



St. John's Episcopal Church

1623 Carmel Road * Charlotte, NC 28226

StJE.org * 704-366-3034

The First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

8:45 & 11:15 a.m.

November 28, A.D. 2021

Welcome to worship! We pray that our time of worship will express praise and thanks to God for the gift of Christ, and help you live a more faithful and abundant life.

If you are a visitor, please know that we are delighted that you are here. We know that following the beautiful and ancient worship of the Episcopal Church is not always easy for those unfamiliar with the Anglican tradition. Please do not feel obligated to do anything but to enjoy the service reverently and expectantly.

We invite newcomers to fill out a visitor's card, found in the pew rack, and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of our ushers or clergy.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, masks are required when gathering indoors in large groups. Please remember to wear your mask on Sundays at church except when you are eating or drinking.

If you have young children, please know they are more than welcome at St. John's. A nursery is available on the lower level for children in Room 134 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. for children under age 3. Please see an usher to help you locate the nursery. Changing stations are also available in the bathrooms.

Hearing assistance devices are also located at the rear exit of the church. Please see an usher if you need assistance. Audio-induction hearing loops are available for use with hearing aids.

8:45 & 11:15 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

The Word of God

Organ Voluntary
Hymn 57

“Sleepers, wake!” a voice astounds us (Hymn 61)
Lo, he comes with clouds descending

J. S. Bach
Helmsley

Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Book of Common Prayer, Page 355

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

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

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Trisagion (Hymnal S-102) (Sung thrice)

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Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Setting: Based on Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924). Copyright ©The Church Pension Fund.
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The Collect of the Day

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Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious

majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

NRSV

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual: Psalm 25:1-9 *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

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Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my /trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph /over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to /shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their /schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O /LORD, *
and teach me your/ paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and /teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day /long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and /love, *
for they are from ever/lasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my trans/gressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O /LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the /LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his /way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing /right *
and teaches his way to the /lowly.
- +9 All the paths of the LORD are love and /faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his /testimonies.



+ *Second half of double chant*

New Testament Lesson: I Thessalonians 3:9-13

NRSV

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 68

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

Llangloffan

The Holy Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

NRSV

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

(8:45) The Rev. Richard J. Clark

(11:15) The Rev. Dr. Brad Smith

The Nicene Creed

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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: Form I

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With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy." For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishops, Sam and Anne, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For _____, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially _____, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace. **Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Evangelist, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To thee, O Lord our God.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

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Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(All gathered may greet one another in the Name of the Lord.)

Birthdays/Anniversary Prayer—**O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as *they* celebrate(s) another year. Grant that *they* may continue to grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their lives*; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(8:45) Children's Sermon

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Zion, at thy shining gates

George Guest

Zion, at thy shining gates, lo, the King of glory waits. Haste thy monarch's pomp to greet; strew thy palms before his feet. Christ, for thee their triple light, faith and hope and love unite; this the beacon

we display to proclaim thine advent day. Come and give us peace within; loose us from the bands of sin; take away the galling weight laid on us by Satan's hate. Give us grace thy yoke to wear; give us strength thy cross to bear. Make us thine in deed and word, thine in heart and life, O Lord. So, when thou shalt come again, Judge of angels and of men, we with all thy saints shall sing Alleluias to our King. —*B. H. Kennedy*

Hymn 73, st. 1

The King shall come when morning dawns

St. Stephen

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B

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Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing . . . to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus (Hymnal S-129)

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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We give thanks to you, O God, . . . Therefore according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving . . . now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, Page 364
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.

Fraction anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God (Schubert/Proulx setting, Hymnal S-164)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.', 'Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.', 'Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:', and 'give us your peace, give us your peace.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

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Invitation to Communion

All baptized Christians, including children, are invited to receive Communion. Please stand or kneel to receive Communion. The bread will be placed on your palm. If you want the priest to dip the wafer in the wine, please join your thumb and index finger, and he will place the wafer between your fingers. Those who do not wish to receive Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. If you would like to receive gluten free bread, please tell the priest.

Communion Hymns

Hymn 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

Hymn 75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Ascension

Hymn 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, Emmanuel

Commissioning of Home Communion Visitors

When Communion is to be taken to homebound parishioners, Eucharistic ministers will be sent forth from our gathering with the consecrated bread using these words:

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Body and Blood of Christ.

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share one bread, and one cup.**

Postcommunion Prayer

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Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant may bless the people.

Hymn 66

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Stuttgart

The Dismissal: **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

Hail, thou only-begotten Son

Bach

Looking ahead to the Second Sunday of Advent, December 5 (Year C)

Baruch 5:1-9, Canticle 4 or 16, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

PARISH LIFE at St. John's

News and Announcements

Priceless!

The First Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the Christian liturgical year. Happy New Year!

Breakfast will not be offered today.

Every Sunday St. John's offers celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 7:30, 8:45 (with choir), 11:15 (with choir), and 11:15 a.m. (with praise band). Usually breakfast is offered 7:30-9:00 a.m., and Christian Education for all ages is offered at 10:00.

Sunday Morning Nursery Open – 8:30-11:30 a.m. for children under age 3. Staffed by two paid, trained, and immunized adult sitters in Room 134. (Entering the building, turn right at the reception desk and go straight ahead.) Questions? Contact Matt Williams in the church office.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) does not meet today, but returns next Sunday, grades 6-8, 5:00-6:30; grades 9-12, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Supper!—December 1. Menu: chicken tenders, au gratin potatoes, peas & carrots, salad, dessert. Supper is served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Pick up your EYC wreath Saturday, December 4, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Lost and Found is located across from the reception desk.

The Children's Christmas Pageant will be offered Sunday, December 19, at 10:00 a.m. Contact Matt Williams for details.

Do you want to sing for Christmas? Choirs are working now on music for Advent and Christmas Eve (7:00 or 11:00 p.m.) Contact Alan Reed in the church office for details—ages 5-85+!

Contributions for Christmas poinsettias and Christmas Eve brass players, along with names to be remembered in the Christmas bulletins, are due Monday, December 20.

Looking ahead, Christmas Eve services are scheduled at 3:00 p.m. (with brass), 5:00 p.m. (with brass and praise band), 7:00 p.m. (with brass and choir), and 11:00 p.m. (with brass and choir—and incense). Christmas Day the service is at 10:00 a.m. with organ and carols.

Hagar's Basket! We welcomed 95 families last month to our drive-through pantry. Your kind donations of **wipes, detergent, toilet tissue, deodorant, diapers, toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap and feminine hygiene pads** are greatly appreciated! See our web site at bit.ly/3pMp8Oe. **As God provides for us, we joyfully provide for others!**

Centering Prayer meets via Zoom each Thursday, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Contact Fr. Brad for details. The Zoom link is in the weekly announcements.

Deacon Wendy Merrill is in the office Tuesday-Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call the office for an appointment. She's also a chaplain intern at Mercy Hospital and is happy to visit you or a loved one.

Lectio Divina Bible study meets via Zoom each Thursday, 9:00-10:00 a.m. For details contact Fr. Brad. The Zoom link is in the weekly announcements.

The Good Samaritan Fund provides financial assistance to members of the St. John's family. To make a donation to help others, note "Good Samaritan Fund" on the memo line of a check to St. John's.

In case of emergency Heart-start Defibrillators are available in the hallway between the Children's Chapel and the kitchen and behind the door under the balcony in the Nave. Instructions are printed inside the box.

Let Us Pray - The Intercessory Prayer Team would love to pray for you! Fill out a prayer card from the church pews contact the office. All requests are confidential.

If you would like to contribute to the general offering digitally,
just scan the QR code below with your smart phone.



You may also pay from our web site or mail a check to the church office.

Clerics

The Rev. Peter M. Floyd, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Brad Smith, Senior Associate Rector
The Rev. Richard J. Clark, Associate Rector
The Rev. Wendy Merrill, Deacon

Musicians

Mr. Alan C. Reed, Organist and Choirmaster
Ms. Angela Swicegood, Assisting Organist
Ms. Tracy Reed, Assistant for Children's Choirs
Ms. Madeline Seconi, Choral Scholar
Mr. Greg McAbee, Master of the Choirs of Bell and Chime
Mr. Jamey Graves, Associate for Technology and Music

Vestry

Julie Bleimann, Merrill Gowdy, Mike Harrington, John Horn (Senior Warden),
Will Jetton, Erin Lyman, Greg McAbee, Sarah Morgan, John Patrick,
Dan Robertson, Elizabeth Sigmon (Junior Warden), Jen Walker (Clerk)



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