

A Service of Advent Lessons & Carols Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

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.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

(Established 1836)
Flat Rock, North Carolina

Welcome and Reminders

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

- We are asking everyone to wear a mask in Sunday worship at least through January, and we encourage mask wearing for other indoor church activities.
- If you find out that you have COVID-19 and that you might have brought it to this service, please call the church office and ask for the Rector.
- 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.

Liturgical Reminders: During Advent and Lent, we use the more traditional Rite I liturgy. Rite II will return beginning on Christmas Eve. You can find a Christmas worship schedule in the back of the bulletin.

Prayer List: Just a reminder that the Sunday Prayer List will be updated at the end of December. On Sunday, January 2, the list will be comprised of one the names submitted since December 1. To submit prayer requests, please email officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org or visit www.stjohnflatrock.org/prayer-list. Please note that adding someone to the list is not a request for pastoral care. Contact Fr. Josh directly to request a pastoral care visit.

Christmas Flowers: Donations are now being accepted to fill our church with poinsettias on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the first Sunday after Christmas. Donations may be made as a memoriam or an honorarium, and gifts will be acknowledged in the service bulletins on these days. Please indicate your preference (in memory/honor of) and the name(s) when you donate. Checks may be made out to St. John with "Christmas flowers" in the memo line and dropped off in or mailed to the office.

A SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 8:45 and 11:00am

PRELUDE: An Advent Prelude

Charles Callahan

Matin Responsory

Priest 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:
People Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
Priest High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
People Go ye out to meet him and say:
Priest Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
People Tell us, art thou he that should come?
Priest Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.
All Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

HYMN: Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes

Richmond

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - oners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the wound - ed
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long! Let ev - ery heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

*Text: Philip Doddridge, 1735; based on Isaiah 61:1-2
 Tune: Thomas Hayes, 1792; adapt. Samuel Webbe, 1808; desc. Craig S. Lang, 1891-1971.
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CM
 RICHMOND

The Bidding & 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.

The Prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile.

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 people 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 people are 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 work of our God will stand forever.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand as they are able.

HYMN: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.
 Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

The congregation may be seated.

Second Lesson: Jeremiah 23:5-6

Jennifer Shelton, 8:45
 Elizabeth Christenbury, 11:00

The Lord promises to send his people a righteous King.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: Come, Thou Dear Redeemer

César Franck

Candace Lewis, soprano

Will Rodriguez, tenor

Text adapted from a hymn by Charles Wesley

Come Thou, dear Redeemer. Come Lord Jesus to set us free,
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Hope of all the earth Thou are. Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Come Thou, dear Redeemer born a Child, yet Thou art a King.
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
Rule in all our hearts alone, raise us to Thy glorious throne. Amen.

Third Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-10

Dick Zecher, 8:45

Bill Taylor, 11:00

The Lord promises that the King will come to Israel in peace.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: Daughter of Zion

G. F. Handel

Text by Johann Eschenburg

Daughter of Zion, shout for joy! Shout aloud, Jerusalem!
Lo, thy King now comes to thee, yea, He comes, the Prince of Peace.
Hail, hosanna, David's Son, be Thou welcome, gracious King!
Firmly stands Thy throne of peace, Thou, the Father's only Son!

Fourth Lesson: Haggai 2:6-9

John Barker, 8:45

Ginger Quarles, 11:00

The Prophet foretells the advent of the desire of all nations.

For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of

hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: Blest Be the God of Israel

Michael Burkhardt

Joey Popp, tenor
Text by Michael A. Perry

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.

God from the house of David a child of grace is giv'n;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heav'n.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease.

Fifth Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-6

Dewitt Tipton

The Prophet foretells the glory of the kingdom of God.

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 singing. 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 unstopped; 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 Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: from MESSIAH

G. F. Händel

Lori Griswold, mezzo-soprano
Laura Thiel, soprano

Recitative: Then shall the eyes of the blind

Text from Isaiah 35:5, 6

Aria: He shall feed his flock like a shepherd

Text from Isaiah 9:11

Aria: Come unto Him, all ye that labour

Text from Matthew 9:28, 29

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd, and He shall gather the lambs with His arm,
and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, ye that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest.
Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart,
and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Sixth Lesson: St. Luke 1:26-35, 38

Dn. Sandy Rex

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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." 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.

ANTHEM: Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly

Robert J. Powell

Text by Ronald Palmer

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly, Virgin Mother undefiled.
Sing of God's own Son most holy, who became her little child.
Fairest Child of fairest Mother, God the Lord who came to earth,
Word made flesh, our very brother, takes our nature by his birth.

Sing of Jesus, Son of Mary, in the home at Nazareth.
Toil and labor cannot weary Love enduring unto death.
Constant was the love he gave her, though he went forth from her side,
forth to preach, and heal, and suffer, till on Calvary he died.

Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son;
Glory be to God the spirit; Glory to the Three in One.
From the heart of blessed Mary, from all saints the song ascends,
and the Church the strain reechoes unto earth's remotest ends.

All stand as they are able for the seventh lesson.

Seventh Lesson: Mark 1:1-15

Fr. Josh Stephens

Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah. "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me: I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and

saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation may be seated.

ANTHEM: O come, O come, Immanuel

Natalie Sleeth

The Parish Choir

O come, O come, Immanuel, come now to earth and with Thy people dwell,
The world awaits from heav'n a holy sign, O come and show to us the light divine.

O come, O come, Immanuel, as age to age the prophets did foretell;
Redeemer, come to save us one and all, be born again in Bethl'hem's manger stall.

For Thy coming we prepare, wisdom from on high,
Gracious Spirit, Lord most fair: now to us draw nigh.

O come, O come, Immanuel, and free Thy children, Israel,
Be now our hope, our comfort from above, and bless us all with everlasting love.

All stand as they are able.

Vesper Responsory

Priest Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed.

People **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.**

Priest Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.

People **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.**

Priest Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

People **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.**

A period of silence is kept.

Collect

Priest We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.

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

Priest Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming, grant that we, who with joy receive thy only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. ***Amen.***



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920) Copyright ©1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt. Copyright ©1930 by permission of Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Prayers of the People

During this season of Advent, let us pray with anticipation for the Church and for the world, as we look for the coming of our Savior.

Silence

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
 Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; We remember especially the victims of natural disasters in the mid-West; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We especially pray for Chuck, Vanessa, Joanne, Tom, Susie and Rosie, Katherine, Lois, Dave and Nancy, Kristi, Mary, Mackenzie, JoAnn, Helen, Dianne, Mary, Ann, Herb, Alex, John, Sandy, Kay, Barbara, and Stewart. Are there others?

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says the following, or else the Exhortation on page 316

Let us humbly 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 Exchange of Peace

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.

Dedication of Traveling Communion Kits

As the ushers and members of the congregation bring forward the elements for Communion, Lay Eucharistic Visitors or other parishioners also bring to the altar new communion kits to be blessed. The acolyte will give the offering plates to the ushers and then place the bread, water, and wine on the altar. The acolyte will then place the Communion Kits on the altar. The members of the congregation return to their seats. The ushers close the altar rail and then step into the choir for the blessing and offertory sentence.

Celebrant We are gathered in the name of the risen Christ who is present to us in the Holy Eucharist which we share. Through Christ, we are knit together as God's beloved children. When members of this body cannot be present to share in the sacrament, we are compelled by God's grace to bring Holy Communion to house, hospital, and nursing home. Let us, therefore, share in dedicating these vessels for this ministry.

Celebrant Taste and see that the Lord is good.

People **Happy are they who trust in him.**

Celebrant The cup of blessing which we bless is a sharing in the Blood of Christ.

People **The bread which we break is a sharing in the Body of Christ.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Grant that all who receive the holy Mysteries from these vessels, which we now consecrate for use in your Church, may be sustained by his presence and enjoy for ever his heavenly benediction; who lives and reigns in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Offertory

The ushers pass the offering plates and present the gifts of the congregation at the Lord's table.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Text by Charles Wesley

Taylor Davis

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

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Praise God from whom all blessings flow Old 100th
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer I, Alternative Form

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

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them up unto the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
<i>People</i>	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.

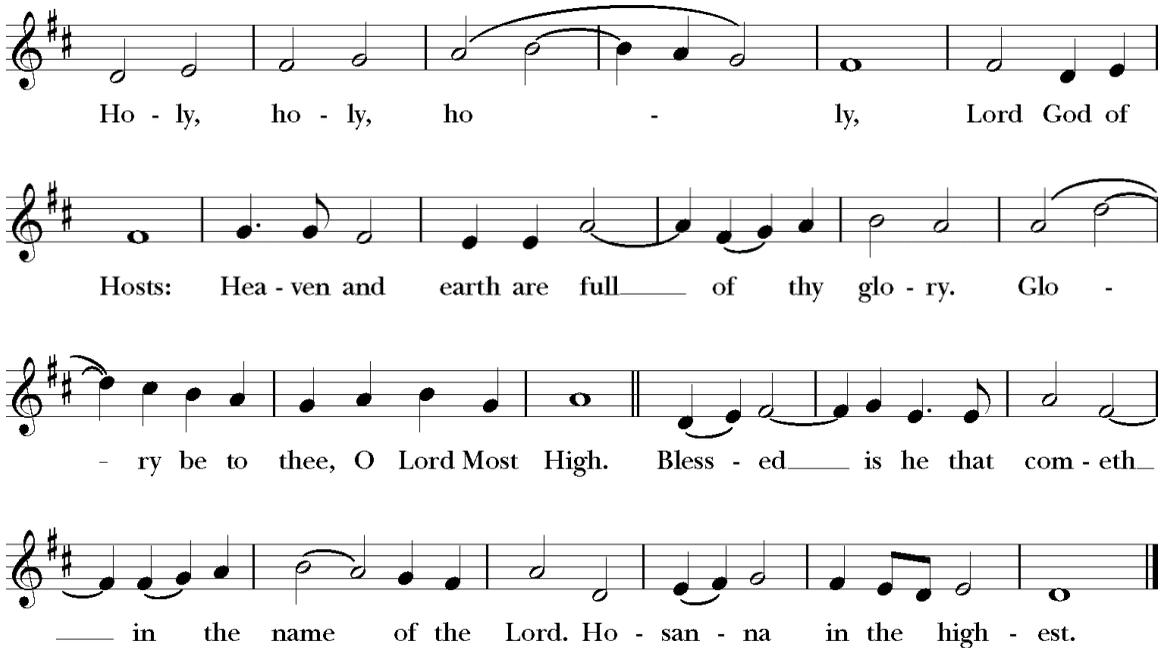
Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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

BCP, page 334 or Hymnal S-114

The people kneel or stand.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Then may be sung or said

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

The following or some other suitable anthem may be sung or 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,
Celebrant **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 may say 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. We are not drinking from the chalice or practicing intinction, but the chalice will be presented to you visually and verbally. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION HYMN: Once he came in blessing

Gottes Sohn ist kommen



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.



came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:
but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;



bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.
he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.
let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

Words: Jan Roh (1485?-1547); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*, melody Michael Weisse (d. 1534); harm. Jack W. Burnam (b. 1946) Copyright ©1984, Jack W. Burnam. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Sending Out of Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant With whom will you share this communion?

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

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

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

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives 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.

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: O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

The image shows a musical score for the Dismissal Hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff. The lyrics are: 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive; 2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine; 3. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things; 4. O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one.

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by Thine
3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; fill

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 cause us in her ways to go. go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 all the world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin hymn; tr. John Mason Neale (sts. 1, 2), 1851;
 Henry Sloane Coffin (sts. 3, 4), 1916
 MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM with refrain

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, may dismiss the people with these words
 Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
 People Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Prayers of the People is that part of our liturgy which offers particular intercessions and thanksgivings to God. Worshipers, 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:** Vanessa Wittman, Joanne Adams, Tom Joiner, Susie and Rosie, Katherine Gee, Lois Karcher, Dave and Nancy VonHolle, Kristi, Mary McCarty, Mackenzie Nosra, JoAnn Ebbs, Mary Stroman, Dianne Nowak, Ann Stringfield, Helen Aschenbrener, Chuck King, Herb Quarles, Alex King, John Gulbrandsen, Sandy Bernreuter, Kay Arnold, and Barbara Mendel.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in loving memory of Wesley Welborn Smith, by Gayle & Bill McHaffie and Megan & John Durlach.

TO OUR VISITORS! We welcome you with all our hearts! You are also invited to come forward at the time of Communion to receive a blessing or the Sacrament. All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive Communion, including infants and children. 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!

WE GIVE THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR MINISTRY TO OUR CHURCH

	December 19, 2021		December 26, 2021	
	8:45	11:00	11:00	
Lay Readers	Dick Zecher Mary & Jennifer Shelton John Barker Dewitt Tipton	Bill Taylor Julianna Savage Elizabeth Christenbury Ginger Quarles Dewitt Tipton	Will Rodriguez Laura Shelton E.R. Haire, Jr. Susan MacDonald Candace Lewis Ginger Quarles Dewitt Tipton	
Acolyte	Jasmine Pharr	Julianna Savage	Jennifer Shelton	
Ushers	Jodi & Bob Sundeen	John Knapp Bettie Orr	Hilton Swing Tom Savage	
Greeters	Dottie Dalzell Bonni Spry	Vickie Taylor Jan Knapp	Susan Rex	
Cart Driver	George Grzenda BJ McKee	Jerry Beschta	Scott Bell	
Eucharistic Visitors	Dick Zecher		Margaret Barker Jim Holt	Mike Covell Clint Adams
Altar Guild	Robin Howe Cathryn Harrell	Sharon Johnston Vickie & Bill Taylor	Susan Gibbs Gibson Sims	Beth Melton
Opening Gatekeeper	George Grzenda & BJ McKee		George Grzenda & BJ McKee	
Closing Gatekeeper	Shelley Shiro		Shelley Shiro	
Flower Guild	Elaine Howe		All Flower Guild Members	

Holiday Worship Schedule

Services are in the church unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, December 19, 8:45 & 11am	Advent Lessons & Carols, Rite I with Eucharist
Friday, December 24, 5 & 10:30pm	Christmas Eve Services, Rite II with Eucharist
Saturday, December 25, 11am	Christmas Day Service, Rite II with Eucharist
Sunday, December 26, 11am	Christmas Lessons & Carols <i>*Note: No 8:45 service on this date.</i>
Sunday, January 2, 8:45 & 11am	Rite II with Eucharist
Thursday, January 6, 12pm in the Parish Hall	Epiphany Service, Rite II with Eucharist <i>*We will bless altar hangings at this service.</i>

Please note the following schedule changes:

Nursery: Nursery care will be unavailable December 24 through January 2.

Parish Office: The office will be closed on December 24, 27, 28, and 31.

Services: There will be no Wednesday Healing Service or Evening Prayer on December 29.

Ministry Schedules for Christmas Eve and Day

	December 24, 2021		December 25, 2021
	5:00pm	10:30pm	11:00am
Lay Readers	Susan MacDonald	E.R. Haire, Jr.	Bill Taylor
Acolyte	Mackenzie Savage	Abby Stephens	Abby Stephens
Torchbearers	Julianna Savage Mary Shelton		
Ushers	Greg Newbold John Knapp	Karen Conley Debby Staton	Bettie Orr Clint Adams
Greeters	Susan Rex		Vickie Taylor
Cart Driver	Jerry Beschta		Scott Bell
Altar Guild	Kathy Newbold	Kathy Newbold	Fr. Josh & Dn. Sandy
Flower Guild	All Flower Guild Members		All Flower Guild Members

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

In the case of a pastoral emergency, call the Parish Office and dial 4.

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

Children's Sunday School: 10:00am (during school year only) | Adult Sunday School: 10:00am

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service: Wednesdays 10:30am in the Parish Hall

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

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

The Rev. Deacon Sandy Rex, Deacon: cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com

Dewitt Tipton, Organist/Director of Music: dewitt.tipton@furman.edu

Sarah Yeargin, Director of Parish Communication and Administration: officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

Stacy Knapp, Parish Financial Assistant: finance@stjohnflatrock.org

Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Robin Howe

By Laws, Canons & Insurance: Jim Olson

Christian Formation: Mary Anne Inglis

Communications & Publicity: Joey Popp

Finance: Susan MacDonald

Historic Churchyard Committee: Ken Jones

Community Engagement, Evangelism, and Newcomers
(CEEN):

Outreach: Jennifer Shelton

Personnel: Margaret Barker

Stewardship: David Christenbury

VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden: Jennifer Shelton

Junior Warden: Jerry Tanner

2021

Jerry Tanner

Cynthia Easterling

E.R. Haire, Jr.

Shelley Schiro

2022

Terry Enslin

Marie Hyder

Gibson Sims

Dick Zecher

2023

John Barker

Elizabeth Christenbury

Jennifer Shelton

Lynn Wiescholek

PARISH OFFICERS

Margaret Barker, Clerk of the

Vestry

Tom Griswold, Treasurer

OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Acolytes: Lynn Savage

Altar Guild: Kathy Newbold, Cathryn Harrell

Chefs of St. John: Jim Vint

Churchyard Trustees: Pete Petersen

Docents: E.R. Haire, Jr.

Endowment Trustees: Tom Griswold

Episcopal Church Women: Kathy Newbold

Eucharistic Visitors: Dick Zecher

Flower Guild: Bay Chamberlain

Flower Memorials: Gaston Motes

Funeral Reception Ministry: Brenda Hillyer

Garden Guild: Jerry & Jan Tanner

Gatekeepers: Dick Zecher

Greeters: Betsy Tibbs

Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee: John Barker

Lay Readers: Susan MacDonald

Meal Ministry: Bess Tarkington Lee

Needle Work Ministry: Judy Petersen

Newsletter Editor: Sarah Yeargin

Ushers: Clint Adams, Bettie Orr

Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe