



# St. John's

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH



God thinks you are fabulous,  
and so do we.

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent- 10:00 AM**

December 24, 2023+Holy Eucharist+ Rite II, Prayer B  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

*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 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 worshiping God. Still, our worship here can be confusing. The bulletin is 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.

**Our worship year is "color-coded."** We are in a "blue" season now called Advent. Advent is a time of preparation. We light candles, chant, sing Advent carols, and pray in anticipation of 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 our life together. We want to be known as a place that practices the radical kindness and hospitality of Jesus and where you can see 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

# The Word of God

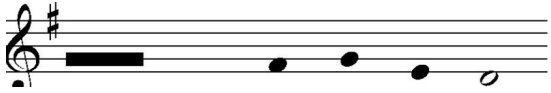
## ADVENT LITANY

*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*

Cantor 

Lord Je- sus you are the light of the world.

Congregation 

**Come Lord Jesus**

*Cantor:* Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.

*People:* Come, Lord Jesus.

*Cantor:* You are light in our darkness.

*People:* Come, Lord Jesus.

*Cantor:* Son of God, save us from our sins.

*People:* Come, Lord Jesus.

*Cantor:* Son of Mary, deepen our love.

*People:* Come, Lord Jesus.

*Cantor:* Bring hope into the lives of all people.

*People:* Come, Lord Jesus.

*Cantor:* Give your peace to all nations.

*People:* Come, Lord Jesus.

*Cantor:* Be the joy of all who love you.

*People:* Come, Lord Jesus.

*Cantor:* Bring unity among all who believe in you.  
*People:* Come, Lord Jesus.

*Cantor:* Bless us as we gather here in your name.  
*People:* Come, Lord Jesus.

*Cantor:* Lord Jesus, stay with us always.  
*People:* Come, Lord Jesus.

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Cantor*



*Bles-sed are you holy and living one*

*People*



*You come to your people and set them free*

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

*Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

### **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel- vs. 1    -vs. 1 and 5 *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 Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel

*The congregation is seated.*

**FIRST READING :** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Jessica Walters

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Reader :* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

The Psalm- Psalm 98



- 1 Sing to the LORD a nēw song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell there in.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
— and the peoples with equity.

## **Second Reading : Romans 16:25-27**

Jane Graham

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

### **SEQUENCE SONG: The Angel Gabriel**     *Blue Hymnal H 265*

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

*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

*Priest:* The Gospel of the Lord

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### **Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### **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**

Mike Spring

All remain standing.

For what and for whom do we give thanks today?

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

You astounded Mary with her invitation to bear your Son. Surprise us with your delight in us, with your invitation to do your will, with the light of Christ growing within us. Surprise us, Lord, again and again.

*Silence*

We are your children. Increase the faith in us, day by day, season by season. Empower us to seek and do your will. Cause us to surprise ourselves by opening up our hearts to find that you are always there.

***Surprise us, Lord.***

We pray that the leaders of all the nations demonstrate wisdom and a heart for the good of their people and peace between neighbors.

***Surprise us, Lord.***

We pray that the peoples of all the nations realize freedom and an end to hunger and poverty. Enable a spirit of generosity to flow throughout the world.

***Surprise us, Lord.***

We pray for our neighbors with whom we work and live. Surprise us with what can be accomplished when we work together for the common good. Open our eyes to see you in each person we meet. Open our hearts and hands to each need we encounter.



***Surprise us, Lord.***

We pray for healing for those with troubled spirits, who suffer from addiction, loneliness, and despair. We ask for healing for those who struggle with the consequences of illness or recovering from surgery. Reveal to us how to join in your saving and healing work through the power of your Spirit. We pray today for: Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell, Melissa Brady, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Linda Brown, Vicky Tucker, Mike Spring, The Rev. Jeffrey Halenza, Fonda Howland and Charles Howland.

***Surprise us, Lord.***

We pray for those who have died and now rest in your eternal embrace. May the light of your love surround them and comfort those who grieve their deaths. Surprise them with the sure hope of the Resurrection. We pray today for:

***Surprise us, Lord.***

We are your people. Increase the faith in us day by day. Surprise us with your loving, liberating, and life-giving presence.

***Surprise us, Lord, again and again.***

*Celebrant:* 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.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People:* 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.

*The Celebrant stands and says:* 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.

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**

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

**OFFERTORY HYMN- - My Soul Gives Glory to my God VF 117 (Morning Song)**



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My  
2 My God has done great things for me: yes,  
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such  
4 Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -  
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -



heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my  
ho - ly is this name. All peo - ple will de -  
mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice  
motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spi - rits  
ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past



low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.  
clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.  
far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.  
sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.  
prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

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

**DOXOLOGY- Tune, Greensleeves, trad.**



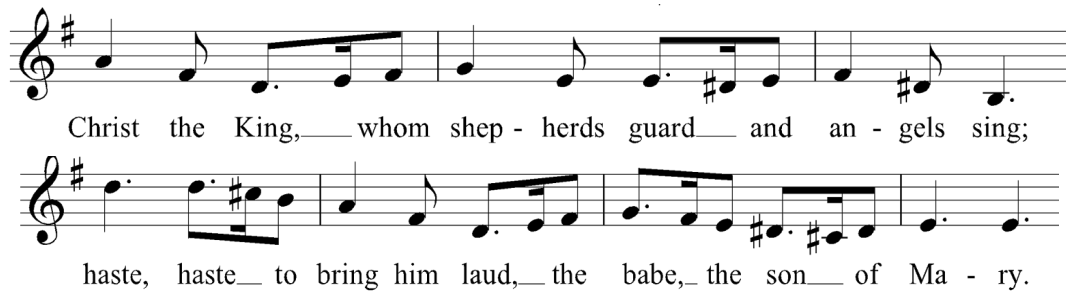
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures



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 shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The People remain standing.*



*Celebrant* *People*  
The Lord be with you And also 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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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 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.

**Celebrant:** 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,

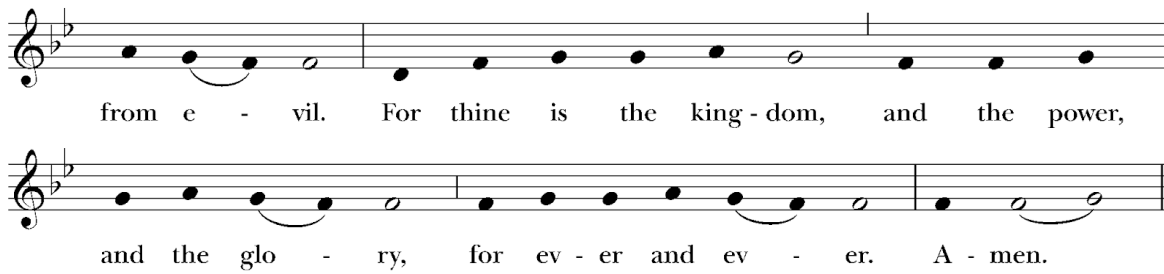
**Celebrant and People:** We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

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



*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 Celebrant 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**      **Let us Break Bread Together**      *Blue Hymnal 325*

*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 forever. Amen.*

*The Celebrant 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: *Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus*** Blue Hymnal 268

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

*People:* Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.



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

**Bible Study is off until January 10th.**

**Church offices will be closed in observance of Christmas 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](http://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](mailto: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.

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**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>

Sunday December 24, 2023 10:00 AM Readers: Jessica Walters & Jane Graham Prayers of the People: Mike Spring Vergers: Val Valverde 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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# 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

