

# The Third Sunday of Advent: A Service of Lessons & Carols

December 14, 2025

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. 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.

**Offering Envelopes** are available in the Bell Tower Entrance of the church for those who requested them for 2026.

**Prayer List:** Just a reminder that the Sunday prayer list will be updated at the end of the quarter. On Sunday, January 4, the list will be comprised of only the names submitted or updated in December. To add or update a name to the prayer list, visit [stjohnflatrock.org/prayer-list](http://stjohnflatrock.org/prayer-list).

# O Come, Let Us Adore Him

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

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 14**

**Advent Lessons & Carols** (8:45 and 11:00am in the Church)

**Formation: Spray Assembly** (10:05-10:55am in the Parish Hall)

*Join us to create sprays of greenery to honor the people who were enslaved and freed who are buried in our churchyard.*

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 21**

**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.*

<p><b>The Parish Office will be closed Wednesday, December 24 through Friday, January 2. We will open again on Monday, January 5!</b></p>
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### **CHRISTMAS EVE | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**Festival Eucharist, Rite II** (5:00 and 10:30pm in the Church)

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

### **CHRISTMAS DAY | THURSDAY, 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 28

**Holy Eucharist, Rite II** (10:00am 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 by scanning the QR code or at [bit.ly/SJWxmaspotluck2025](https://bit.ly/SJWxmaspotluck2025).***

**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 2025!

## 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.***

# A Service of Advent Lessons & Carols

8:45 & 11:00am

**PRELUDE:** Two settings of *Es ist ein Ros*

Johannes Brahms and  
Peter Pindar Stearns

## Welcome & Announcements

**MATIN RESPONSORY:** I Look from Afar

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina  
arr. Richard Shephard

*The choir sings the Matin Responsory.*

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.  
Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?  
High and low, rich and poor, one with another. Go ye out to meet him and say:  
Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.  
Tell us, art thou he that should come?  
Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.  
Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

*All stand.*

**HYMN:** No. 76 On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry

*Winchester New*

## The Bidding and Lord's Prayer

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*All sit for the reading of the lessons.*

**First Lesson:** Genesis 3:1-15, 17-19

Kitty Olson (8:45)

Jon Fitzpatrick (11:00)

*Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree

about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,'  
cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.  
By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread  
until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken;  
you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The Word of the Lord.

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

**ANTHEM:** Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

Tallis Canon/arr. Simon Andrews

Text: anonymous

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.  
His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.  
For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.  
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

**Second Lesson:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

John Barker (8:45)

Bill Taylor (11:00)

*A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts.*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

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

*All stand.*

**HYMN:** No. 81 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

*Es ist ein Ros*

*All sit.*

**Third Lesson:** Isaiah 35:1-10

Donna Brombacher (8:45)

Ned Curtis (11:00)

*The desert blooms as God's people return from exile.*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,

and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;

no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return

and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

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



Text: Carol McClure, based on Isaiah 35

Desert, blossom as a Rose Rising, radiant as it grows,  
All arrayed in crimson show; Come to us, O God of Hope.  
Thirsty land, become a stream, Flowing fountain, calm, serene.  
Clear cascade from heaven above; Come to us, O God of Love.  
Weakened hands, be now made strong; Silent tongues, break forth in song;  
Blinded eyes, your sight employ; Come to us, O God of Joy.  
Soon a pathway shall be found, For the faithful, Holy Ground;  
Safe from angry, warring beast, Come to us, O God of Peace.  
Sing God's praise, Jerusalem; Hope, joy, love, and peace shall come;  
Sorrow, sighing now dispel; Come to us, Emmanuel.  
King of Glory, Soul of Bliss, Everlasting life is this:  
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Thus to sing, and thus to love!  
Alleluia.

**Fourth Lesson:** Isaiah 40:1-11

The Rev. Patricia Tanzer Askew (8:45)

Diane Skelton (11:00)

*God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.*

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass;  
    their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers; the flower fades,  
    when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
    surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers; the flower fades,  
    but the word of our God will stand forever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
    O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
    O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
    lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
    “Here is your God!”  
See, the Lord God comes with might,  
    and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him  
    and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
    he will gather the lambs in his arms  
and carry them in his bosom  
    and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*   **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

**HYMN:** No. 67   Comfort, comfort ye my people

*Psalm 42 (Freu dich sehr)*

*All sit.*

**Fifth Lesson:** Zephaniah 3:14-18

George Grzenda (8:45)

Ed Tompkins (11:00)

*The Lord will be among us; we are summoned to rejoice and sing.*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
    shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
    O daughter Jerusalem!  
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;  
    he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.”  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

The Word of the Lord.

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

**ANTHEM:** Prepare the Way of the Lord

William Rowan

Text: Isaiah 40:4-5

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight his path.  
Every valley shall be exalted, every hill made low;  
And the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it together.  
Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight his path.

*Jesus describes John the Baptist as the messenger.*

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Word of the Lord.

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

*All stand.*

**HYMN:** No. 104 A stable lamp is lighted

*Andujar*

**Seventh Lesson:** Luke 1:26-38

The Rev. Josh Stephens

*The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.

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

*All sit.*

**ANTHEM:** People, Look East

arr. Malcolm Archer

Text: 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.

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

**A Prayer for Those Celebrating  
Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries in December**

BCP, p. 830

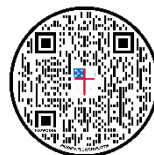
Prayer 50

*Included in our prayers are those who receive visits from our Visitor Ministry: Jane Mildren (Dec. 11).*

**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 Offertory**

*The Celebrant shares an offertory sentence. The congregation may be seated as the ushers pass the offering plates. Online gifts may be made using the QR code to the right.*



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Taylor Davis

Text: Charles Wesley

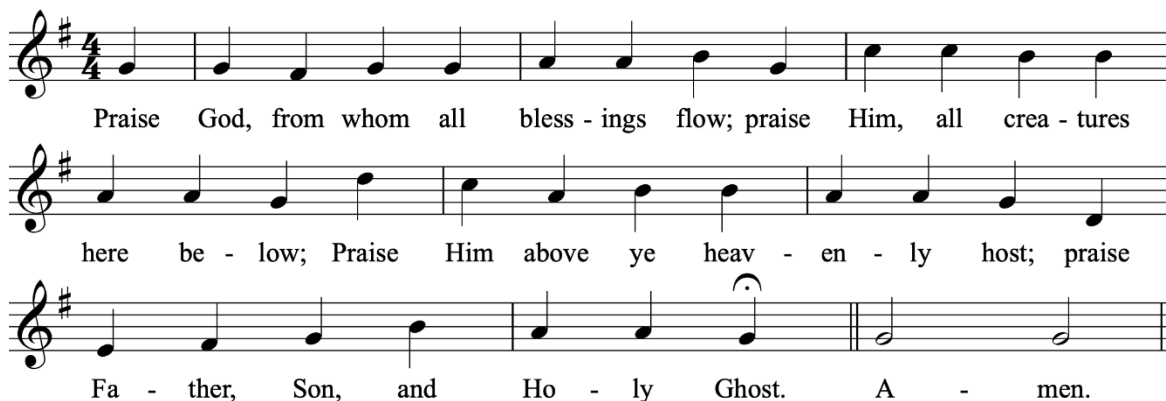
Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

*The congregation stands as the ushers bring the gifts of the congregation forward.*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Doxology

*The Eighth Tune (Tallis Canon)*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Him, all crea - tures  
here be - low; Praise Him above ye heav - en - ly host; praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## Vesper Responsory

<i>Priest</i>	Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed.
<i>People</i>	<b>Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.</b>
<i>Priest</i>	Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<b>Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.</b>
<i>Priest</i>	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
<i>People</i>	<b>Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.</b>

*All keep silence for a time.*

## Collect

*Priest* We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.

*People* **In the midst of thy temple.**

*Priest* Let us pray.

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

## The Blessing

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

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL HYMN:** No. 57 Lo, He comes with clouds descending

*Helmsley*

## 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:** Rhapsody on *Helmsley*

William Lloyd Webber

# **THE PARISH CHOIR OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS**

## **SOPRANO**

Cynthia Easterling  
Laurie Morris  
Polly Morrice  
Patrice German  
Candace Lewis  
Lucy Hoyt

## **ALTO**

Liz Carson  
Elizabeth Christenbury  
Kathy Newbold  
Penny Amerman  
Rita Antonelli  
Lori Griswold

## **TENOR**

Doug Olson  
Micah Arms  
Will Rodriguez

## **BASS**

Hop Potter  
Joey Popp  
Max Moorehead  
Will Trotter  
Tom Griswold  
Bob Jenkins







**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, and Robert Odean.

**The Altar Flowers** are given in loving memory of The Reverend & Mrs. J.R. Little and Albert & S. Lee Moreno, *by their family.*

**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 Third Sunday of Advent December 14		The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21	
	8:45am	11:00am	8:45am	11:00am
Lay Readers	Kitty Olson John Barker D. Brombacher Patricia T. Askew George Grzenda Stephen Askew	Jon Fitzpatrick Bill Taylor Ned Curtis Diane Skelton Ed Tompkins Ada Fitzpatrick	Sandra Jeffery	Will Rodriguez
Acolytes	Jasmine Pharr	Beau Singletary	Jasmine Pharr	Stan Rogan Arlo Stephens Emily Ann Caldwell
Ushers	Marlin Sanders Jerry Holt	D. Christenbury Karen Conley	George Grzenda Clint Adams	John Knapp D. Christenbury
Greeters	Annabelle Hurd Lois Karcher	Carmen & Ned Curtis	Lynne Miller Judy Petersen	Carmen & Ned Curtis
Cart Drivers	Kathryn Whitten	John Knapp	Mark Owen	Nancy Cooper
Videography (Service)	BJ McKee	N/A	E. Wiescholek	N/A
Videography (Formation)	N/A – Spray Assembly in Parish Hall		N/A – Greening the Graves	
Altar Guild	Brenda Hillyer Laurie Morris (Sat./Brass)	Anne Hobbs Lucie Earhart Slava Morris (Brass)	Cathryn Harrell BJ McKee Jim Cooper (Brass)	Diane Skelton Becky Petersen
Flower Guild	Elaine Howe & Virginia Rehn		Advent Evergreens	
Opening Gatekeeper	BJ McKee & George Grzenda		BJ McKee & George Grzenda	
Closing Gatekeeper	Sandy Skelton		Sandy Skelton	



# 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

Jerry Holt, *Senior Warden*

Jim Cooper, *Junior Warden*

### 2025

Kim Sanders

Patrice German

Laura Teel

### 2026

Jill Owen

Jon Fitzpatrick

Jim Gibbs

Sandy Skelton

### 2027

Kitty Olson

Catherine Popp

Steve Sittnick

## 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:** Elizabeth Christenbury & Cava Sittnick

**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:** The Revs. Stephen Askew & Patricia Tanzer Askew

**Wedding Coordinator:** Elaine Howe