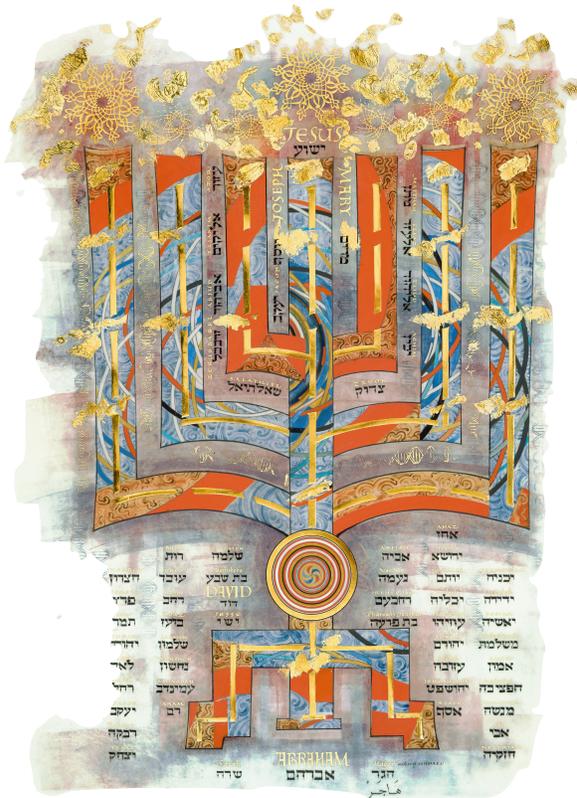


# St. John's Episcopal Church



**AN ACCOUNT OF THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF DAVID.**  
 ■ ABRAHAM WAS THE FATHER OF ISAAC, AND ISAAC THE FATHER OF JACOB, AND JACOB THE FATHER OF JUDAH, AND HIS BROTHERS. AND JUDAH THE FATHER OF PERE, AND PERE BY TAMAR, AND PERE THE FATHER OF HEZRON, AND HEZRON THE FATHER OF ARAM, AND ARAM THE FATHER OF AMINADAB, AND AMINADAB THE FATHER OF NAHSHON, AND NAHSHON THE FATHER OF SALMON, AND SALMON THE FATHER OF BOAZ, BY RUTH, AND BOAZ THE FATHER OF OBE, AND OBE THE FATHER OF JESSE, AND JESSE THE FATHER OF KING DAVID. ■ AND DAVID WAS THE FATHER OF SOLOMON BY THE WIFE OF URIAH, AND SOLOMON THE FATHER OF REHOBOAM, AND REHOBOAM THE FATHER OF ABIAH, AND ABIAH THE FATHER OF ASAPH, AND ASAPH THE FATHER OF JEHOSEPHAT, AND JEHOSEPHAT THE FATHER OF JORAM, AND JORAM THE FATHER OF UZZIAH, AND UZZIAH THE FATHER OF JOTHAM, AND JOTHAM THE FATHER OF AHAZ, AND AHAZ THE FATHER OF HEZEKIAH, AND HEZEKIAH THE FATHER OF MANASSEH, AND MANASSEH

THE FATHER OF AMOS, AND AMOS THE FATHER OF JOSIAH, AND JOSIAH THE FATHER OF JECHONIAH, AND HIS BROTHERS AT THE TIME OF THE DEPORTATION TO BABYLON. AFTER THE DEPORTATION TO BABYLON, JECHONIAH WAS THE FATHER OF SALATHIEL, AND SALATHIEL THE FATHER OF ZERUBBABEL, AND ZERUBBABEL THE FATHER OF ABUD, AND ABUD THE FATHER OF EHIKIAH, AND EHIKIAH THE FATHER OF AZOR, AND AZOR THE FATHER OF ZADOK, AND ZADOK THE FATHER OF ACHIM, AND ACHIM THE FATHER OF ELIUD, AND ELIUD THE FATHER OF ELIZABETH, AND ELIZABETH THE WIFE OF MARY, OF WHOM JESUS WAS BORN, WHO IS CALLED THE MESSIAH. ■ SO ALL THE GENERATIONS FROM ABRAHAM TO DAVID ARE FOURTEEN GENERATIONS, AND FROM DAVID TO THE DEPORTATION TO BABYLON, FOURTEEN GENERATIONS, AND FROM THE DEPORTATION TO BABYLON TO THE MESSIAH, FOURTEEN GENERATIONS.



*The Genealogy of Jesus, Donald Jackson, (c) 2002 The Saint John's Bible University, Collegeville, Minnesota, USA. Used with permission. All rights reserved*

## A Service of Lessons & Carols For Advent

SUNDAY 5 PM | DECEMBER 14, 2025

## ABOUT ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

The service of Nine Lessons and Carols began in the year 1880. It was started by Bishop Edward White Benson of Truro (in Cornwall) as a way to attract crowds of Christmas wassailers around the city away from the pubs and into the Church. He was successful bringing a crowd of over 400 to the first formal service. After Bishop Benson was appointed as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1883, the service began to gain wide popularity around England most notably by the service held at King's College Cambridge.

In 1918 the Dean of King's College Chapel, Eric Milner-White, employed the Chapel Choir to offer the service every year. Later, as the Dean of York, he created A Procession with Carols on Advent Sunday for use at King's College, Cambridge, and based it on his earlier Lessons and Carols for Christmas. In his preface to this new service, Milner-White wrote: "In the old English liturgies, the Advent Offices made a preparation for the coming of our Lord to this earth far more vivid and eager than those of our present Prayer Book. So an Advent Carol Service, if without precedent, is not without suitability, if it helps to express 'the desire of all nations and ages.'" In 1928, the BBC began broadcasting the service annually on the radio, and later in 1954 began to televise the service, making Lessons and Carols a tradition not just in England but across the world.

Tonight we return to tradition as we partake in the service of Advent Lesson's and Carols. The service will begin in darkness representing the beginning of our earth. As the text from Genesis "Let there be light" is read, candles will be lit from the back of the church to the front, representing the light of Christ coming upon the earth. The remainder of the service will take place in candlelight as is tradition around the world, creating an atmosphere of waiting and hoping as we await the coming of the Christ Child. The service will progress through beautiful scripture, hymns, and choir anthems containing poetry that creates a sense of yearning. We hope this time will bring you a rich sense of God's love and presence this Advent season.

### **An Opportunity to Give**

Your generous donation this evening goes to the Oil Fund which supports people in our communities who are struggling to heat their homes this winter. You are invited to place cash or a check donation in the basket at the back of the church or scan this QR code to donate online.

As we enjoy this warm space, joyful music, and proclaim glory to God, let us share out of our abundance with others. Thank you.



# ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

*Welcome to St. John's! We are glad you have joined us this evening. Everything you need is in this leaflet. We invite you to prepare for worship in silent prayer during the prelude, and we encourage you to participate throughout this liturgy in singing the hymns and saying the portions in bold type. Prompts are provided for you to stand or sit as you are able.*

## **Voluntaries before the service**

Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele

Georg Böhm (1661 – 1733)

*All remain seated in silence as the lights are dimmed*

Prelude on Es ist ein' Ros', Op. 122 No. 8

J. Brahms (1833 – 1897)

*The lights are switched off and the Responsory is sung by the choir.*

## **Matin Responsory**

**"I look from afar"**

Richard Shephard (1949 - 2021)

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

## **A Bidding Prayer, standing as able**

*The Presider says from the back of the church*

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Let us also remember before God his pure and lowly Mother through whose obedience the Son of God took on human flesh. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

And now, to gather all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ has taught us, saying:

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.

*Please be seated.*

*As the words "Let there be light" are read from the first lesson, the congregation lights their candles.*

**The First Lesson: Genesis 1: 1-5, 14-15**

**Karen Kaestle**

*"The creation of the earth"*

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

*The congregation stand as able and joins the choir for verses 2, 4, and 6 of the following hymn.*

**Hymn**

*"Creator of the stars of night"*

*Conditor alme siderum*



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse  
3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now  
5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,  
\*6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,

1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free  
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child  
 4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
 5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
 6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be

1 we pray you hear us when we call.  
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.  
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.  
 4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
 5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
 6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

*The congregation is seated for the lesson and carol.*

**The Second Lesson: Genesis 3: 1-15**

**Nat Eddy**

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

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Carol**

Adam Lay Ybounden

Boris Ord (1897-1961)

*Words anonymous 15th century*

*Adam lay bounden, Bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter Thought he not too long.  
 And all was for an apple, An apple that he took, As clerks finden Written in their book.  
 Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Ne had never our lady Abeen heavené queen.  
 Blessed be the time That Apple taken was, Therefore we mourn singen, Deo gracias!*

*The congregation stands as able to sing the hymn.*



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



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

*The congregation is seated for the lessons and the carol that follows.*

### The Third Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9

Allison Fresher

*"The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One."*

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**

*"The Truth Sent from Above"*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love; therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all both rich and poor. The first thing which I do relate, is that God did man create. The next thing which to you I'll tell, woman was made with man to dwell. And we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose, and so a promise soon did run that he'd redeem by his Son. Thus he in love to us behaved, to show us how we must be saved; and if you want to know the way, be pleased to hear what he did say.*

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

**Tim Thomas**

*"The Prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile."*

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

*The congregation stands as able to sing the hymn.*

**Hymn**

*"Prepare the way, O Zion"*

*Bereden väg för Herran*



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.

*The congregation is seated for the lesson and the carol that follows.*

**The Fifth Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-15**

**Dan Evangelisti**

*"God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as 'God with Us'."*

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Carol**      *And the Glory of the Lord from Messiah*      George Frideric Handel (1685 - 1759)

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

*The congregation stands as able to sing the hymn.*

**Hymn**      "Come, thou long expected Jesus"      Stuttgart

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

*The congregation is seated for the lesson.*

**The Sixth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38**      Marlene Going

*"The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary"*

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

*The congregation stands as able to sing the hymn.*



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say -

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

The congregation is seated for the lesson and the carol that follows.

**The Seventh Lesson: Matthew 1:18-23**

**Max Cameron**

*St. Matthew tells of the coming birth of the Saviour"*

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**

**Bethlehem Down**

**Peter Warlock (1894 - 1930)**

*When He is King we will give him the King's gifts,  
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,  
"Beautiful robes", said the young girl to Joseph  
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.*

*Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight  
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,  
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.*

*When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,  
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,  
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary  
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.*

*Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,  
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,  
Mary for love, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.*

The congregation stands as able to sing the hymn.

**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 ref - uge, 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.

The congregation is seated for the lesson, responsory and carol that follow the 8th lesson.

**The Eighth Lesson: Mark 1:1-15**

**Chris Woodside**

*"Jesus is baptized by John and proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God."*

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Voluntary at the Offering** Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schar

Johann Heinrich Buttstedt  
(1666 - 1727)

**Vesper Responsory** (*Sung by the choir*)

Richard Shephard (1949 - 2021)

*We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord,  
 in the midst of thy temple.  
 Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed.  
 tomorrow, go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.  
 Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.  
 tomorrow, go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.  
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
 tomorrow, go ye forth and the Lord, he will be with you.*

*A moment of silence is kept.*

*We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.  
 In the midst of thy temple.*

**Carol**

**"Never weather-beaten sail"**

**Thomas Campion (1567 - 1620)**

*Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore.  
 Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,  
 Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:  
 O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.*

*Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise.  
 Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes:  
 Glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see:  
 O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee!*

**The Collect**, *standing as able*

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, who makes 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.**

**Blessing**

Open wide, O Lord, the gates of heaven and visit thy people in peace; send forth thy Spirit from on high that their hearts may be uplifted unto thee; O Lord, who for our sake wast of a virgin born, make holy thy people and bless thine heritage; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and abide with you for ever. **Amen.**

**Hymn 57**

“Lo! he comes, with clouds descending”

*Helmsley*



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

## **The Dismissal**

*Presider*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*The people remain standing as the procession exits the church.*

**Voluntary**    Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, BWV 559      Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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*All are welcome to a reception in the Parish Hall following this evening's service.*

**Greening of the Church**  
**Sunday, December 21 following the 10:15 a.m. service:**

Join us for the Greening of the Church as we come together to decorate our worship space with evergreens and festive adornments in joyful anticipation of Christmas. Please RSVP to

**Liturgy of the Longest Night**  
**Sunday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m.**

A gentle, contemplative service for anyone carrying grief, stress, or heaviness during the holidays—or for those who simply need a quiet place to rest in God’s presence.

Held near the winter solstice, this liturgy honors those for whom the season can feel dark or difficult. Come to light candles, receive healing prayers, sit in stillness, and be held in community.

All are welcome. Bring a friend.

**CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN’S**

*All services are in person; to livestream the 10 p.m. service, please visit our YouTube Channel.*

**Christmas Eve | Wednesday, December 24**

**4:00 p.m. | Intergenerational Christmas Eve Service**

This Holy Communion service is designed for children (and adults) of all ages.

**6:00 & 10:00 p.m. | Christmas Eve Service with Communion & Special Music**

Celebrate the birth of Christ at our festival Eucharist, open to all. The 10 p.m. service features Christmas carols led by the St. John’s Choir, and both services conclude with a candlelight singing of Silent Night.

**Christmas Day | Thursday, December 25**

**10:00 a.m. | Christmas Service with Communion & Special Music**

All are welcome for a beautiful, simple service of Holy Eucharist to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Christmas Flowers and Music Reminder**  
**Deadline: Thursday, December 18**

The Christmas poinsettias, evergreens, and special music that adorn our church each year help make the season truly beautiful. If you would like to make a donation in memory or in thanksgiving for a loved one, please fill out the Christmas Flowers & Music form—now easily accessible via the QR code in this bulletin.

You may give online, mail a check to P.O. Box 422, Essex, CT 06426, or place your envelope in the offering plate. Please note “Christmas Flowers” or “Music” in the memo line and include the name of your honoree. All donations and information must be received by Thursday, December 18. For questions, contact the office at 860-767-8095 ext. 10 or email [chelsea@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:chelsea@stjohnsessex.org).



**Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT): Advent Diaper Drive**  
**Deadline: Sunday, December 21**

St. John’s is delighted to join the ECCT for this year’s Advent Diaper Drive—our shared “Baby Shower for the Holy Family.” Throughout Advent, we will be collecting diapers to support The Diaper Bank of Connecticut, which distributes 75,000 diapers each week to families struggling to make ends meet. With 1 in 2 Connecticut families unable to afford enough diapers to keep their babies clean and healthy, our participation helps ensure every child has the basic care they deserve. All parishioners are invited to contribute diapers of any size including adult diapers and period products as we prepare our hearts for Christ’s coming by caring for our neighbors in need. Donations can be dropped off in the office or the back of the church on Sundays in a box marked for the collection.

**Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries: Holiday Donations**

Please consider bringing nonperishable food or needed household items each Sunday to support the Westbrook Food Pantry.

**Most-needed items include:** Food: cereal, soup, peanut butter, tuna, canned fruits/vegetables, pasta, rice, oatmeal. **Non-food:** reusable bags, paper goods, gloves, Ziplocs, garbage bags. **Other:** \$10–\$20 gift cards to local grocery stores.

**Winter Accessories Drive**

Donate new hats, mittens, gloves, and socks by December 22 at Bill’s Blessings or the church office. Items will go to Shoreline Soup Kitchen guests.

**Gift Bag Assembly – December 20 at 11:00 a.m.**

To help assemble gift bags, contact Mary Bowers or Meghan Wrinn.  
Thank you for your generosity!

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**CLERGY & PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas, *Rector*  
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Meghan Wrinn, *Program & Events Coordinator*  
[meghan@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:meghan@stjohnsessex.org)

Manuel Matute, *Sexton*  
Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

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**VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS**

Mary Bowers, *Bill's Blessings & Soup Kitchen Ministry*  
Nancy Haslam, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*  
Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*  
Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*  
Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*  
Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*  
Ernie Brainard, *Candle Master*  
Nat Eddy, *Mission and Justice Committee*  
Sandy Loether, *Newcomers Committee*

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**VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS**

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*  
John Rogers, *Treasurer*  
[treasurer@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:treasurer@stjohnsessex.org)  
Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Charlie Walden, *Investment Oversight Committee*

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**VESTRY** Wesley Henry, *Warden*; Jan Perruccio, *Warden*; Stephanie Patterson, *Vestry Clerk*; John Rogers, *Treasurer*; Lois Blood Bennett, Linda Board, Tony Custodio, Leigh Dorrington, Nat Eddy, Peter Holland, Patti Pickering, Jane Riggio, Kevin Walsh

**WORSHIP**

**SUNDAYS** | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

**TUESDAYS** | Bible Study — 10:00 a.m.

**TUESDAYS** | Midweek Holy Eucharist — 11:15 a.m.

**WEDNESDAYS** | Contemplative Prayer — 5:00 p.m.

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

3 Cross Street, / (P.O. Box 422) Essex, CT 06426  
860.767.8095 | [www.stjohnsessex.org](http://www.stjohnsessex.org)