

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Christmas Eve

24 December 2023 · 4:00 PM

ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH · LAFAYETTE



Welcome to ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE.

May today's worship give you a sense of Christ's peace and inspire you to God's service.

If you are visiting with us, we invite you to worship, explore, ask questions, and help yourself to all our parish has to offer. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to an usher, a member of the clergy, or by filling out a guest card. Please visit stjohns-laf.org/guest or use the QR code.



We welcome the full participation of children in our worship. Activity bags are located at the rear of the church and may help them during the liturgy. Please return the bags after the service.

St. John's has a Hearing Loop system, which allows those wearing appropriate hearing aids to receive the church's sound system directly. If you wear a hearing aid, you may need your audiologist to activate the T-coil in your device.

Lessons and Carols

Children are invited to come to the back of the church and carry the pieces of the crèche in the opening procession.

Voluntary *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
What Child Is This*

Paul Manz

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn

Adeste fideles

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

The Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

Let us also pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church, and especially for the Church in our country and in these cities.

And because our Lord Jesus particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know the love of God.

Finally, let us remember before God his Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

The Collect for Christmas Eve

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



The First Lesson

Genesis 3:1-15

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

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent,

'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

Hymn

Psalm 42



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



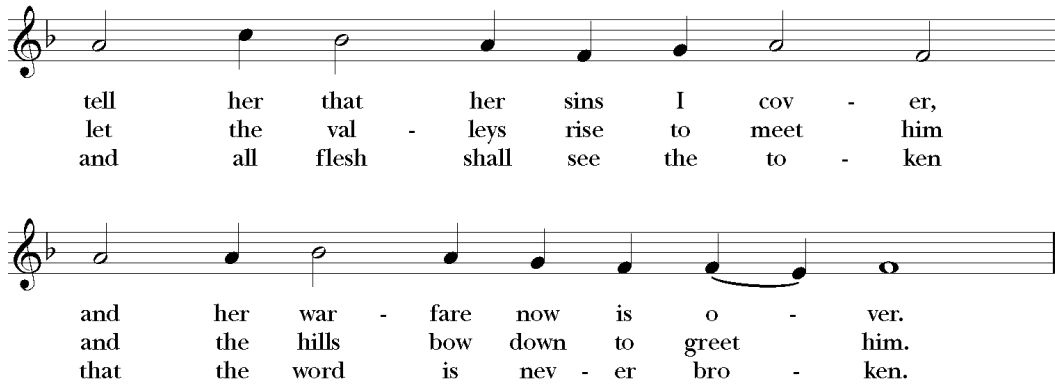
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Isaiah announces that a child shall be born who will bring light to those who walk in darkness.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Anthem *The People Who in Darkness Walked*

arr. David Music

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

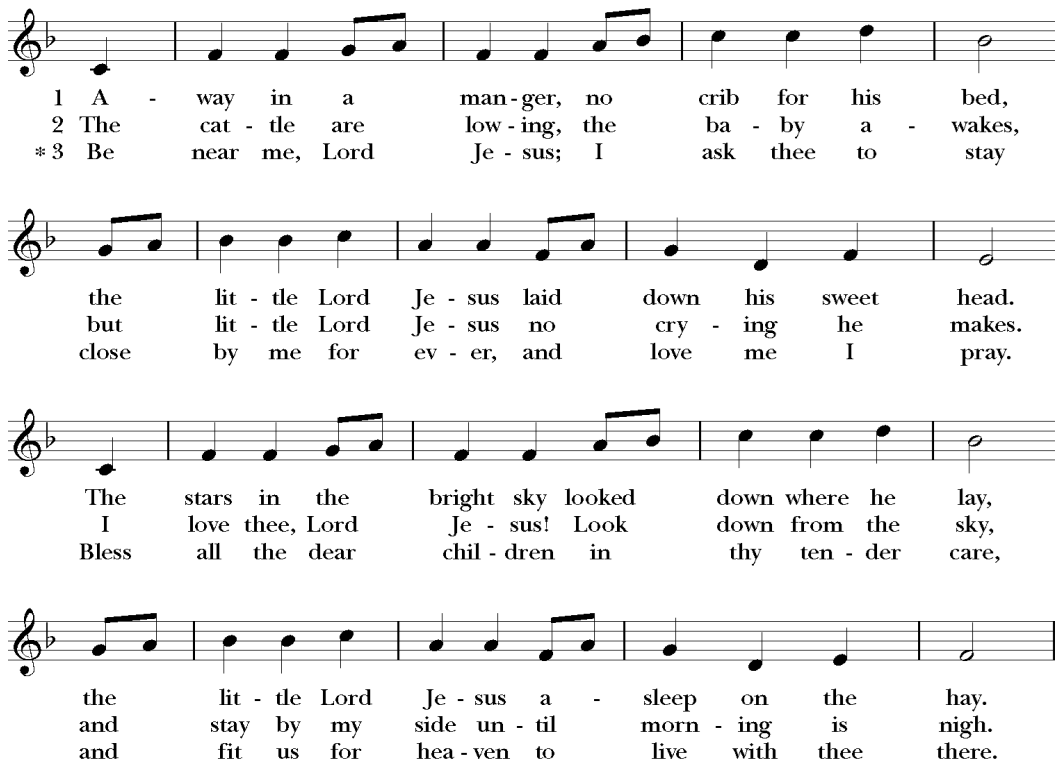
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn

Cradle Song



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is night.
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

The Gospel

John 1:1-18

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."' From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The children are invited to come forward for the
Children's Homily

The Prayers of the People

Holy Child of Bethlehem, angels proclaimed your birth to shepherds at their labors; we pray for all people in their daily life and work: for those called to shepherd your people, and for those who carry your love into the world. May we see your glory in the world around us and, like the shepherds, may we bear witness to your presence among us.

Moment of silence.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Holy Child of Bethlehem, born in a stable when your parents found no room in the inn, we pray for all who are without shelter, for all who know poverty, and for all who offer, even what little they have, to meet the needs of others.

Moment of silence.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Holy Child of Bethlehem, welcomed into your mother's loving arms, we pray for all who are lost and alone, for those who are sick or in need, for those who mourn loved ones gone, and for those who are no longer with us but have now been welcomed into your loving arms.

Moment of silence.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Holy Child of Bethlehem, a refugee in Egypt, whom Herod sought to kill, we pray for all who live with danger, for all who are persecuted, and for all who are far from their homes.

Moment of silence.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Holy Child of Bethlehem, in you God was pleased to dwell, help us, we pray, to see the divine image in people everywhere, and to honor the divine image in ourselves. Forgive us where we have sinned, strengthen us where we are weak, heal us where we are blind.

Moment of silence.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The presider continues

Holy Child of Bethlehem, you were born into our world, that we might be reborn into eternal life. May we daily live as children of God through your love, as you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Then the people greet one another in the name of Christ.

the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

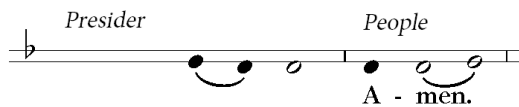
Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Mary, Blessed John, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



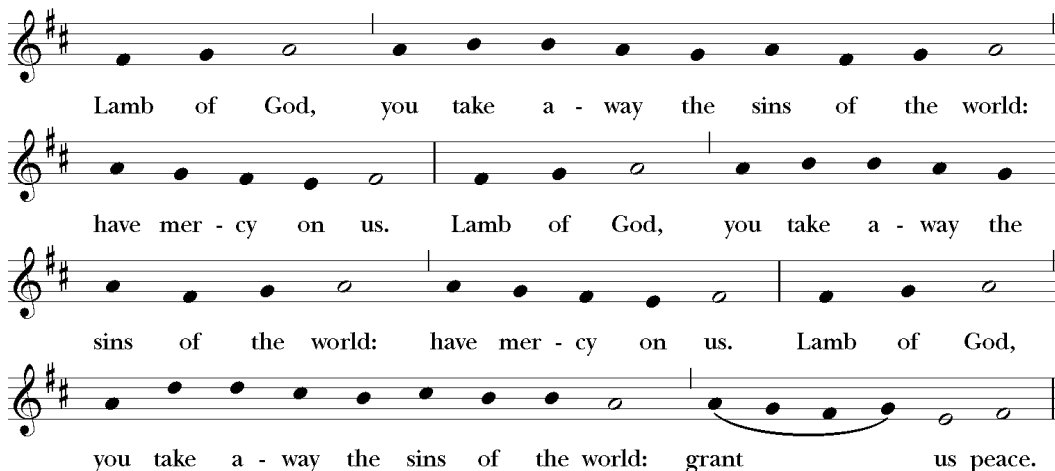
The Lord's Prayer

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

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 Agnus Dei

David Hurd



The Invitation & Communion of the People

The consecrated Bread and Wine are living signs of the presence of Christ in this gathering. All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion; however, no one who comes forward will be refused. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please ask when you come forward.

Music during Communion

Gloria

Hymn

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Hymn

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Please stand or kneel as you are able for

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

As the lights are dimmed, candles are lit.

Hymn after Communion

Stille Nacht



Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,
all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,
Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Christmas Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

The Dismissal

A member of the clergy dismisses the people. The people respond

Thanks be to God.

Voluntary *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, BWV 729*

J.S. Bach

Those Serving

Presider	Jason Fortner
Preacher	Bradley Pace
Director of Music	Michael Bennett
MC	Dennis Sorge
Acolytes	Edward Mascarenhas, Isabel Mascarenhas, & Kyle Tribbett
Readers	CeCe Byrn, Sam Bowerman, & Isabel Mascarenhas
Prayers	Ellie Bowerman, Emily Howard-Harmon, Caroline Sickafoose, & Pixie Sickafoose
Eucharistic Ministers	Lane Johnson & Brent Ladd
Oblation Bearers	The Byrn Family
Ushers	Ray Polstra, Bob Slagel, & Xavier Slagel
Altar Guild	Jennifer Chandler, Sharon Evander, Jo Roberts, Carl Taylor, & Elizabeth White



Music and Liturgy are reprinted with permission.
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Advent Greens and Christmas Flowers

The Advent greens, Christmas arrangements, and pillar candles in the side windows are provided in part by thank offerings from

Cindy Gerlach & Gary Mueller in memory of Russel Gerlach
Arlene Kusek in memory of Gerald Kusek
Jim and Carolyn Roth in memory of their daughter Marie Roth Henderson
Marylin Howland Ross in memory of Kaye Kleine-Ahlbrandt
Marilyn Leigh in memory of her parents, Floyd and Pearl Fetter
Jack Sullivan in memory of Patsy Roderick
The Elder Pace Family in memory of Linda Meyer
Lisa Zimmerman in memory of Jim Zimmerman
Joe Venable in memory of Jane and Betsy Venable
Alyce Dressler & Mara Fox
The Mascarenhas Family
Jim & Sandy Bodenmiller
Nancy Dandrow
Camp & Comfort Gordinier



The Offering

While there is no offering at today's service, you are invited to contribute to the mission and ministry of St. John's, Lafayette at www.stjohns-laf.org or by using the QR code.



The staff and clergy of **ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE** wish you and your family a joyous Christmas season.



Christmas at ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

9:00 p.m. Carol Prelude

9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

10:15 a.m. Christmas Day Service

The First Sunday after Christmas, December 31

9:00 Morning Prayer *via Zoom* & 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday, January 7

One service only at 10:15 a.m.

Epiphany Pageant & Holy Eucharist

The St. John's office will be closed from Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1.



ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

Worshiping · Sharing · Making Christ Known

600 Ferry Street · Lafayette, IN 47901-1142 · 765.742.4079

www.stjohns-laf.org · stjohns@stjohns-laf.org · facebook.com/stjohnslaf · [@stjohnslaf](https://twitter.com/stjohnslaf)

Parish Staff & Leadership

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop · Bradley Pace, Rector

Jason Fortner, Curate · Teresa Lohrman, Associate for Administration & Finance

Michael Bennett, Director of Music · Amanda Yauney, Director of Christian Education

Becky Dick, Sr. Warden · Bruce Johnson, Jr. Warden

St. John's is a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Indianapolis.

