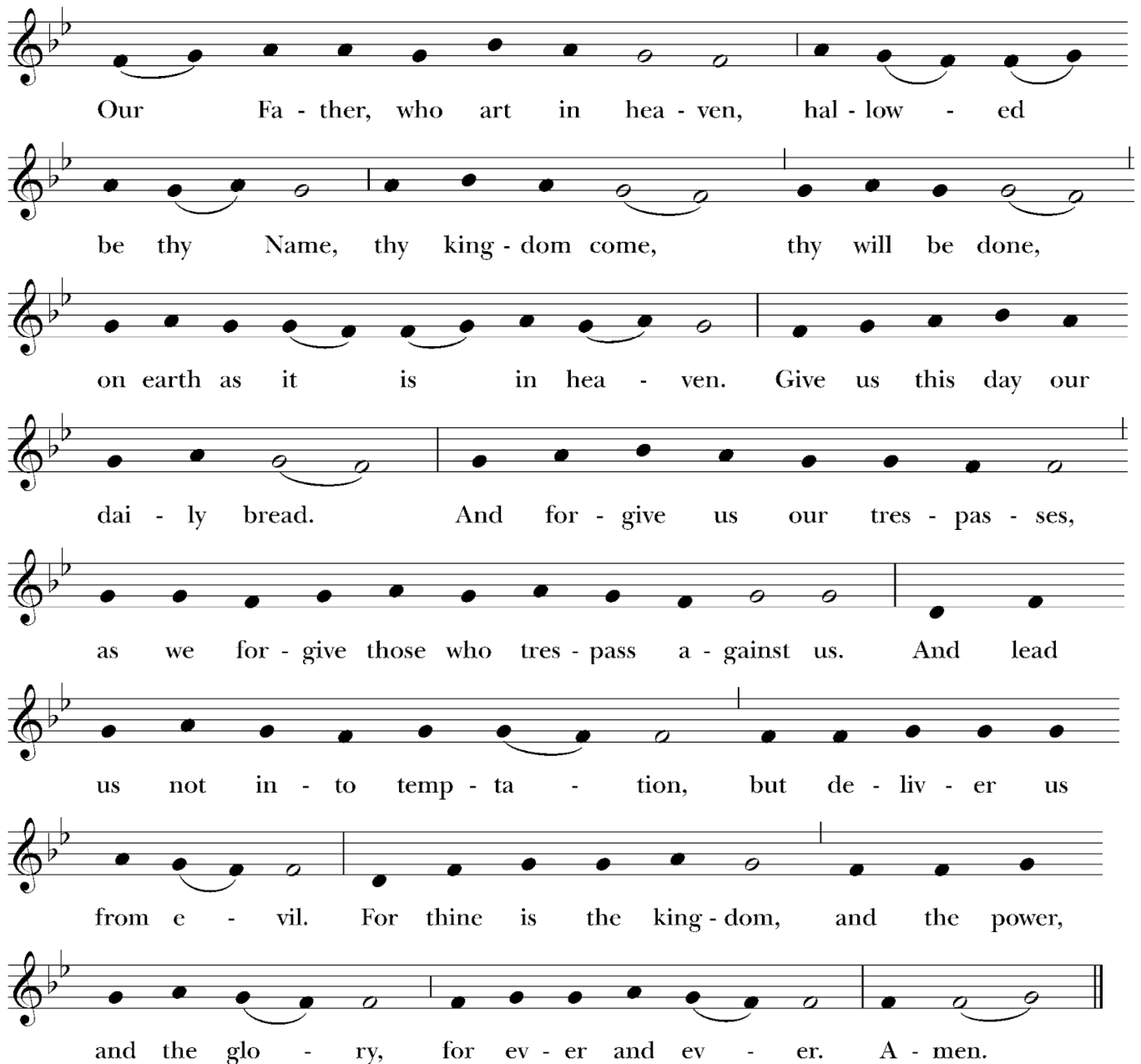
Celebrant and People: We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified

by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By Christ , and with Christ , and in Christ , in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *AMEN.*

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

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. If you desire to have prayers and anointing from the priest, simply stay at the rail after receiving communion.*

COMMUNION HYMN: *Away in a Manger* Blue Hymnal 101
 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear Blue Hymnal 90

You are invited to kneel, as able, and to light a candle while we sing-

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: *Silent Night* Blue Hymnal 111

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 forever. Amen.*

The Priest blesses the people: May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; 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: *Joy to the World* Blue Hymnal 100

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

People: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

Join us for the Christmas Day service tomorrow at 10 AM

All who bought poinsettias are invited to take them with them.

All are invited over to the home of Richard Pflieger and Val Valverde after the service ends for hot chocolate and cookies. They live a short drive from the church at 1865 John Calvin Ave., College Park, 30337

++Please return unused bulletins you do not take with you to the back so that we have bulletins for our 10 AM service tomorrow. ++



Wednesday Night Supper and Bible Study are taking a break until January 10, 2024.

Church offices will be closed this week. (12/25-12/29) Please call 404-275-2665 if you have a pastoral emergency and speak with Father Tim.

Thanks to all who brought gifts for Emmaus House.

Please send in your pledges for 2024. It is never too late to pledge.. 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. **Give by Texting-** Just text 73256 and enter our code 3480. You will be taken to the giving page where you can make your selections.

Subscribe to Eagle Notes: at www.stjohnscollegepark.org, scroll to the bottom of the homepage, and click the link to sign up. nscollegepark.org

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

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

<p><u>Sunday December 24, 2023 4:00 pm</u> Readers: Sherran Davis & Carol Nabeel Prayers of the People: Pat Roberts Verger: Michael Proscia Priest in Charge: The Rev. Tim Black Church Administrator: Terry Glover</p>	<p><u>Vestry</u> Daniel Hudson, Hospitality Archie Polk, Evangelism Michael Proscia, Jr. Warden Pat Roberts, Sr. Warden Val Valverde, Worship & Music Sherran Davis, Clerk Richard Pflieger, Treasurer</p>
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THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY- CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 AM - Rite II, Prayer B

The Word of God

Entrance Hymn *Angels we have heard on high (Gloria)* Blue Hymnal- 96

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity (BCP 355)

Opening Anthem or Song of Praise - Gloria- (BCP p. 356)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Lessons

First Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12

THE PSALM: Psalm 98 (BCP 727-728)

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7

Sequence Hymn: *Hark! the herald angels sing* -Blue Hymnal 87

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

The HomilyThe Rev. Tim Black

The Creed (BCP p. 358)

The Prayers of the People- Form VI (BCP p. 392)

The Peace (BCP p. 360) -*Greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence (BCP p. 376)

Offertory Hymn *O little town of Bethlehem* - Blue Hymnal- 79

Sursum Corda (BCP p. 367)

Proper Preface (BCP p. 367)

Sanctus (BCP p. 367)

Words of Institution (BCP p. 368)

The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

Epiclesis (BCP p. 369)- *The Celebrant continues*

The Lord's Prayer (BCP p. 363)

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem (BCP p. 364)

INVITATION

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 bread and wine by either intinction (dipping the host in wine) or drinking from the common cup. For healing prayers, remain at the rail after receiving communion. If you cannot come to the rail, Eucharistic Ministers will bring communion to you.

Communion Hymns *Away in a Manger (Cradle Song) Blue Hymnal 101*

Go Tell it on the Mountain (trad). Blue Hymnal 99

Post-Communion Prayer (BCP p. 365)

Celebrant: Let us pray. *Celebrant and people pray together:*

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 forever. Amen.

The Blessing: May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; 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 *Joy to the world! the Lord is come Blue Hymnal-100*

Dismissal (BCP p. 366)

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Congregation: *Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.*