

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8, 2026

11:00am



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

Est. 1836 | Flat Rock, North Carolina

Mission Statement

To know and love God as He is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, to bring others to His saving love, and to serve the world in His name.

Welcome to St. John in the Wilderness

We welcome you warmly to St. John in the Wilderness and invite you to share in our songs, prayers, and eucharistic feast. If you do not have a church family at this time, then we invite you to join in this fellowship of faith as we share life together as the Body of Christ. See the note to our visitors on the back inside cover for more information about receiving Communion and joining the church.

Reminders for Worship

- Children of all ages are most welcome in worship, and during the service they may enjoy the activity bags, which are in the Tower Entrance. Nursery care is available for children from infancy to pre-K across Rutledge Drive in our Parish House Education Building from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Please use the crosswalk to get there!
- Formation is available for children, youth, and adults most Sundays from 10:10 to 10:45am in our Parish House complex across Rutledge Drive.
- Please participate in the service by singing and praying with us. At the time of the Peace, please take a few moments to leave your pew and greet others in the name of our Lord.
- A restroom is available near the front of the church and can be accessed through an exterior door. Please see an usher for directions.
- You will find hand sanitizer in the pews and with the ushers. Please use it after the Peace and before receiving Communion.

As the Snow Melts...

Handbell Workshop | Wednesday, February 11, 2:30-3:55pm in the Parish Hall

Come give handbell ringing a try on St. John's newly purchased set of bells! All adults and youth (6th-12th graders) are welcome. Participants will be invited to consider forming a handbell choir which would rehearse weekly and offer special music in worship. If you have questions, please contact Director of Music Ed Tompkins at music@stjohnflatrock.org.

Mardi Gras Potluck | Tuesday, February 17, 5:30pm in the Parish Hall

Grab your beads and bring a dish to share for our biennial Mardi Gras potluck in the Parish Hall as we gather for a feast before the fast. Please bring a dish according to your last name: A-G should bring main dishes, H-O should bring salads and sides, and P-Z should bring appetizers, finger foods, or desserts. No RSVP necessary. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

Ash Wednesday | February 18, Services at 12:00 and 5:30pm in the Church

Step into our Lenten journey. At these services, all will be invited to come forward to the altar to receive the Imposition of Ashes and Communion.

Vigil of Remembrance for Victims of Gun Violence Sunday, February 22, 4:00pm in the Wilderness Room

At this special service, we will hear a few of the stories of those who were killed in our country in 2025 by guns and grieve the reality of this violence. It is hosted as a collaboration between St. John in the Wilderness and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. All are welcome.

It's Your Funeral: How to Prepare for Death & Why It's Good News Thursday, February 26, 10:00am-2:00pm in the Wilderness Room

Fr. Josh invites you to join him for a workshop to learn about and prepare your plans for the final Office of the Church: Christian Burial. Lunch will be provided. Please register at bit.ly/SJWitsyourfuneral by Monday, February 23.

Souper Bowl of Caring | Extended through Sunday, March 1

We are collecting canned goods and other non-perishable food items for IAM to help feed our neighbors in need. The items they are most in need of are canned soup, canned tuna, canned chicken, cereal, and dry pasta, but any items are appreciated. You may leave all items in the donation baskets near the Wilderness Room.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11:00am

PRELUDE: Be Thou My Vision

arr. Greg Bottomley

Welcome & Announcements

ENTRANCE HYMN: #419 Lord of all being, throned afar

Mendon

1 Lord of all be - ing, throned a - far, thy glo - ry
2 Sun of our life, thy quick - ening ray sheds on our
3 Lord of all life, be - low, a - bove, whose light is
4 Grant us thy truth to make us free, and kin - dling

flames from sun and star; cen - ter and soul of
path the glow of day; star of our hope, thy
truth, whose warmth is love, be - fore thy ev - er -
hearts that burn for thee, till all thy liv - ing

ev - ery sphere, yet to each lov - ing heart how near!
soft - ened light cheers the long watch - es of the night.
blaz - ing throne we ask no lus - ter of our own.
al - tars claim one ho - ly light, one heaven - ly flame.

Words: Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894). Music: *Mendon*, from *Methodist Harmonist*, 1821; adapt. and harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

THE WORD OF GOD

Acclamation & Response

BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

Hymnal S-280



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
 to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,
 as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
 and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

**2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

**4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

**6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.

**8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor.

**10 The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

**Glorify to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden,

which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny.

“For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

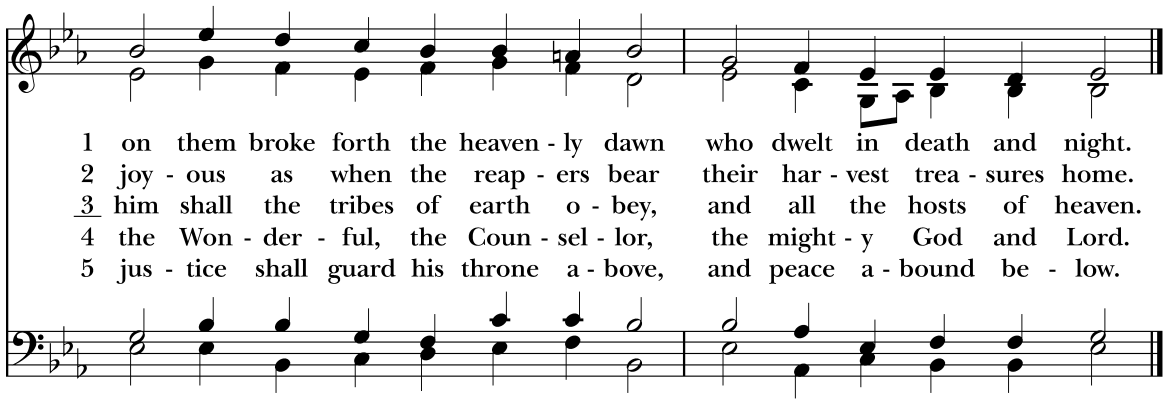
The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

As the music begins, all stand for the gradual hymn and reorient themselves to the Gospel of our Lord as it is processed into the congregation.

GRADUAL HYMN: #126 The people who in darkness walked

Dundee

1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo - rious light;
2 To hail thy ris - ing, Sun of life, the ga - thering na - tions come,
3 To us the prom - ised Child is born, to us the Son is given;
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace for ev - er - more a - dored,
5 His power in - creas - ing still shall spread, his reign no end shall know;



Words: John Morison (1749-1798), alt.; para. of Isaiah 9:2-7. Music: *Dundee*, melody *The CL Psalmes of Davis*, 1615; harm. Thomas Ravenscroft (1592-1635?), alt.

All remain standing as the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

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

The Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Sermon

The Rev. Josh Stephens

After the sermon, there is a brief moment of silence. When the Celebrant rises, the congregation stands.

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

**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

Let us pray for the Church and for the world saying, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

For the holy Church of God – for Christians around the world gathered this day. Shape us into the Body of Christ that our life together may be a sign, herald, and foretaste of your kingdom, we pray to you, Lord God.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for José, our bishop, for Josh, our Rector, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God who minister in their homes, churches, and communities, we pray to you, Lord God.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness we may share the Good News of the Light of Christ with joy and love to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, Lord God.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For this fragile and beautiful earth that sustains us: that your grace and goodness may speak to us through stars and mountains, frost and snow, trees and waters. And help us to be faithful stewards of your Creation, we pray to you, Lord God.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the peace of the world: We ask the Prince of Peace to rule in our hearts and we pray for people and communities near and far where warfare and violence have caused so much pain and loss. We pray to you, Lord God.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of this land: that a spirit of respect, gratitude, and understanding might spread over each one of us. And give guidance and wisdom to our elected leaders: for Donald, our President; Josh, our Governor; for Congress, especially Chuck, Tom, and Ted; and for our state and local leaders. We pray to you, Lord God.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We offer thanks and prayers for our friends and family at this time. We also pray for our enemies and those who wish us harm. Redeem all our relationships through your grace, we pray to you, Lord God.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord God.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health. We pray especially for Cindy, Jeff, Legare, Elijah, Susan, Bob, Betsy, Tawana, Chuck, Jim, John, Nancy, Ginger, Robert, Dottie, Betty, Mason, Mary, Sue, and Dale. Are there others?

The people may include the names of those for whom they are praying either silently or aloud.

We pray to you, Lord God.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church [*especially _____*], and those whose faith is known to you alone. In the fullness of your time, bring us with all the saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom; we pray to you, Lord God.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Deacon or Celebrant says

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 Bishop, when present, or the Priest, 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

BCP p. 360

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

A Prayer for Those Celebrating

BCP p. 830

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries in February

Prayer 50

Included in our prayers are those served by our Visitor Ministry with birthdays this month: Chuck King (Feb. 7), Emilee Cantieri (Feb. 14), Alex Viola (Feb. 17), and Adam Sherrill (Feb. 26).

O God, our times are in your hands. Look with favor, we pray on your servants who are celebrating birthdays or wedding anniversaries this month. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant then shares an offertory sentence.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

*The ushers pass the offering plates and present the gifts of the congregation at the Lord's table.
Online gifts may be made using the QR code to the right.*



OFFERTORY MUSIC: Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing

Gordon Young

Text: George W. Briggs (1875-1959)

Now let us all praise God and sing Our great redeemer's praise;
That we may all with one accord Our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia!
All ye servants of the Lord, Praise Him forever,
Sing Jehovah's mighty power, Praise Him forever.
Sing of His righteousness, Praise Him forever.
So let us all praise God and Sing Our great Redeemer's praise;
That we may all with one accord Our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia!

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Doxology

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low; praise
him a-bove ye heav' nly host; praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p. 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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

Hymnal S-125

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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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;**

The Celebrant continues

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 [_____ 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 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.**

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

People

**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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

The Celebrant continues

*Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add **Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.**

The ushers immediately begin releasing the congregation to share in the Eucharistic feast. A gluten-free option is available upon request. For further instructions about Holy Communion, see the note to our visitors on the back inside cover of the bulletin.

The choir often begins by sharing a musical offering while the congregation receives the Sacrament. Following the choir's musical offering, please join in as we sing the Communion Hymn together.

COMMUNION MUSIC: Come, Holy Light, Guide Divine Handel/arr. Marcus Wiley

Come, Holy Light, Guide divine, o cause the word of light to shine,
Teach us to know our God aright, from error, Lord, our souls defend.
Come, Holy Light, Source of peace, grant that with joy and hope possessed,
We always in thy service stay. Give us that peace, for which we pray.
Keep us, O Lord, forever thine.

COMMUNION HYMN: #488 Be thou my vision

Slane

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, what - ev - er be - fall,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Sending Out of Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant With whom will you share this communion?

Eucharistic Visitors respond with the names of those to whom they will go.

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we share one bread and one cup.**

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel for the Post-Communion Prayer.

Celebrant and People

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.

The Blessing

DISMISSAL HYMN: #381 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness

Ton-y-Botel



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy speak - ing
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as night and
 3 Thy strong word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with thine own
 4 God the Fa - ther, Light - Cre - a - tor, to thee laud and




it was done; for cre - at - ed light we thank thee,
 deep as death, broke the light of thy sal - va - tion,
 ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward glo - ry,
 hon - or be; to thee, Light of Light be - got - ten,



while thine or - dered sea - sons run: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 and our lives our hopes con - fess: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly; Ho - ly Spi - rit, Light - Re -



lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 veal - er, glo - ry, glo - ry be to thee; mor-tals, an-gels,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 now and ev - er praise the Ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.

The Alleluias in stanzas 1-3 may be sung antiphonally.

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 Music: *Ton-y-Boiel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944)

The Dismissal

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, may dismiss the people with these words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: We Shall Overcome

arr. Thomas Keesecker

The Prayers of the People is that part of our liturgy which offers intercessions and thanksgivings to God. **Worshippers, wherever they are in the church, are encouraged to offer aloud or silently their own such prayers during the appropriate part of the Prayers of the People.** As we pray, please remember those who are ill or with other needs: Cindy Brinkmann, Jeff, Legare Head, Elijah Stephens, Susan Rex, Bob Sundeen, Betsy Thagard, Tawana Gibbs, Chuck King, Jim Gibbs, John and Nancy Taylor, Ginger Quarles, Robert Odean, Dottie Dalzell, Betty, Mason, Mary, Sue, and Dale.

The Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Duane and Peggy McKibbin, *by Bill McKibbin.*

Eucharistic Visitors share the Body and Blood of Christ with those who receive care from our Visitor Ministry. We thank God for the ministry of Clint Adams, Art Mack, Judy Petersen, Anita Reid, Stan Rogan, and Bill Taylor.

To Our Visitors: We welcome you with all our hearts! You are also invited to come forward at the time of Communion to receive the Sacrament or a blessing. All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive Communion, including infants and children. To receive Communion, simply come forward to kneel at the altar if you are able. Put one hand in the palm of the other and the Celebrant will share the Body of Christ with you. You may then intinct or drink from the Chalice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. If you are not baptized, please come forward and kneel at the altar while crossing your arms over your chest to receive a special blessing, and we invite you to talk to the priest at any time about entering discernment for being baptized. Won’t you join with Christ and his Church on this journey of faith?

If you do not have a church home at this time, then we hope you will make St. John in the Wilderness your church family. We find that through sharing life together as the Body of Christ, we are made whole and renewed daily. Talk to an usher or member of the clergy about joining this parish, or you are welcome to simply fill out a card in your pew and put it in the offering plate. We welcome you!

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP			
	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 8 11:00am	Last Sunday after the Epiphany February 15 8:45am 11:00am	
Lay Readers/ Eucharistic Ministers	Will Rodriguez Elizabeth Christenbury	John Barker Judy Petersen	Candace Lewis Bill Taylor
Acolytes	Beau Singletary Arlo Stephens Emily Ann Caldwell	Jasmine Pharr	Stan Rogan
Ushers	David Christenbury Karen Conley	Jerry Tanner Stu Holcombe	John Knapp Lisa Kauffman
Greeters	Becky & Scott Petersen	Lynne Miller Judy Petersen	Carmen & Ned Curtis
Cart Drivers	N/A	Marlin Sanders	Jason Blackwell
Videography <i>(Service)</i>	David Burge	E. Wiescholek	N/A
Videography <i>(Formation)</i>	N/A	Tom Griswold	
Altar Guild	Lynn Savage Lucie Earhart Laurie & Slava Morris <i>(Sat.)</i>	Cathryn Harrell BJ McKee	Diane Skelton Jann Cooper Jim Cooper <i>(Brass)</i>
Flower Guild	Elaine Howe & Virginia Rehn	Galen Reuther & Claudia Northrup	
Opening Gatekeeper	Clint Adams	Clint Adams	
Closing Gatekeeper	Kitty Olson	Kitty Olson	



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

Church: 1895 Greenville Highway | Office: 1905 Greenville Highway

Mailing: PO Box 185, Flat Rock, NC 28731

828-693-9783 | www.stjohnflatrock.org

In the case of a pastoral emergency, call the Parish Office and dial 5.

Worship Services: 8:45 & 11:00am | Office Hours: 9:00am-4:00pm M-F

Sunday School for Adults, Youth, and Children: 10:00am

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service: Wednesdays 10:30am in the Wilderness Room

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Josh Stephens, Rector: rector@stjohnflatrock.org

Ed Tompkins, Director of Music & Organist: music@stjohnflatrock.org

Mims Yeargin, Director of Parish Communication & Administration: officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

Stacy Knapp, Financial Administrator: finance@stjohnflatrock.org

Missy Izard, Director of Christian Education: missy@stjohnflatrock.org

Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

VESTRY MEMBERS

Jill Owen, *Senior Warden (2026)*
Jim Cooper, *Junior Warden (2027)*

2026

Jon Fitzpatrick
Jim Gibbs
Sandy Skelton

2027

Kitty Olson
Catherine Popp
Steve Sittnick

2028

Liz Carson
Mark Delk
Worth Gordon
Lynne Miller

PARISH OFFICERS

Marlin Sanders &
Bill Williams, *Treasurers*

Kim Sanders, *Clerk*

STANDING COMMITTEES

Appointments: Carol Rector

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Jerry Tanner

By Laws, Canons & Insurance: Jim Olson

Christian Formation: Missy Izard

Communications & Publicity: Joey Popp

Finance: Gary German

Historic Churchyard Committee: Sandy Rex

New Member Ministry: Brenda Hillyer & Judy Petersen

Outreach: Jennifer Shelton

Personnel: Margaret Barker

Stewardship: Jim and Jann Cooper

OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Acolytes: Laura Teel

Altar Guild: Cathryn Harrell, Laurie Morris

Chefs of St. John: Jim Vint

Churchyard Trustees: Pete Petersen

Docents: Polly Morrice & Scott Bell

Endowment Trustees: Mike Teel

Episcopal Church Women: Jan Tanner

Flower Guild: Patrice German

Flower Memorials: Gaston Motes

Funeral Reception Ministry: Brenda Hillyer

Garden Guild: Jerry Tanner

Gatekeepers: BJ McKee

Golf Cart Ministry: Jill Owen

Good News Gardeners: Cathy & David Burge

Greeters: Worth Gordon & Carmen Curtis

Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee: John Barker

Holy Hikes-WNC: Cynthia Easterling

Lay Readers: Mark Delk

Meal Ministry: Catherine Popp

Needle Work Ministry: Judy Petersen

Sustainability: Elizabeth Christenbury

Ushers: Clint Adams & Bettie Orr

Visitor Ministry: Clint Adams

Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe