

STAFF

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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.



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2023

4 pm

Welcome to St. John's—we are glad you're here!

There is much to celebrate at Christmas. This cover image, created by children at St. John's reminds us of just how much we hold together at Christmastime. We are surprised to find that at Christmas, God is born among us as a child in a manger. Jesus is born!
Praise God!

(Please take a moment to silence all electronics. Thank you!)

(Hymns are taken from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the red book in the pew rack.)

TOLLING THE BELL AND WELCOME

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

(© 1999 Hope Publishing Company)

GREETING

You are children of God!
We are children of God!
God has something to say.
And we are listening.
God hears our voices.
So we sing and pray.
Come, let us worship.
Come, let us worship!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *Love Has Come* *ELW 292 (v. 1)*

*Love has come- a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

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

(Please stand as you are able.)

GATHERING HYMN

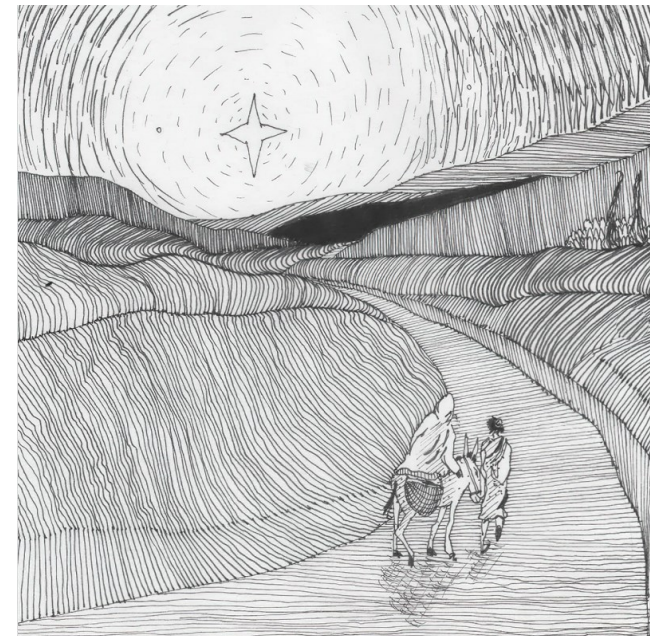
O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

(Text and music: attr. John Frances Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880)

Those Serving Today	4 pm
Assisting Minister	Vickie Jasinski
Crucifer	Gabby G.
Acolyte (s)	Landry E., Brody E.
Lector	Michelle Alkire
Communion Assistant	Michelle Alkire

Merry Christmas from the Pastors and Staff!



Announcements

Join us tomorrow at 10 am for our Christmas Day Service.

- † Thank you Altar Guild & Friends for all the time and work you put into the “greening” of our Sanctuary and for all the additional preparations you do for our Christmas Eve Services – you give us a special gift of Christmas beauty!
- † Please leave your poinsettias until after the 8:30 pm service tonight. If you are unable to pick them up at that time, you may pick them up after the 10 am Christmas Day service or please call the church office at 410-665-1234 to make arrangements to pick them up.
- † The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th.
- † Join us on Sunday, December 31st at 10 am for our Lessons and Carols Service. There will be no Sunday School or Faith & Fellowship this day.
- † The pastors will be away from December 27th—January 2nd. In case of an emergency during this time, please call the emergency number at 443-844-9314.



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in memory of my father, Charles L. Blackburn, Sr. by his daughter, Anne Blackburn-Suznick.

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.

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! Thanks for your support!



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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, you shine your light in every place. You came as a baby in a manger. You know our hurts and you know our joys. And you call us your children! Give us faith to see you and help us share your light everywhere. In Jesus name we pray.
Amen.

PSALM 96:1-2, 9-13

- ¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God’s salvation from day to day.**
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the
peoples with equity.”**
- ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**
- ¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT “Just a Little Christmas”

(Written by Sharon Kay Chatwell; © 2009)

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Coventry Carol

James Southbridge

(© 1970 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

OFFERING HYMN

What Child is This

ELW 296 (vv. 1, 3)

(Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, Music: English Ballad, 16th cent.)

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God:
You came as a baby to a manger
You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.
You came again as bread and wine.
Remind us how good you are at blessing everyday things.
And then, through these gifts,
help us bless the lives of others.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is a good and joyful thing to give thanks and praise to you O God, through Jesus Christ our Savior. You became a human like us. In this miracle, you have opened our eyes to see your goodness and glory.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

(The assembly is seated.)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's table. Bread is received in the hands. Gluten-free wafers are available-if you need one, please ask the pastor. To receive the wine, take an empty cup and the communion assistant will fill it with a sip of wine. The cups that are already filled contain grape juice. After drinking, place the used cup in the basket on your way back to your seat.

If you are not communing you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, crossing your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION HYMNS *Away in a Manger* **ELW 277**

(Text: north American, 19th cent.; Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905)

Silent Night, Holy Night! **ELW 281**

(Text: Joseph Mohr, 1972-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863)

The First Noel

ELW 300

(Text: English traditional; Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God,
You have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
help us bring peace to others.
Let us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

*The Lord now bless and keep you; God's love in you increase
By God's own face, with shining grace, grant you eternal peace
To Father, Son, and Spirit +, eternal One-in-Three
Be thanks and praise through all our days, into eternity. Amen.*

SENDING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

Text and music: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.)

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Share this good news.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

Dale Wood

(© 1990 The Sacred music Press)

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