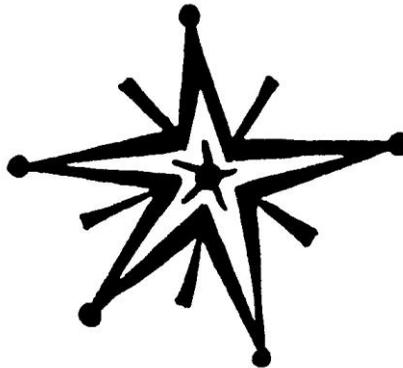


The Second Sunday After Christmas



Holy Eucharist

January 3, 2026 • 5 pm & January 4, 2026 • 10 am

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

Our mission is to be a Christian community of all ages
grounded in worship, well-being and service.

We hope you will experience God's own welcome here and return again and again. Find us online at www.smcportsmouth.org and on Facebook.

NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP AT ST. MARY'S

- If you are our guest today, please complete a welcome card and put it in the offering plate or give it to the greeter. This will give us a chance to learn your name welcome you more personally.
- It is our pleasure to welcome children and their parents at all services. We understand that children's energy and voices are gifts they may share during worship. That is how God made them and we are grateful they are worshipping with us. Feel free to step out and step back in as needed. Sitting as close to the front as possible helps them to see.
- If you have need, restrooms are accessible on both levels of the parish house.
- Text written in **bold** in this bulletin is to be spoken by all. When printed, the ✠ indicates an appropriate time to make the sign of the cross.
- All Christians are invited to the Holy Table to receive communion. If it is difficult for you to walk, please notify a greeter, and we will bring communion to you. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing. If you are interested in Holy Baptism, please speak with our rector, Jennifer. We welcome the opportunity to prepare people of all ages for baptism.
- Music Notes:
Our music books for worship include Wonder Love and Praise, WLP & The Hymnal 1982. Both can be found in the pew. Additional music can be found in the bulletin.

To find out what's happening at St. Mary's this week and in the coming weeks, visit our on line calendar by scanning the QR code below!



The Holy Eucharist

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn The first Nowell (verses 1-3) Hymnal 1982, 109

Opening Acclamation

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Song of Praise As with gladness men of old (verses 1 & 3) Hymnal 1982, 119

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The People may be seated.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
 and the young men and the old shall be merry.
 I will turn their mourning into joy,
 I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
 I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
 and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
 says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84

Jerome Webster Meachen (b. 1930)



© 1956. Jerome Webster Meachen

1 How dear to me is your **dwelling**, *
 O Lord of **hosts!** *
 My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the **Lord**;*
 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living **God**.*

2 The sparrow has found her a house
 and the swallow a nest where she may lay her **young**; *
 by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
 my King and my **God**.*

Jerome Webster Meachen (b. 1930)



© 1956. Jerome Webster Meachen

3 Happy are they who dwell in your **house!** *
they will always be praising **you.***

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in **you!***
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' **way.***

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of **springs,** *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of **water.***

(repeat the 2nd half of the psalm tune)

6 They will climb from height to **height,** *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in **Zion.***

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his

glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All may stand for the Alleluia and Holy Gospel.

Alleluia

Celtic Mass

C. Walker, F. O'Carroll

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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Holy Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. John Gregory Prior

All may stand for the Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers of the People

Each bidding is followed by a period of silence during which the people may offer their own prayers either silently or aloud.

After each prayer the leader will say, "Holy God," all respond "hear our prayer."

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

Song at the Offering

We three kings (verses 1-4)

Hymnal 1982, 128

If you would like to make an offering there is a plate at the rear of the church, or if electronically, please use the QR code below.



Please stand as the gifts are brought forward.

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Celebrant continues...

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Hymnal 1982, S-124

The people may stand or kneel then the Celebrant continues...

Celebrant Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues...

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction

Hymnal 1982, S-161

Please come forward at the invitation, "The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Hymns Once in royal David's city (verses 1, 2, & 5) Hymnal 1982, 102

What child is this Hymnal 1982, 115

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

The celebrant offers a blessing

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn Angels from the realms of glory (verses 1-3) Hymnal 1982, 93

Liturgical Ministers

Altar Guild: 5 pm & 10 am Carol Brierley, Jennie Nestlerode

Musician: 10 am Michael DiMucci, St. Mary's Choir

Greeters: 5 pm David & Lynne Burke
10 am Lee Ferreira, Mary Kay Lundberg

Lector and Intercessor: 5 pm David Burke
10 am Audrey Chase

Crucifer/Server: 5 pm David Ferkinhoff
10 am Jennie Nestlerode

Acolytes: 10 am Isaac Nestlerode, Rian Gustafson

Audio Visual: 10 am Charley Collins

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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The Reverend Jennifer L. Pedrick, *Rector*

The Reverend Dr. John Gregory Prior, *Associate Rector*

Michael DiMucci, *Pastoral Musician*

Karen Laroche, *Pastoral Associate of Administration*

Jon Walker, *Property Manager*