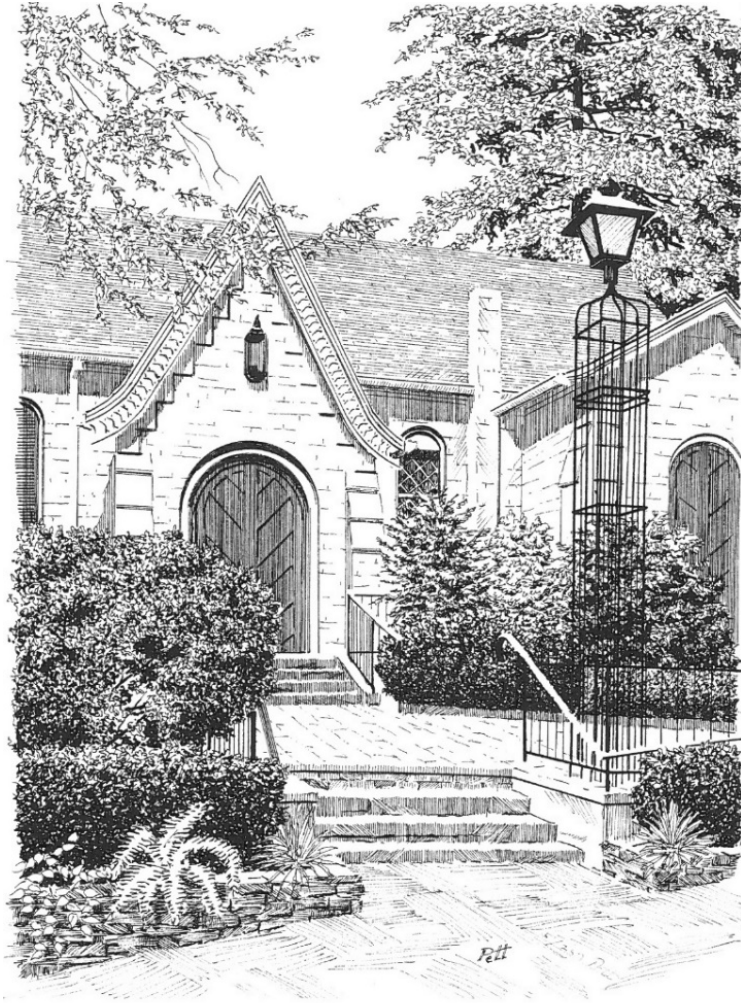


# The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

January 4, 2026  
8:45 and 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.
- 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.

**Offering Envelopes** are available in the Bell Tower Entrance of the church for those who requested them for 2026. Please pick them up by Sunday, January 11.

# O Come, Let Us Adore Him

## *Celebrate the Season with St. John in the Wilderness*

### TWELFTH NIGHT | MONDAY, JANUARY 5

#### Burning of the Greens and Other Revelry

4:00-6:00pm at Camp Kanuga

120 Camp Kanuga Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739

*Bring Christmas trees and other greens to burn! St. John will provide food and beverages as we gather around the fire to sing songs and celebrate the last night of Christmas. No RSVP necessary.*

### THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD | TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

#### Epiphany Eucharist & Potluck Feast

5:30-7:30pm at the Church of the Transfiguration, Saluda

20 Episcopal Church Drive, Saluda, NC 28773



*Join us for a Eucharist and potluck celebrating the ancient feast of the Epiphany with the arrival of the Magi to venerate the Christ child, the wedding feast at Cana of Galilee, and the Baptism of our Lord. This will be a wonderful gathering of Episcopalians, Lutherans, and friends from Saluda, Tryon, Bat Cave, Hendersonville, Brevard, Mills River, Fletcher, Edneyville, and Flat Rock at the Church of the Transfiguration in Saluda. **Please register at [bit.ly/deaneryepiphany2026](https://bit.ly/deaneryepiphany2026) or by scanning the QR code.***

# Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:45 & 11:00am

**PRELUDE:** Once in Royal David's City

Dom Andrew Moore

**Welcome & Announcements**

**ENTRANCE HYMN:** No. 109 The first Nowell the angel did say

*The first Nowell*

## THE WORD OF GOD

**Acclamation & Response**

BCP p. 355

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Alleluia! To us a child is born.

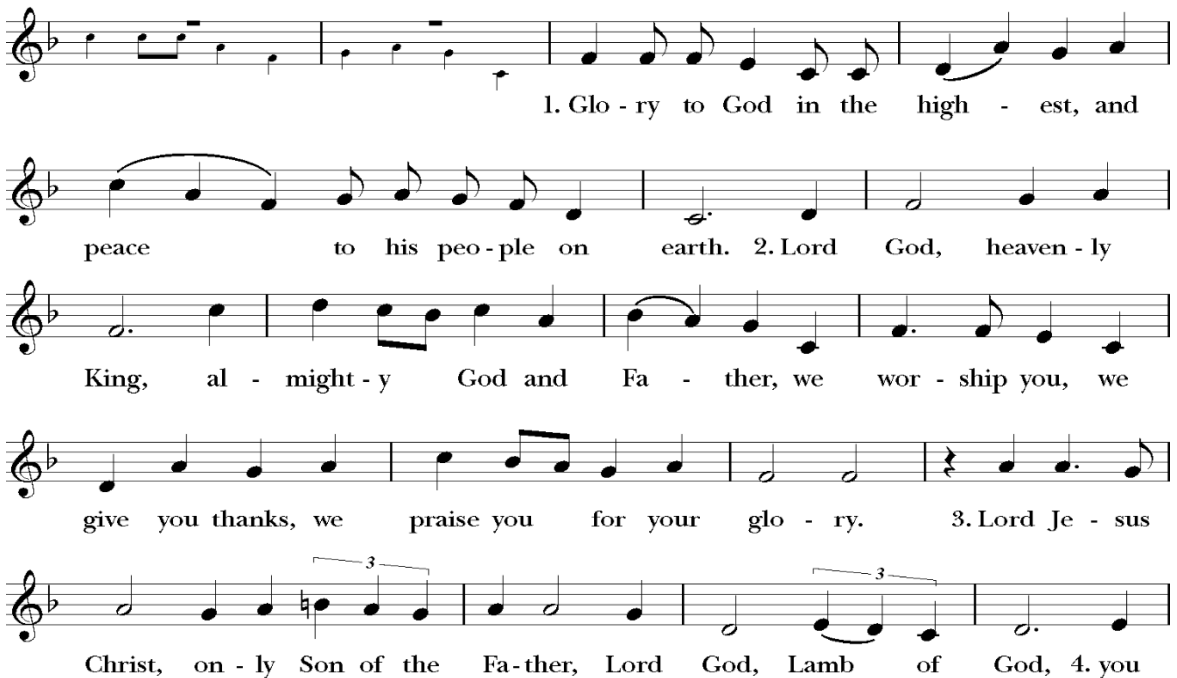
*People*

**Come let us adore him. Alleluia!**

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 -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*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

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 are seated.*

## First Lesson: 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.*

- 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.**
- 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.
- 6 **They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 **Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 **For the Lord God is both sun and shield; \*  
he will give grace and glory;**
- 11 No good thing will the Lord withhold \*  
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 **O Lord of hosts, \*  
happy are they who put their trust in you!**
- Glory 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:** 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.

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:** No. 124 What star is this, with beams so bright

*Puer nobis*

*Verses 1-4*

*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 2:1-23

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

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

**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**

*The Leader and People pray responsively. The Leader begins*

During this Christmastide, let us pray for the Church and for the world as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

For the holy Church of God – for all Christians gathered to celebrate the nativity of our Lord – that we may make room for God in our hearts, homes, and neighborhoods, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for José, our bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness we may share the Good News of God's incarnation with joy and love to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* 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, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For the peace of the world: We ask the Prince of Peace to rule in our hearts during Christmastide 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, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* 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, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For those who, like the shepherds, work while others sleep, and for all those whose labors make our lives possible, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* 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, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For this congregation, for those who are present and those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* 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 Patricia, Judy, Cheryl, Patrick, Susan, Jack, Jim, Ginger, Bob, Betsy, Chuck, Cindy, Chris, Gena, Dorinda,

Tawana, Carla, Jeff, Julie, Betsy, Matthew, Anne, Anthony, Robert, Legare, and Elijah.  
Are there others?

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

We pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For all who have died in the communion of your Church, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*,] and those whose faith is known to you alone. We also remember our loved ones whose absence is felt deeply at Christmas and we pray for all who are grieving. In the fullness of your time, bring us with all the saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom; we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant offers a concluding Collect.*

## **The Peace**

BCP p. 332

*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. 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:** 8:45 Plainsong Prelude

Charles Callahan

11:00 In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness

*Divinum Mysterium*

Text: Anonymous, China; tr. Francis P. Jones, 1890–1975; adapt. Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
Text © 2012 GIA Publications, Inc., [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com). All rights reserved.

In a deep, unbounded darkness, long before the first light shone,  
you, O God, beyond all merit worked a wonder faith makes known:  
in your mercy, in your mercy, you embraced us as your own, evermore and evermore.  
Though our world is everchanging, you are constant, firm, and sure,  
faithful to your cov'nant promise. Trusting you, we live, secure:  
singing praises, singing praises, long as heart and breath endure, evermore and evermore.  
Joy transforms our lips to boasting only in your matchless grace,  
sending Christ to dwell among us, Word made flesh in time and space:  
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior, in whose life we glimpse your face, evermore and evermore.  
God of Hagar, God of Sarah, God of nomad Abraham;  
God of Miriam, God of Moses, Fiery Pillar, great I AM:  
lead us homeward, lead us homeward, to the love-feast of the Lamb, evermore and evermore.

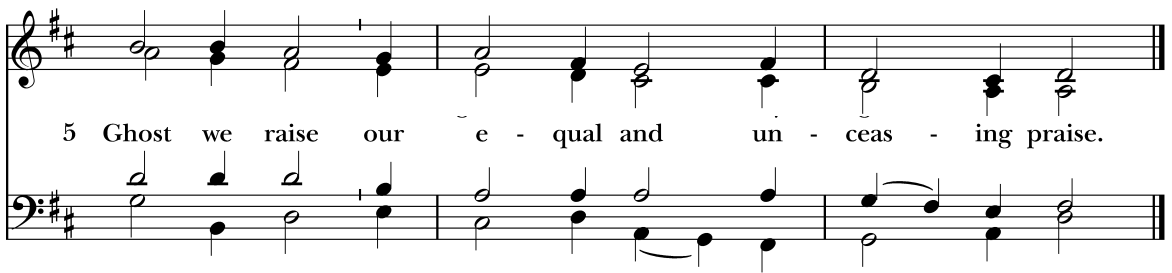
**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** No. 124 What star is this (*Verse 5*)

*Puer nobis*

*Unison or harmony*

5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly



## 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*

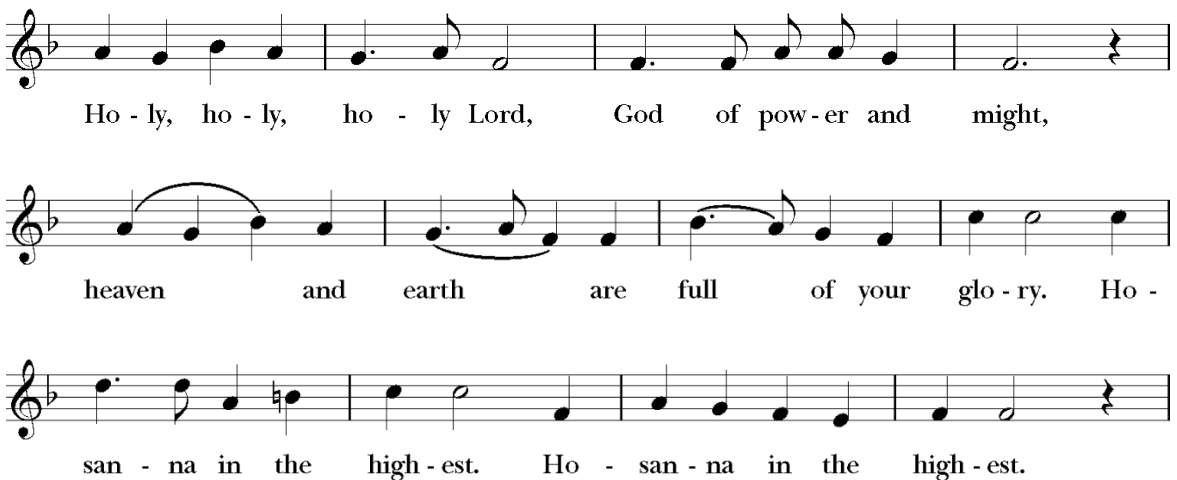
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

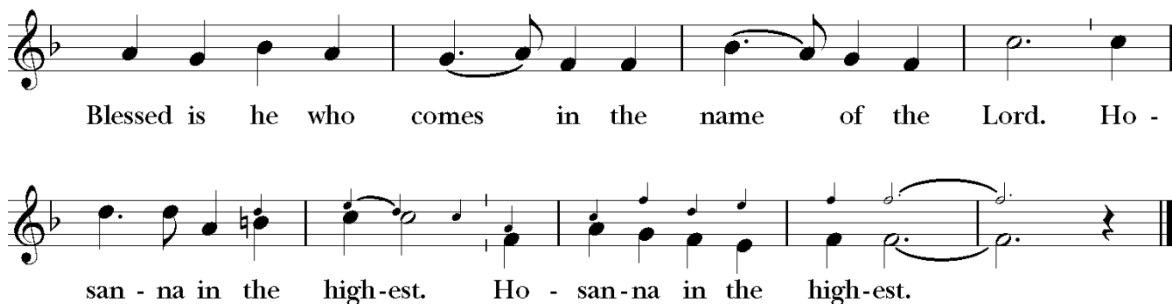
*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

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





*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*

*People*      Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
                  **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 HYMN:** No. 98 Unto us a boy is born!

*Puer nobis nascitu*

**Post-Communion Prayer**

BCP p. 365

*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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing.*

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace this Christmas night; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL HYMN:** No. 119 As with gladness men of old

*Dix*

**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:** Three King's March

Michael R. Barker



**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: Patricia Haire, Judy Oldenburg, Cheryl Cohen, Patrick Necessary, Susan Rex, Jack, Jim Gibbs, Ginger Quarles, Bob Sundeen, Betsy Thagard, Chuck King, Cindy Brinkmann, Chris Smith, Gena Gross, Dorinda Burnett, Tawana Gibbs, Carla Poe, Jeff, Julie Bleimann, Betsy Darnall, Matthew Kennedy, Anne Vogler, Anthony Dionisio, Robert Odean, Legare Head, and Elijah Stephens.

**The Altar Flowers** are given in loving memory of Jack Day, *by Carolyn Day*; and in loving memory of Roderick Bryan and Martha Smith, *by friends*.

**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, Stephen Askew, Patricia Tanzer Askew, 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				
	The Second Sunday after Christmas January 4 10:00am		The First Sunday after the Epiphany January 11 8:45am                      11:00am	
Lay Readers/ Eucharistic Ministers	Judy Petersen John Barker	Candace Lewis Lori Griswold	Bob Inglis Mary Anne Inglis	Will Rodriguez E. Christenbury
Acolytes	Laura Teel	Anita Reid Joey Saltz Sofia Ridgeway	Elaine Howe	Stan Rogan
Ushers	Jodi Sundeen Jim Spry	Bettie Orr Lisa Kauffman	Marlin Sanders Jerry Holt	D. Christenbury Karen Conley
Greeters	Worth Gordon Cathryn Harrell	Diane & Sandy Skelton	Annabelle Hurd Lois Karcher	Becky & Scott Petersen
Cart Drivers	Jill Owen	Jason Blackwell	Kathryn Whitten	Scott Bell
Videography (Service)	Jennifer Shelton	N/A	N/A	David Burge
Videography (Formation)			BJ McKee	
Altar Guild	Candace Lewis Kathy Newbold Elaine Harris (Sat.)	Laurie Morris Becky Petersen Gibson Sims (Brass)	Brenda Hillyer Laurie Morris (Sat/ Brass)	Lynn Savage Lucie Earhart Slava Morris (Brass)
Flower Guild	Patrice German & Sandy Gulbrandsen		Elaine Howe & Virginia Rehn	
Opening Gatekeeper	Jill & Mark Owen		Jill & Mark Owen	
Closing Gatekeeper	Jonathan Fitzpatrick		Jonathan Fitzpatrick	



# 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](http://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](mailto:rector@stjohnflatrock.org)

**The Rev. Patricia Tanzer Askew**, Priest Associate: [ptaskew@gmail.com](mailto:ptaskew@gmail.com)

**The Rev. Stephen Askew**, Priest Associate: [stephenaskew@gmail.com](mailto:stephenaskew@gmail.com)

**Ed Tompkins**, Director of Music & Organist: [music@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:music@stjohnflatrock.org)

**Mims Yeargin**, Director of Parish Communication & Administration: [officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org)

**Stacy Knapp**, Financial Administrator: [finance@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:finance@stjohnflatrock.org)

**Missy Izard**, Director of Christian Education: [missy@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:missy@stjohnflatrock.org)

**Kevin Hunt**, Sexton: [sexton@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto: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 Sitnick

### 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 Tammer

**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