

# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

8:45 & 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. While we are broken and incomplete in many ways, we find God making us whole through this parish community. Fill out a card in your pew and put it in the offering plate or talk to an usher, greeter, or member of the clergy to learn more about St. John. It is wonderful to be with you today!

### Reminders for Worship

- Children of all ages are most welcome in our worship services. If parents prefer, nursery care is available for young children in the Parish House across Rutledge Drive.
- Formation for children and adults is held across the street during the 10:00 hour.
- You will find hand sanitizer in the pews and with the ushers. Please use it after the Peace and before receiving Communion.
- 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.

**Prayer List:** Just a reminder that the Sunday prayer list will be updated at the end of the quarter. On Sunday, January 5, the list will be comprised of only the names submitted or updated in December.

**Offering Envelopes** are available in the Bell Tower Entrance of the church for those who requested them for 2025. Please pick them up from the Bell Tower Entrance by January 5, 2025.

# Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:45 & 11:00am

**PRELUDE:** Antiphon III

Marcel Dupré

**Welcome & Announcements**

**ENTRANCE HYMN:** No. 56 O come, O come, Emmanuel  
vv. 1-4

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

## THE WORD OF GOD

**Acclamation & Response**

BCP p. 323

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;

*People* **His mercy endureth for ever.**

*The Celebrant says*

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

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**KYRIE**

Hymnal S-91

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

## The Collect of the Day

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
 from you shall come forth for me  
 one who is to rule in Israel,  
 whose origin is from of old,  
 from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
 then the rest of his kindred shall return  
 to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
 in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
 to the ends of the earth;  
 and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle 3: The Song of Mary**

*Magnificat*

*The Canticle is read in unison at 8:45am and sung by the choir at 11:00am (Tone III, Solemn Form).*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded \*  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth \*  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, \*  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \*  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, \*  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

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: Hebrews 10:5-10**

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.  
Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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. 265 The angel Gabriel from heaven came

*Gabriel's Message*

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

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

*People*

**Glory be to thee, Lord Christ.**

**The Gospel:** Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise be to thee, 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. 326

**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**

Form III, BCP p. 387

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

As we journey through this season of Advent, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*Leader* Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

*People* **That we all may be one.**

*Leader* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

*People* **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

*Leader* We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*People* **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

*Leader* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*People* **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

*Leader* Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*People* **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

*Leader* Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

*People* **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

*Leader* Give to the departed [*especially \_\_\_\_*] eternal rest.

*People* **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Leader* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*People* **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

*The Leader continues*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others; for Bob, Dottie, Betsy, Margaret, John, Hal, Chuck, Laurie, Marcia, Slava, Sandy and Ginny, Stephanie, David, Christina, Mari, Amanda, Mary, Jean Ann, Stephen, Katherine, Harriet, Randall, Dick, Tawana, Louise, Ann, Michael, Patty, John, Parker, Patsy, Marilyn, and Daniel. Are there others?

*The people may add their own petitions silently or aloud.*

*The Celebrant offers a concluding Collect.*



*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let humbly us confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A Minister may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

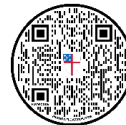
*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*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 What is the Crying at Jordan?  
11:00 People, Look East

Irish Melody  
Besançon Carol Melody  
arr. Malcolm Archer

Text by Eleanor Farjeon

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table.  
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way.  
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.  
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look East, and sing today: love the Star is on the way.  
Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow

*Old 100<sup>th</sup>*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I, BCP p. 333

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and says*

*People* The Lord be with you.  
*Celebrant* **And with thy spirit.**  
*People* Lift up your hearts.  
*Celebrant* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
*People* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*Celebrant* **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

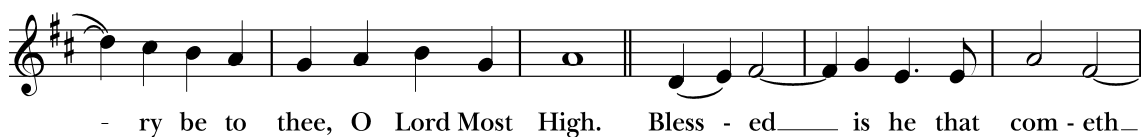
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places,  
give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

## SANCTUS

Hymnal S-114



*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or 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.*

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for

you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ’s holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*The following or some other suitable anthem said here*

*Celebrant* O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*People* **have mercy upon us.**

*Celebrant* O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*People* **have mercy upon us.**

*Celebrant* O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*People* **grant us thy peace.**

*The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer*

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*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 singing a hymn while the congregation receives the Sacrament. Following the choir's hymn, please join in as we sing the Communion Hymn together.*

**COMMUNION HYMN:** No. 267 Praise we the Lord this day

*St. George*

## **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.**

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

BCP p. 339

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

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

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL HYMN:** No. 56 O come, O come Emmanuel  
vv. 5-8

*Veni, veni Emmanuel*

## **The Dismissal**

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

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** Fugue on the Magnificat

Johann Pachelbel

# O Come, Let Us Adore Him

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

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 22**

#### **Holy Eucharist, Rite I**

8:45 and 11:00am in the Church

#### **Formation: Greening the Graves**

10:05-10:55am in the Churchyard

*Join us for this special service during which we place the sprays we have made on the graves of those who were enslaved who are buried in our churchyard.*

**The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 through Wednesday, January**

**1. We will open again on Thursday, January 2!**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

#### **Festival Eucharist, Rite II**

5:00 and 10:30pm in the Church

*No nursery care available. Children are always welcome in worship!*

*Our Special Christmas Offering this year will go to support hurricane recovery efforts at Lake Logan, our Diocesan camp and conference center. On September 27, the storm caused a massive movement of boulders, rocks, trees, sand, mud, and debris all over this campus, which has been formative for many Episcopalians in Western North Carolina. While Lake Logan has had a handful of volunteer workdays and donations coming in to repair the damage, they continue to need assistance to restore the waterfront, which has totally changed shape and now contains sandbars that make it less safe for summer campers and year-round guests. All cash, as well as designated check and online donations from this service and from the Christmas service will go to Lake Logan as they rebuild back stronger than ever.*

### **CHRISTMAS DAY | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25**

#### **Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

11:00am in the Church

*No nursery care available. Children are always welcome in worship!*

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS | DECEMBER 29

## Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:45 and 11:00am in the Church

## Christmas Potluck Feast

5:00pm in the Wilderness Room

*Join us for a chance to enjoy good food and great company as we continue the spirit of the season together. Whether the holidays have been busy, quiet, or somewhere in between, we'd love for you to join us in celebrating the love of Christ that continues to shine brightly this season and always. Bring a dish to share if you can, but most importantly, bring yourself. There's always a seat at the table for you. **Please RSVP at [bit.ly/SJWChristmasPotluck](https://bit.ly/SJWChristmasPotluck) or by using the QR code to the right.***



**All end-of-year giving must be received by the Parish Office no later than December 31.** Thank you for giving so generously to God's work at St. John in the Wilderness in 2024!

# TWELFTH NIGHT | SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

## Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:45 and 11:00am in the Church

## 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 | MONDAY, JANUARY 6

## Feast & Celebrate at Kanuga

5:00-8:00pm

471 Kanuga Chapel Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739

*Celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with the Hendersonville Deanery at Kanuga! The event begins with Eucharist in the chapel, followed by a delicious potluck where Kanuga will provide the main entrée. Guests are invited to bring a side dish to share. After that, enjoy star-themed crafts, a mobile planetarium, stargazing, and a candlelight labyrinth walk. **Register at [bit.ly/KanugaEpiphany2025](https://bit.ly/KanugaEpiphany2025) or by using the QR code to the right.***





**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: Bob Sundeen, Dottie Dalzell, Betsy Thagard, Margaret Barker, John Flowers, Hal Reid, Chuck King, Laurie Staples, Marcia Jacobs, Slava Morris, Sandy and Ginny MacNeil, Stephanie, David, Christina, Mari Alper, Amanda Swan, Mary McCarty, Jean Ann Rushton, Stephen Bruno, Katherine Gee, Harriet Huiet, Randall, Dick Zecher, Tawana Gibbs, Louise, Ann Stringfield, Michael Jeffery, Patty Vint, John Taylor, Parker Mattern, Patsy Boehmer, Marilyn Jones, and Daniel Mieras.

**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, E.R. Haire, Art Mack, Bill Taylor, and Dick Zecher.

**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

### Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22

### First Sunday after Christmas Day December 29

	8:45am	11:00am	8:45am	11:00am
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Tom Bullard Mark Delk	Ada Fitzpatrick Mark Delk	Sandra Jeffery	E.R. Haire, Jr.
<b>Acolytes</b>	Laura Teel	Anita Reid	Susan Rex	Stan Rogan
<b>Ushers</b>	Stu Holcombe Marlin Sanders	Hilton Swing Ned Curtis	Clint Adams George Grzenda	Bettie Orr Karen Conley
<b>Greeters</b>	Cathryn Harrell Lois Karcher	Charlie Hart Greyson Williams	Cathryn Harrell Worth Gordon	Patty Vint
<b>Cart Drivers</b>	BJ McKee & George Grzenda	Scott Bell	Marlin Sanders	Jason Blackwell
<b>Videography</b> <i>(Service)</i>	E. Wiescholak	N/A	BJ McKee	N/A
<b>Videography</b> <i>(Formation)</i>	N/A		N/A	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Sandra Jeffery Lynne Miller Michael Jeffery <i>(Brass)</i> Jan Tanner	Susan Gibbs Diane Skelton	Brenda Hillyer Rick Rehn <i>(Brass)</i>	Laurie Morris Sally Hopper Virginia Rehn <i>(Sat.)</i>
<b>Flower Guild</b>			All Flower Guild Members	
<b>Opening Gatekeeper</b>	George Grzenda & BJ McKee		George Grzenda & BJ McKee	
<b>Closing Gatekeeper</b>	Jim Gibbs		Jim Gibbs	

### Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24

### Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25

	5:00pm	10:30pm	11:00am
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Bill Taylor	Bill Taylor	E.R. Haire, Jr.
<b>Acolytes</b>	Nora Williams	Laura Teel	Elaine Howe
<b>Ushers</b>	George Grzenda David Christenbury	Clint Adams Debby Staton	Kip Shearon Bettie Orr
<b>Greeters</b>	Lynne Miller Worth Gordon	Becky & Scott Petersen	Diane & Sandy Skelton
<b>Cart Drivers</b>	John Knapp	N/A	Jill Owen
<b>Videography</b> <i>(Service)</i>	BJ McKee	N/A	Joey Popp
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Candace Lewis Kathy Newbold Sandra Jeffery <i>(Brass)</i>	Laurie Morris Rick Rehn <i>(Mon./Brass)</i> Elaine Harris <i>(Mon.)</i> Lynn Redmond <i>(Mon.)</i>	Cathryn Harrell & Helper
<b>Flower Guild</b>	All Flower Guild Members		All Flower Guild Members
<b>Opening Gatekeeper</b>	Kevin Hunt		Kevin Hunt
<b>Closing Gatekeeper</b>	Clergy		Kevin Hunt



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

PO Box 185, 1905 Greenville Highway, 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. Ian Williams**, Curate: [ian@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:ian@stjohnflatrock.org)

**The Rev. Deacon Sandy Rex**, Deacon: [cwrexiii@rmmidwest.com](mailto:cwrexiii@rmmidwest.com)

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

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

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

## VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden: Jerry Holt  
Junior Warden: Will Rodriguez

2024

E.R. Haire, Jr.  
Marisa Pharr  
Kim Sanders  
Clint Adams

2025

Laura Teel  
Patrice German

2026

Jim Gibbs  
Jill Owen  
Jon Fitzpatrick  
Sandy Skelton

## PARISH OFFICERS

Margaret Barker, Clerk of the Vestry  
Tom Griswold, Treasurer

## STANDING COMMITTEES

**Buildings and Grounds Committee:** Jerry Tanner

**By Laws, Canons & Insurance:** Jim Olson

**Christian Formation:**

**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:** Jerry Holt

## OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

**Acolytes:** Betsy Tibbs

**Altar Guild:** Cathryn Harrell, Laurie Morris

**Chefs of St. John:** Jim Vint

**Churchyard Trustees:** Pete Petersen

**Docents:** Polly Morrice & Scott Bell

**Endowment Trustees:** Ned Curtis

**Episcopal Church Women:** Carmen Curtis, Elizabeth Christenbury

**Flower Guild:** Patrice German

**Flower Memorials:** Gaston Motes

**Funeral Reception Ministry:** Brenda Hillyer

**Gatekeepers:** Dick Zecher

**Golf Cart Ministry:** Jill Owen

**Good News Gardeners:** Kathryn Whitten, Luann Ham

**Greeters:** Betsy Tibbs

**Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee:** John Barker

**Holy Hikes-WNC:** Cynthia Easterling

**Lay Readers:** Mark Delk

**Meal Ministry:** Janelle Walker

**Needle Work Ministry:** Judy Petersen

**Newsletter Editor:** Mims Yeargin

**Sustainability:** Elizabeth Christenbury

**Ushers:** Clint Adams, Bettie Orr

**Visitor Ministry:** The Revs. Patricia Tanzer Askew and Stephen Askew

**Wedding Coordinator:** Elaine Howe