

Service of Lessons and Carols

December 31, 2023



St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville

www.stjohnsparkville.org

(410) 665-1234

office@stjohnsparkville.org

Text SJPARKVILLE to 22828 to join our email list.

Welcome to St. John's—we are glad you're here! Whether you have worshiped with us many times, or this is your first time, there is a place for you here. Your presence among us is a gift.

Service of Lessons and Carols

TOLLING THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Pastoral Symphony Handel; arr. William Barnett*
(© 2002 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

GATHERING SONG *O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW 283*
(Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786, tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4;
Music: attr. John Francis Wade)

DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
By day and night he shines for all to see.
Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
that the world may see the justice and richness of God.
God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.
Jesus is the light of the world.
Jesus is the light of our lives.
Sing to God a new song!
A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness— a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.
Amen.

STAFF

Rev. Mathew Berger, Pastor mathew.berger@stjohnsparkville.org 913-634-7131	Rev. Amy Berger, Pastor amy.berger@stjohnsparkville.org 443-286-5511
Martha Requard, Director of Music	Carol Erpenstein, Office Administrator
Scott Becker, Sexton	

For emergencies call 443-844-9314
*****The Pastors are off on Fridays****



Notice of live streaming:
Today's worship service is being live streamed to YouTube with video coverage of leaders and worshippers.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18 *God created the light*

Response: I Wonder As I Wander

WOV 642

(Text and music: Appalachian carol, collected and adapted by John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980)

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ornery people like you and I.*

I wonder out under the sky.

*When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall,
came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
and high from the heavens a star's light did fall;
the promise of ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky or a bird on a wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven to sing,
he surely could have had it
Cause he was the King.*

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ornery people like you and I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

SECOND READING: Micah 5:2-5a *The king will come from Bethlehem*

Response: O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

(Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893; Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908)

THIRD READING: Luke 1:26-35, 38 *The annunciation to Mary*

Response: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW 265

(Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924; Music: Basque carol, arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943, and John Wickham; arr. © 1955, 1983 E. H. Freeman, Ltd, admin. Glenwood Music Corp.)

FOURTH READING: Matthew 1:18-25 *The birth of Jesus*

Response: That Boy-child of Mary

ELW 293

(Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000; Music: Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin; Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company)

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8-20 *The shepherds go to see the Savior*

Response: On Christmas Night

ELW 274

(Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.; Music: English traditional)

This week's schedule		
Today	10 am	Live & Online Worship
Mon.	office closed	
Tues.		
Wed.	7:30 pm	Adult Choir (Music Room)
Thurs.		
Fri.	11 am	Bible Study (Smith Building)
Sat.		

Counting our Blessings

		2023	
Sunday 12/17	Attendance: 127 Offering: \$8,357	October Offering Income	\$27,773
Longest Night Thurs. 12/21	Attendance: 24 Offering: \$190	October Other Income	\$ 1,160
Christmas Eve Sat. 12/24 10 am	Attendance: 118	October Total Income	\$28,933
Sat. 12/24 4 pm	Attendance: 48	August Expenses	\$29,790
Sat. 12/24 8:30 pm	Attendance: 144 Offering \$11,409	YTD Offering Income	\$228,200
Christmas Day Sun. 12/25	Attendance: 15 Offering: \$390	YTD Other Income	\$ 36,543
	Homebound: 17	YTD Total Income	\$264,734
		YTD Expenses	\$311,855

SIXTH READING: Matthew 2:1-11 *The magi visit the child*

Response: In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW 294

(Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894; Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934)

SEVENTH READING: John 1:1-14 *The mystery of the incarnation*

Response: Love Has Come

ELW 292

(Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950; music: F. Seguin, Recueil de noels composes en langue provencale, 1856; Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* A. Guilmant; arr. Michael Ryan

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(Offering is collected and brought forth)

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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, forever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A few notes from your Financial Secretary:

I hope everyone has been staying well!

As we continue worshipping in person and streaming online, I just wanted to send along these friendly reminders to you:

Please make sure that any final 2023 contributions you wish to make to St. John's are received by the church office no later than Sunday, December 31st. Our final count and deposit, which will include any contributions received through December 31st, will be done the morning of Tuesday, January 2nd. All contributions received in 2023 will be included on your 2023 Contribution Report. Reports will be generated and mailed to you in mid-January.

Our Simply Giving program continues to be available to you in making contributions to St. John's. If you are interested in signing up, you may do so at any time. Please feel free to send me an email at haackefamily@comcast.net or give me a call at 410-661-8970 and I will send a form to you for you to complete. If you have any questions about filling out the form or the program, please let me know. I'm happy to help.

In addition to regular envelope and Simply Giving offerings, you may give by way of credit card or Venmo through our website at www.stjohnsparkville.org. (For Venmo, you may also just enter @stjohnsparkville if you have the Venmo App.)

On behalf of St. John's Lutheran Church, thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Stay safe and enjoy the upcoming holiday season!

Debra Haacke



Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Bett & Bob Murphy, Leonard Ford, Oluseye Fowode, Robert Suznick, Barbara Mueller, Patricia Denk, Cass Tracey, Lisa Duerling, Len Steg, Joan Kraft, Mike McDonough, Mardi Nickel, Joan Swank, Andy Rother, Rosalie Coffman, Pat Hurley, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott, and Vickie Jasinski

For family & friends: Nancy, Astrid Thoericht, Donna Joseph, Lonnie Rash, Harriet Miller, Barbara Hurn, Maeve Webster, Shannon McLaughlin, John Bryan, Joe Federline, Pastor John Burk, Tiffany Webb, Mary & Barry McCain, Russell Fitch, Bonnie Franklin, Jamie Kirschner, Lily Newman, Rob Graff, Alice Evans, Trish Pizza, Betsy Shock, Joann Bayer, Norman Bayer, Sue Eid, Genevieve Byrnes, Julie Bramble, Ruth Reimschissel aka Mrs. Claus, Donna Bobloch and Yung-Mee Rhee

For the military and their families: Kalib McCann, Mason Ledbetter, Leroy Keller, Seaman E-3 Carson Anthony Bowser, Corporal Justin Ferro, Staff Sgt. Brandan Hartmann, Michael Anthony Tucker, and all those in harm's way

For St. John's Caring Friends: Patricia Becker, Agatha Biensach-Daniels, Barbara Conrad, Betty Creutzer, Margaret Eubert, June Franz, Betty Glassband, Richard Hohner, Patricia Hurley, Audrey Lentz, John Lotterer, Paul Nolder, Patrick O'Connell, Janet Roth, Kim Townsley, Cass Tracey and Emma Volz

SENDING

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshipping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, **+** Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

(Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864; Music: French carol, arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958)

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Share this good news.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

Tom Birchwood

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Announcements & Upcoming Event

Next Week— Sunday, January 7th—Baptism of Our Lord

† 9 am - Sunday School & Faith & Fellowship

† 10 am—Worship in-person and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel at stjohns.lutheran.church.parkville.md.



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in memory of my father-in-law, William H. Gude by Mary Gude.

We are taking flower dedications for 2024. The dates available are: January 14th, February 4th, 12th, 18th and 25th, March 10th, April 7th, 21st, May 5th, 12th, and 19th, June 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd. Contact Rachel Hills at rm_hills@yahoo.com if you would like to sponsor the flowers.

Nursery Care for infants through age 2 is available during the Sunday School hour while parents are attending Faith and Fellowship. During worship, care is available for infants through kindergarten.



YOUTH GROUP St. John's Youth Group meets in the Youth Room on the second floor from about 11:30 am-12:30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. This group is for middle and high school students. Join us as we have fun, get to know one another, and grow in faith together.

Faith and Fellowship meets in the Fellowship Hall on the first floor from 9 am—9:45 am each Sunday. This is an opportunity for adults to gather for light refreshments and to grow in faith.



BIBLE Study The Bible Study group meets on Friday's at 11 am in the Smith Building. We are studying the book of Matthew. All are welcome!

The Food for Thought Program is packing 50 weekend bags for 25 students. It costs \$16.94 to provide food for each child, each weekend. **We have an immediate need for tuna/chicken salad kits and Chef Boyardee single serving meals.** Offering money helps support this effort too! Any monetary donations are welcomed and certainly appreciated. Thanks for your support!



New Offering Envelopes The 2024 Offering Envelope are here. They are on the third floor, on the tables, in front of the bulletin board. Feel free to deliver envelopes to those who are not able to pick them up.

2024 Annual Report...We need your Ministry Report for the 2024 Annual Report.. Please email your report to the church office by Friday, January 26th.



Save the date for St. John's 5th Annual Bull and Shrimp Roast on Friday, February 2, 2024 from 6:30 pm—10:30 pm at Columbus Gardens. More information will be coming soon.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Community Meals and Wednesday Night worship this year. We will be taking a break in January but will resume on Wednesday, February 7th. A sign up sheet will be posted on the third floor bulletin board after the first of the year. We look forward to seeing everyone in February. A big "thank you" to Kelly Haacke for being our wonderful volunteer coordinator!



Did you know that you can give your offering using Venmo? Enter @stjohnsparkville in the Venmo App or scan the QR code.

