

# Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 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](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org) or visit [www.stjohnflatrock.org/prayer-list](http://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.

# Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Prelude: Prelude on "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Charles Callahan

Entrance Hymn: No. 59 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

*Descant*

2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;  
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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

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

*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 Eleison

BCP, page 324

**KYRIE ELEISON, THREEFOLD                      H. WILLAN, 1928**

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

### THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant*      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.

*People*      **Amen.**

*The people sit.*

**The First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

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.

I will deal with all your oppressors

at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

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

**Canticle 9**

**The First Song of Isaiah**

*Isaiah 12:2-6*

*The Canticle will be read in unison.*

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

BCP, page 86

*Ecce Deus*

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, \*

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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.

### The Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

### Gradual Hymn: No. 75 There's a voice in the wilderness crying

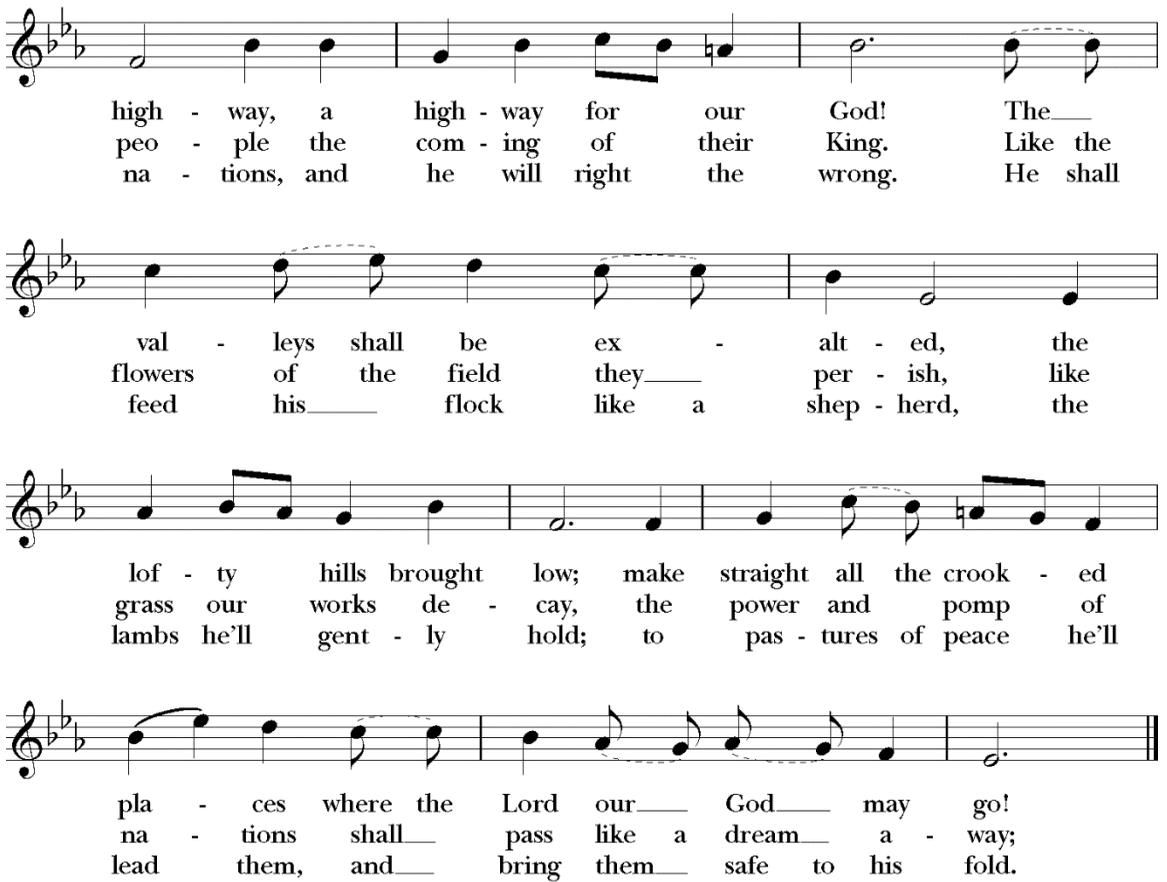
*Ascension*



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a\_\_\_\_  
2 O\_\_\_\_\_ Zi - on, that bring-est good tid - ings, get thee  
3 but the word of our God\_\_\_\_ en - du - reth, the\_\_\_\_



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst\_\_\_\_ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the  
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 flowers of the field they per - ish, like  
 feed his flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our God may go!  
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way;  
 lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (b. 1904) Copyright ©1938, Henry Hugh Bancroft. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

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

*People* Glory be to thee, Lord Christ.

**The Gospel: Luke 3:7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*After the Gospel, the Deacon says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Fr. Josh Stephens

*All stand and read in unison*

The Nicene Creed

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

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; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We especially pray for Chuck, Vanessa, Joanne, Tom, Eleanor, Susie and Rosie, Katherine, Lois, Dave and Nancy, Kristi, Mary, Mackenzie, JoAnn, Helen, Dianne, Mary, Ann, Herb, Alex, John, Sandy, Kay, and Barbara. 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.*

## **The 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.*

## The Offertory

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

Offertory Music: 8:45 Savior of the Nations, Come Johann Walther  
11:00 Blest Be the God of Israel Michael Burkhardt  
*Paraphrase of Luke 1:68-79*

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

Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;  
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.  
Before him goes the herald forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation, the messenger of Day.

Where once were fear and darkness the sun begins to rise  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,  
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace:  
O bless our God and Savior, with songs that never cease!

Offertory Response: Praise God from whom all blessings flow

*Old 100th*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### Eucharistic Prayer I

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

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

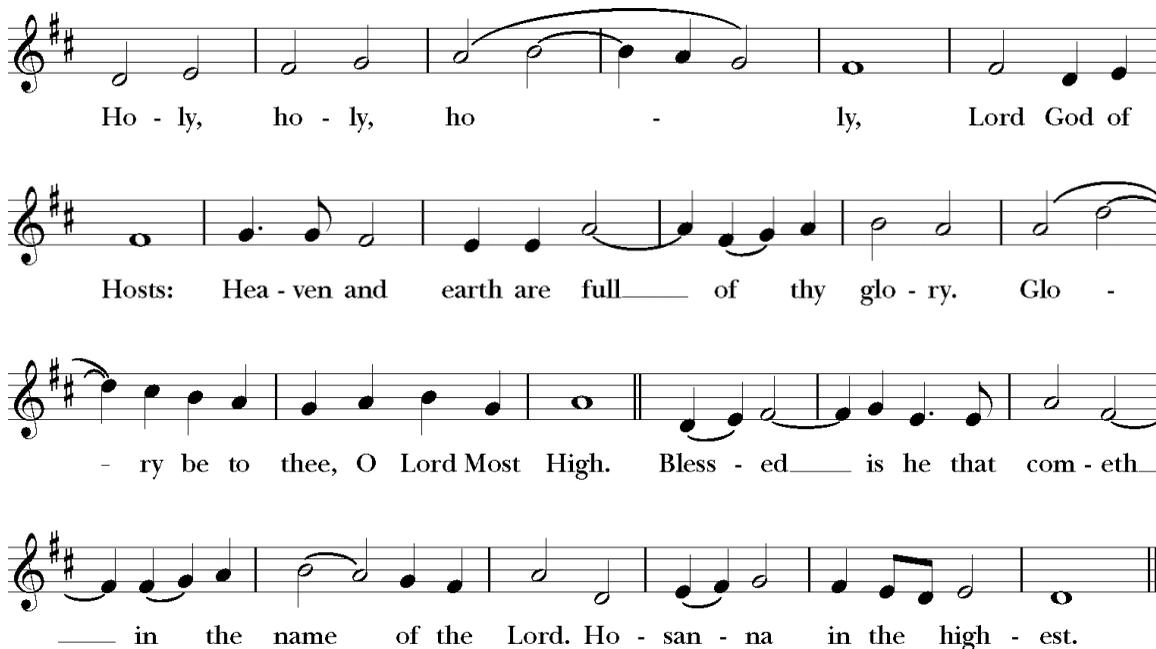
*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

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, 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.*

*Then may be sung or said*

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

*The following or some other suitable anthem may be sung or said here*

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

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

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
**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 at this time, but the chalice will be presented to you visually and verbally.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

**Communion Hymn: No. 54 Savior of the nations, come**      *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*



1	Sa - vior	of	the	na -	tions,	come!	Vir -	gin's	
2	Won -	drous	birth!	Oh,	won -	drous	child	of	the
3	Thus	on	earth	the	Word	ap -	pear,	grac -	ing
4	Come,	O	Fa -	ther's	sav -	ing	Son,	who	o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both  
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and  
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and  
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.  
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)  
 St. 3-4, Copyright ©1982, James Waring McCrady. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from  
*Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchoir Vulpinus (1560?-1616)

## 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 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. 68 Rejoice! rejoice, believers

*Llangloffan*

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The piano part features a steady accompaniment of chords and moving lines, with some dynamics like *mf* and *f*. The vocal line is a simple melody with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each corresponding to a system of music. The first system has three lines of lyrics. The second system has three lines of lyrics. The third system has three lines of lyrics. The piano part ends with a final chord in the right hand and a whole note in the left hand.

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.  
 Music: Llangloffan, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865

*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.

### Holiday Worship Schedule

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 *Note: No 8:45 service on this date.
Sunday, January 2, 8:45 & 11am	Rite II with Eucharist

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 22.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Prayers of the People is that part of our liturgy which offers particular 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:** Vanessa Wittman, Joanne Adams, Tom Joiner, Eleanor Flowers, 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.

**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 12, 2021		December 19, 2021	
	8:45	11:00	8:45	11:00
Lay Readers	Robin Howe	Candace Lewis	Dick Zecher Mary & Jennifer Shelton John Barker Dewitt Tipton	Bill Taylor Julianna Savage Elizabeth Christenbury Ginger Quarles Dewitt Tipton
Acolyte	Elaine Howe	Anita Reid		Julianna Savage
Ushers	Debby Staton George Grzenda	David Christenbury Karen Conley	Jodi & Bob Sundeen	John Knapp Bettie Orr
Greeters	Brenda Hillyer		Dottie Dalzell Bonni Spry	Vickie Taylor Jan Knapp
Cart Driver	Marlin Sanders	Tom Savage	George Grzenda BJ McKee	Jerry Beschta
Eucharistic Visitors	Dick Zecher	Mike Covell	Dick Zecher Arnold Smith	Ginger Quarles Jim Thaxton
Altar Guild	Elaine & Robin Howe	Marti Smith Sally Hopper	Robin Howe Cathryn Harrell	Sharon Johnston Vickie & Bill Taylor
Opening Gatekeeper	George Grzenda & BJ McKee		George Grzenda & BJ McKee	
Closing Gatekeeper	Shelley Shiro		Shelley Shiro	
Flower Guild	Galen Reuther & Jim Wagner		Elaine Howe	

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS  
PO Box 185, 1905 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock, NC 28731 828-693-9783  
Website: [www.stjohnflatrock.org](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org)

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

**In case of pastoral emergencies:**

Please call the Church Office and ask for the Rector. After hours, call the Church Office and press 4.

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Josh Stephens, Rector: [rector@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:rector@stjohnflatrock.org)

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

Dewitt Tipton, Organist/Director of Music: [dewitt.tipton@furman.edu](mailto:dewitt.tipton@furman.edu)

Sarah Yeargin, Director of Parish Communication and 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)

## *Gaudete!*

### 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

### 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

### 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: Contact [officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org)

Ushers: Clint Adams, Bettie Orr

Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe