



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**The First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023, 9:30 AM
Holy Eucharist: Rite II**

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church. Whoever you are, and wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here, just as you are, to experience God's love.

St. John's is a compassionate Christian community of healing, hope, and hospitality at the heart of Centreville's Historic District. First consecrated on July 14, 1854, St. John's was partially burned in the Civil War, rebuilt, expanded, and is now home to many faith communities. To learn more about us, talk to one of our clergy, chat up a neighbor, join us after worship for coffee hour, and visit us at stjohnscentreville.org.

Today's service follows the red Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and features some new service music. Responses are in bold. Music can be found in the blue hymnals in your pew or on the enclosed insert. Service music, noted with an "S," can be found in the front of the book, and our hymns, noted by an "H" and their number, after that. Participate as the Spirit moves you!

Services are live-streamed, so please be aware that you are being recorded. Cell phone use—texting, pictures, video, social media—is encouraged, but please silence your devices and disable Wi-Fi during worship.

The Word of God

Prelude

Processional Hymn: H 73 "the King shall come when morning dawns"

St. Stephen

Opening Acclamation

BCP, p. 355

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Collect for Purity

BCP, p. 355

Song of Praise: Kyrie

Please refer to insert

Collect of the Day

BCP, p. 211, First Advent

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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 for ever. **Amen.**

Children's Story

Our youngest parishioners are invited to come forward for today's story. They'll adjourn to children's chapel, returning in time for Communion.

First Lesson: 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Response: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

BCP, p. 702

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * **shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * **stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; * **show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts, * **how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears; * **you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * **and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; * **show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, * **the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you; * **give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; * **show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Please refer to insert

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon: The Rev. Kevin Laskowski

BCP, p. 358

The Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People: Form III

BCP, p. 387

If you would like to add someone to our prayer list, please contact staff or clergy.

The Peace

BCP, p. 360

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

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

At this time, the gifts of God in bread and wine and the gifts of the people are collected and brought forward in thanksgiving. Thanks to all who have pledged a portion of their time, talent, and treasure to God's mission here at St. John's. There's still time to make a pledge for 2024. Ask your usher for a pledge card, fill it out, and return to the usher or place in the model church at the altar.



As the Spirit moves you, please give generously by cash or check, use the QR code at right to donate online, or text STJOHNSCENTREVILLE" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Donations of food and other items for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and the Katharine K. Hanley Family Shelter can be given to the usher or to the church office.

The Presentation of Alms & Oblations: H 380, v. 3 "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"

BCP, p. 361

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

Sanctus: S 129, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord"

Prayer A (cont.)

BCP, p. 362

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

Fraction Anthem: S 161 "Lamb of God"

Agnus Dei

Communion Hymn: H 454 "Jesus came, adored by angels"

Lowry

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Announcements

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: H 616 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Greens are given to the Glory of God.

Advent with Mark, Zoom, Thursdays, 7 PM. Registration required. Advent has begun, and with it, a new lectionary year. Year B features the Gospel of Mark, the second and shortest of the Gospels. Over three evening classes, we'll begin our journey with Mark by looking at the stories unique to it. What are the stories we hear only from Mark? How does Mark tell stories we hear from other gospels differently? Join us!

Christmas Boxes! Following the success of our Thanksgiving boxes, we are collecting new items for Christmas dinners for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. Pick up your own box with new instructions at church, shop for the nonperishable items, and return it to St. John's by Thursday, December 14.

Save the Dates: Christmas at St. John's. Mark your calendars now. He'll be here before you know it.

Dec 24th Christmas Eve Family Eucharist, 4:00 PM

Dec 24th Christmas Eve Eucharist, 8:00 PM

Dec 25th Christmas Day Service, 9:30 AM

Dec 31st First Sunday after Christmas Day, 9:30 AM

Serving on Sundays. Worship is a work of the people, and we need you! We're always looking for volunteers for Sunday services: folks to sing in the choir, serve at the altar, read the lessons, or assist with children's chapel and our livestream. Contact Rev. Kevin to learn more about where you might lend your time and talent, where God might be calling you.

Coffee Hour. Please join us in the hall after the service for coffee and refreshments.

Adult Lectionary Forum. If you'd like to discuss today's readings in greater depth, grab coffee and a snack, and join us in the library after the service.

Visit Us! For more information, visit stjohnscentreville.org and subscribe to our E-notes.

TODAY'S MINISTERS

Celebrant:	The Rev. Kevin Laskowski	Usher:	Tom Jones
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Steve Busch	Lector:	Susan Davis
Music Director:	Mandy Hull	Alms Counters:	Penny Parker, Gene Milunec
Crucifer:	Val Tucker	Altar Guild:	Meg Crossett

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Priest-in-Charge, Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com

The Rev. Deacon Steve Busch, Deacon@StJohnsCentreville.com

Dave Parker, Senior Warden, SeniorWarden@StJohnsCentreville.com

Mandy Hull, Organist & Choir Director, amandahull101@gmail.com

Terri Katon, Parish Administrator, ParishAdmin@StJohnsCentreville.com

The Rev. Jason Lody, Ministry Partners Administrator, mpadmin@stjohnscentreville.com

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 10:30am – 2:30pm.