

The First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

8:00AM IN-PERSON WORSHIP
10:15AM ONLINE/IN-PERSON WORSHIP

St. John's Episcopal Church Royal Oak, MI

St. John's Welcome Statement

We're a Believe OUTLOUD Episcopal Congregation

EVERYONE is WELCOME! EVERYONE BELONGS!

Welcome! We are St. John's, a parish that invites you to be a part of our community and warmly embraces you when you do. At St. John's, our history has taught us that accepting and embracing true diversity is challenging. As a result, we have come to claim a firm, undying commitment to inclusion. So here is our invitation to you: regardless of your cultural background, ethnicity, gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or heterosexual identity, economic status, physical or cognitive ability – you will not be labeled, singled out or excluded here. You will be welcomed, affirmed, embraced and celebrated! We will be better because you are here. *Adopted by unanimous vote at St. John's Annual Meeting, January 31, 2016*

Young Children – *with all their sounds and wiggles* - are very welcome in this church!

We are so pleased that you are here! All are welcome to receive communion, partaking of the holy food that strengthens us for the journey of life. To facilitate this, our communion bread is gluten-free. A soft space is available in the east wing of the sanctuary for little ones and their parents, as well as a kid's corner with books, coloring trays, and fidget toys in the Narthex/Atrium. If you are visiting us for the first time, we invite you to fill out a card found in each pew and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. All are welcome to attend St. John's programs and events. Everyone is welcome, everyone belongs!

ADVENT BEGINS!

A note about music and liturgy during the Season of Advent

Waiting, watching, and hoping are three words closely associated with Advent. It's almost ironic that the ancient traditions of the church call us to these practices during a season when, at least in the U.S., most of us seem determined to avoid waiting altogether. At St. John's, we observe Advent in several ways, particularly through liturgy and music, creating spiritual space for us to slow down, listen, watch, and hope for what Christ may be doing among us.

Along with more intentional periods of silence, we'll sing and listen to music with a sparser, chant-like quality. Choir anthems and Psalms will echo the Advent plea for Christ to come quickly, heard throughout the season's readings and hymns. The minor (but not mournful) keys of much of our music will create a sense of anticipation and unresolved tension, reminding us of the Advent hope that all things will ultimately be redeemed in the fullness of time.

The Seasonal Color of Advent – Blue

The vestments and sanctuary adornments at St. John's, including the candles of the Advent wreath, are blue, following the tradition of the Sarum Rite (associated with Salisbury Cathedral in England), practiced in Great Britain from the 11th century through the Protestant Reformation. The vibrant blue symbolizes the jubilant cry, "Rejoice in Expectation!" It also represents the darkened world in which we await the coming of Christ.

The Lessons – The Beginning of Year B in the Lectionary

The Episcopal Church, along with most liturgical Christian churches around the world, follows a three-year cycle of Scripture readings known as the Revised Common Lectionary. Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year, and this season we enter Year B, when most Gospel readings are taken from Mark. Year A focuses on Matthew, Year B on Mark, and Year C on Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are included periodically throughout all three years.



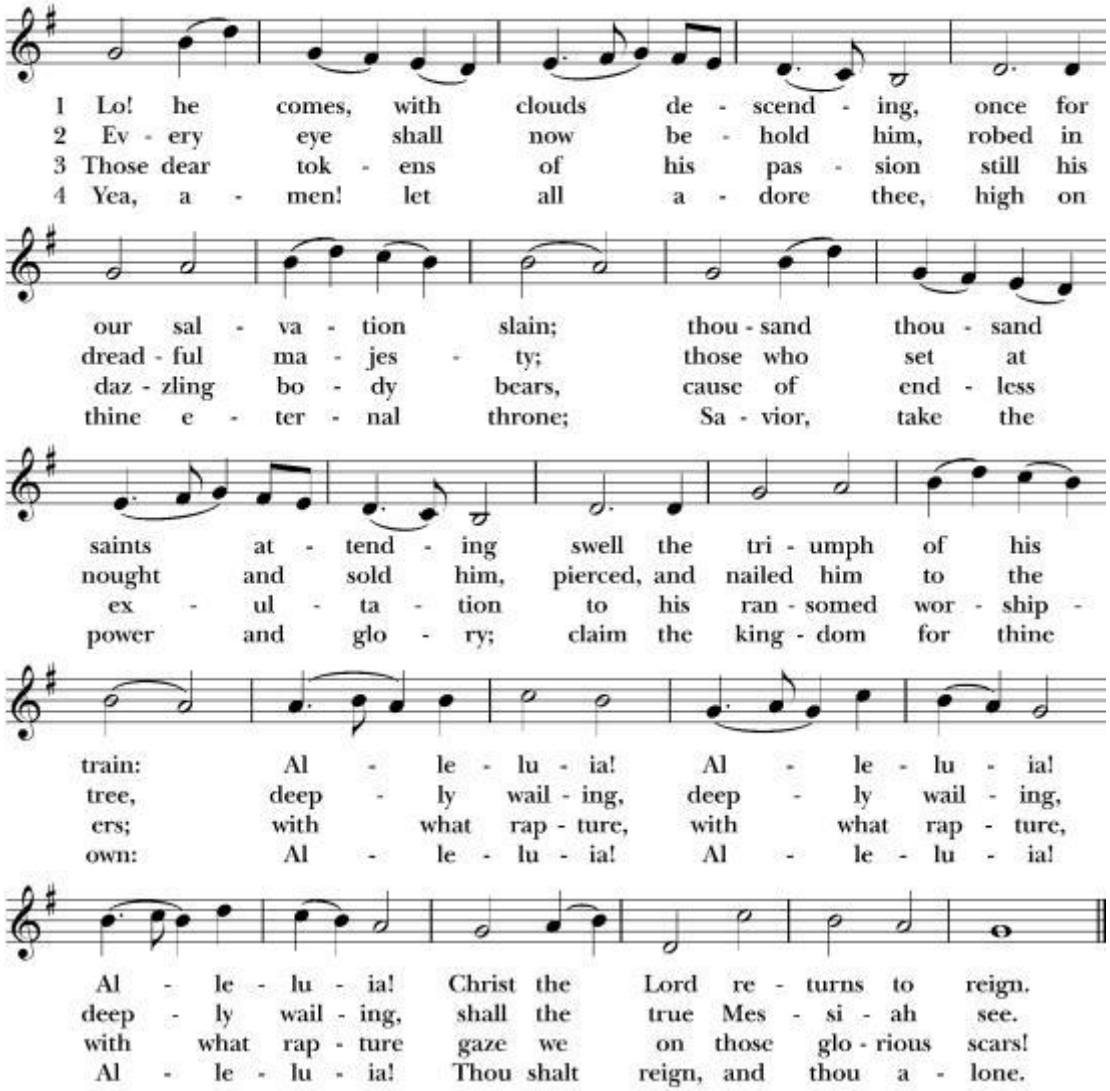
THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

At the ringing of a bell, the people stand.

OPENING HYMN *(at 10:15am)*

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending **H1982, 57**



Lighting the First Candle of the Advent Wreath (HOPE):

This custom of candle lighting was derived from the Jewish Sabbath practice and was a regular occurrence in the early Christian house churches. As time went on, the practice was carried over to the larger assemblies outside of homes. The candles are a way of counting down the Sundays that lead to the birth of Jesus.

Today, we light the first (blue) candle and invite you to offer a prayer of hope, reflecting on what you long for in your own life and for our world.

ADVENT WREATH

The people remain standing. The first candle of the Advent Wreath is lit.

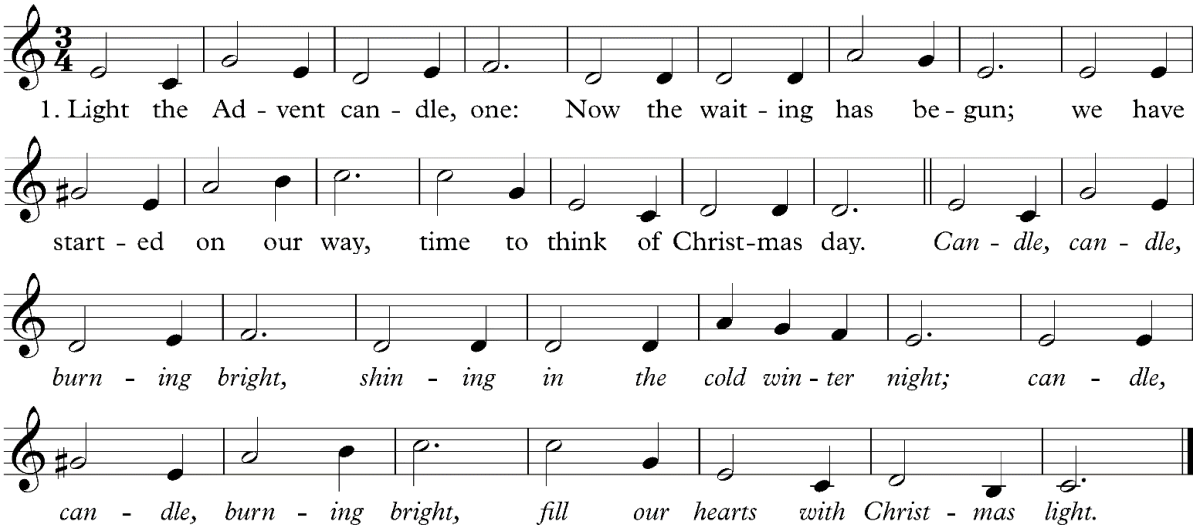
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *(at 8:00am)*

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **God of Hope and God of light and love, God in darkness and new life.**
God who waits, expectantly with us for new birth,
for Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;
Bless us and this advent wreath.
May the light that shines forth illuminate our way this Advent season.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *(at 10:15am)*

Advent Candle Song — Traditional Advent Hymn



WELCOME

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people

People **Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace. Amen.**

Presider May all the earth be filled with God's glory.

People **Prepare the way of the Lord. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

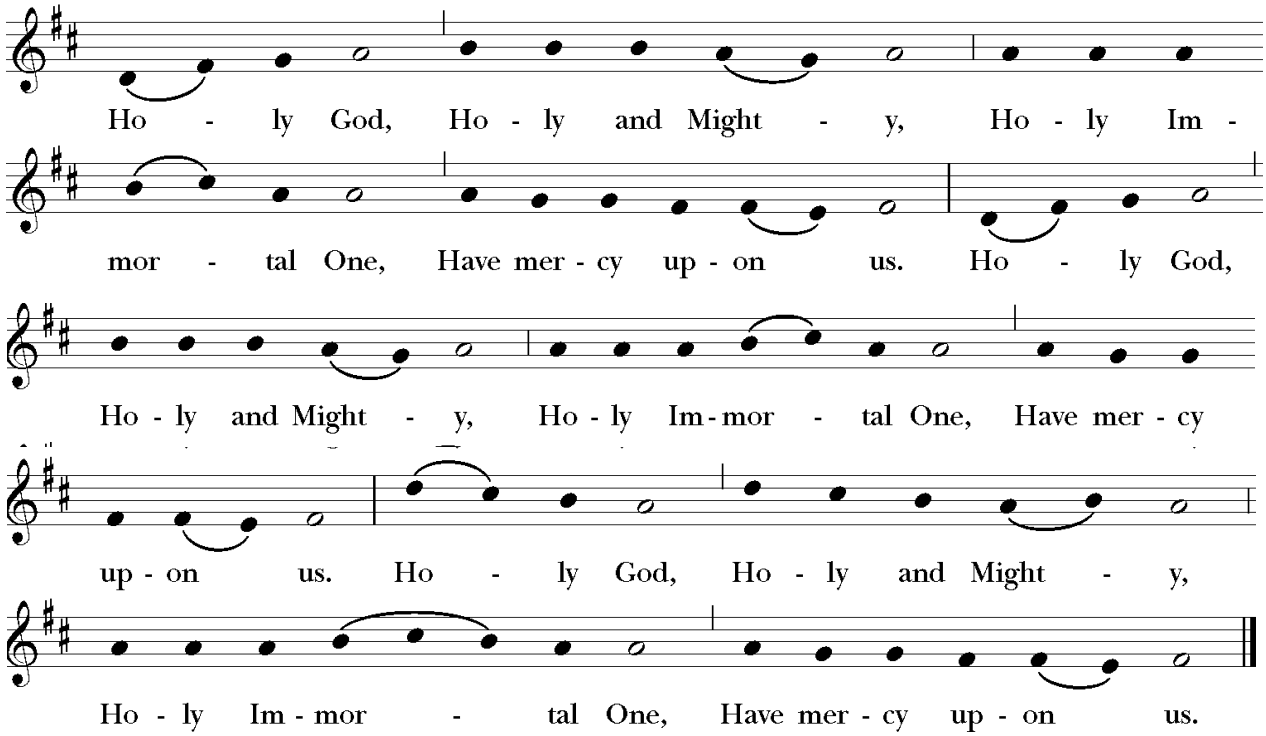
Presider Let us pray.

All **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 *(Spoken three times, at 8:00am)*

All **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

TRISAGION *(at 10:15am)* H1982, S100



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

All **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.**

The people are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON — Isaiah 64:1-9

Lector A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80: 1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16 Let your hand be upon the one of your right hand, *
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Lector A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

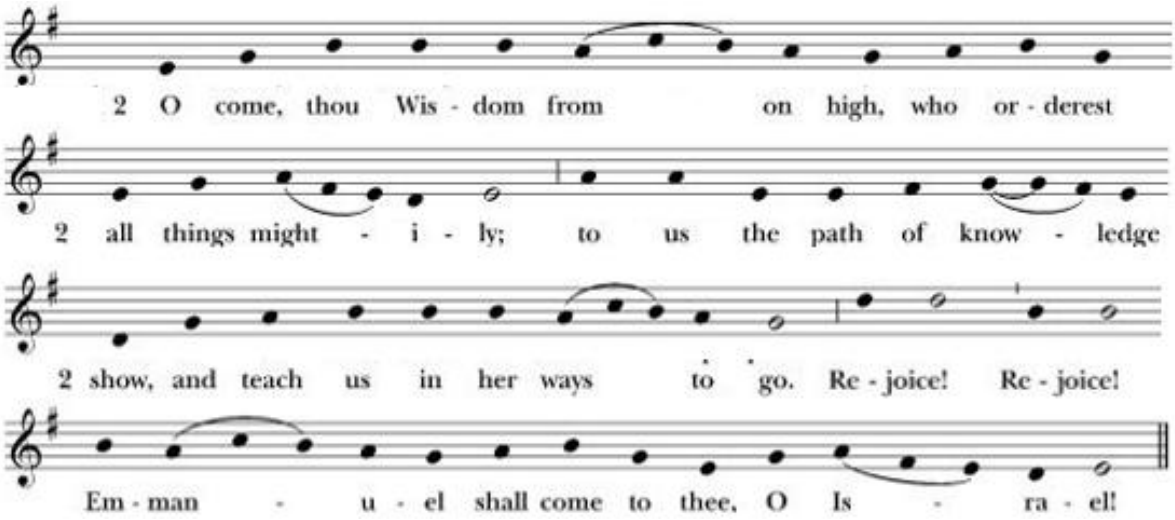
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as they are able.

GOSPEL HYMN *(at 10:15am)*

O come, o come Emmanuel H1982, 56, v.2



THE HOLY GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

Gospeler † The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Gospeler The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON — The Rev. Dr. Maryjane Peck

A period of silence is kept.

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The people stand as they are able.

Presider Let us affirm our faith.
All **We believe in God:**
Whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
Whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
Whose love was crucified by the evil that wants to enslave us all and
Whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and doubting, we trust in God; and, in the Name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth and to share the common wealth of God’s goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and in the power of the Spirit of love;
And in the company of the faithful, to be the church, for the glory of God.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider God of Creation, as we await the coming of your Son, let us move away from the darkness of our daily struggles to the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Come Lord Jesus.
People **And hear our prayer.**

Leader God of Hope, we pray that the Church will bring your light to the world through love and inclusion. Come Lord Jesus.
People **And hear our prayer.**

Leader God of Hope, we pray for our sacred family, that it may always fix its gaze on the life that lasts forever through a faithful witness to you. We pray; for Sean, our Presiding bishop, for Bonnie, our bishop; for Maryjane and Becca our clergy; for priests, deacons and lay leaders in their many ministries. We pray especially for the people of Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills and St. Thomas in Gautier, Dominican Republic. Come Lord Jesus.

People **And hear our prayer.**

Leader God of Hope, we pray for all nations and peoples that they may live and thrive in the light of your loving kindness and guidance. Come Lord Jesus.

People **And hear our prayer.**

Leader God of Hope, we pray that all the world leaders will strive to promote peace and justice. Come Lord Jesus.

People **And hear our prayer.**

Leader God of Hope, we pray for the good earth that you have given us and the wisdom and the will to conserve it. Come Lord Jesus.

People **And hear our prayer.**

Leader God of Hope, guide St. John's as we seek to define who we are and how to best serve you, each other, and the greater community. We pray for your continued presence. Come Lord Jesus.

People **And hear our prayer.**

Leader God of Hope, we ask that you bring light to those who are consumed by the darkness of hunger, oppression, illness, pain, or any adversity. For the sick and suffering, especially, Gloria, Kathy, Gayle, Sue, Kristen, Barbara, Rich, Carolyn, Don, Kathy, Joyce, Jeffrey, Kris, Karen, Linda, Mary Ann, Jeanne and those we now name_____; As the Lord walks with us through times of trouble, giving us courage and well-being, allow us to give to others the same comfort he has given to us. Come Lord Jesus.

People **And hear our prayer.**

Leader God of Hope, we pray for those who are dying and those who are departed. We remember the many ways they brought the light of Christ to our lives. We pray for those we name now, silently or aloud. Come Lord Jesus.

People **And hear our prayer.**

Presider God of Hope, in the beginning you saw that the light was good and you separated it from the darkness. Sustain us with the Holy Spirit as we wait in darkness for the glorious light of your Son.

All **Amen.**

CONFESSION

The people stand or kneel.

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **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.

THE ABSOLUTION

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, †forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The peace is exchanged among the people. The people are seated.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JESSE TREE: PLACEMENT OF ORNAMENTS

The earliest Jesse Trees appeared as carvings, tapestries, and stained-glass windows in churches, helping people who could not read learn the stories of the Bible, from Creation through the birth of Christ. Today, Jesse Trees are often used as a form of Advent calendar. Each week, we add ornaments representing the Scripture stories and themes for the days ahead. Below are the ornaments being placed on our church Jesse Tree today, the First Sunday of Advent, representing the week ahead.

Jesse Tree Symbols: The Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the flood, Father Abraham, Issac and the Ram, The Jesse Tree, Jacob and his dream, Joseph the son of Jacob

OFFERTORY

Give online: stjohnsroyaloak.org and click on GIVE
Text: Text "StJohnsRoyalOak" to 73256
Mail: St. John's Episcopal Church Royal Oak
26998 Woodward Ave, Royal Oak, MI 48067
Envelopes: Available upon request 248-546-1255 or
OR scan this code to be directed to the giving page.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *(at 10:15am)*

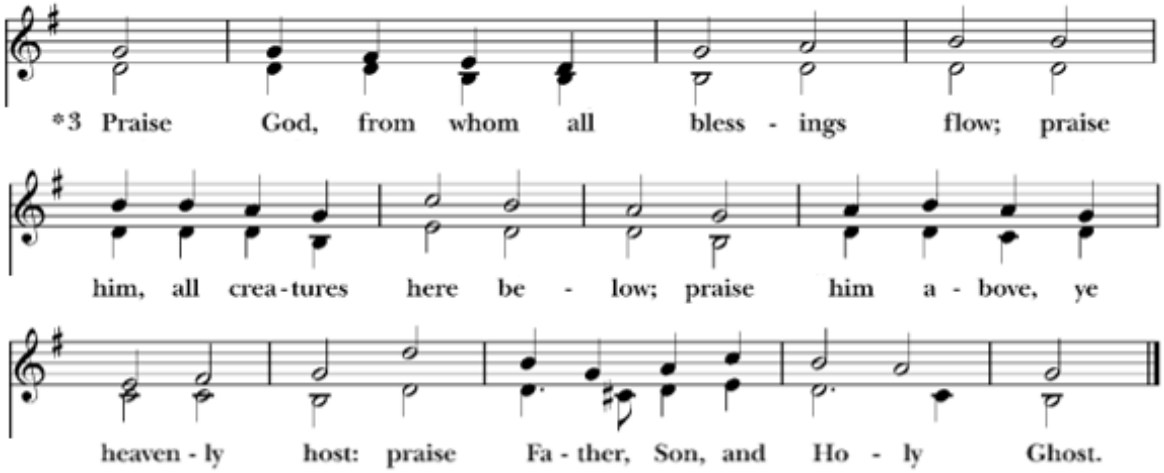
Creator of the Stars of Night **by Joe Cox**

PRESENTATION *(at 8:00am)*

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

PRESENTATION HYMN *(at 10:15am)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow **H1982, 380, v. 3**



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Eucharistic Prayer B

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider The table of bread and wine is now made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

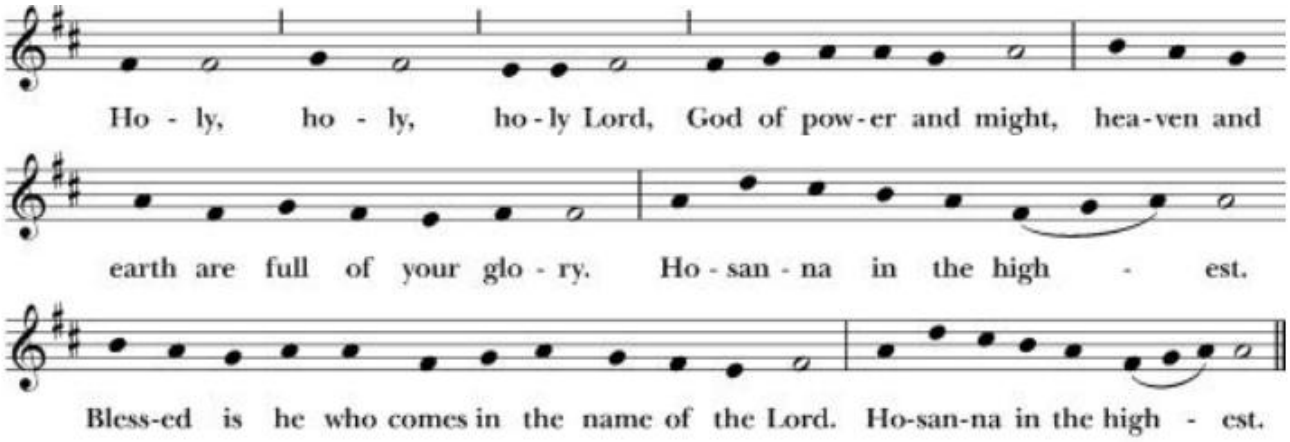
Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS *(spoken at 8:00am)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. †Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, Holy, Holy *(at 10:15am)* The Hymnal 1982, S124



Presider We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore according to his command O God,

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

Presider 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.

Presider 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 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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

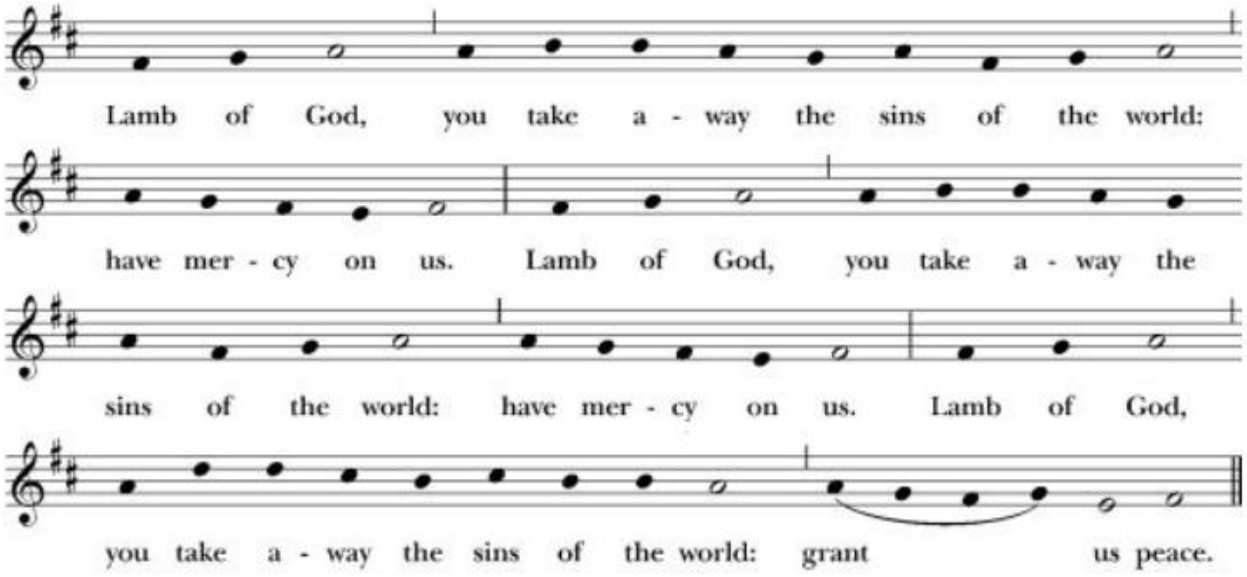
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD *(spoken at 8:00am)*

Presider Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Lamb of God *(at 10:15am)* — The Hymnal 1982, S161



Presider These are the Gifts of God!

People **And we are the people of God.**

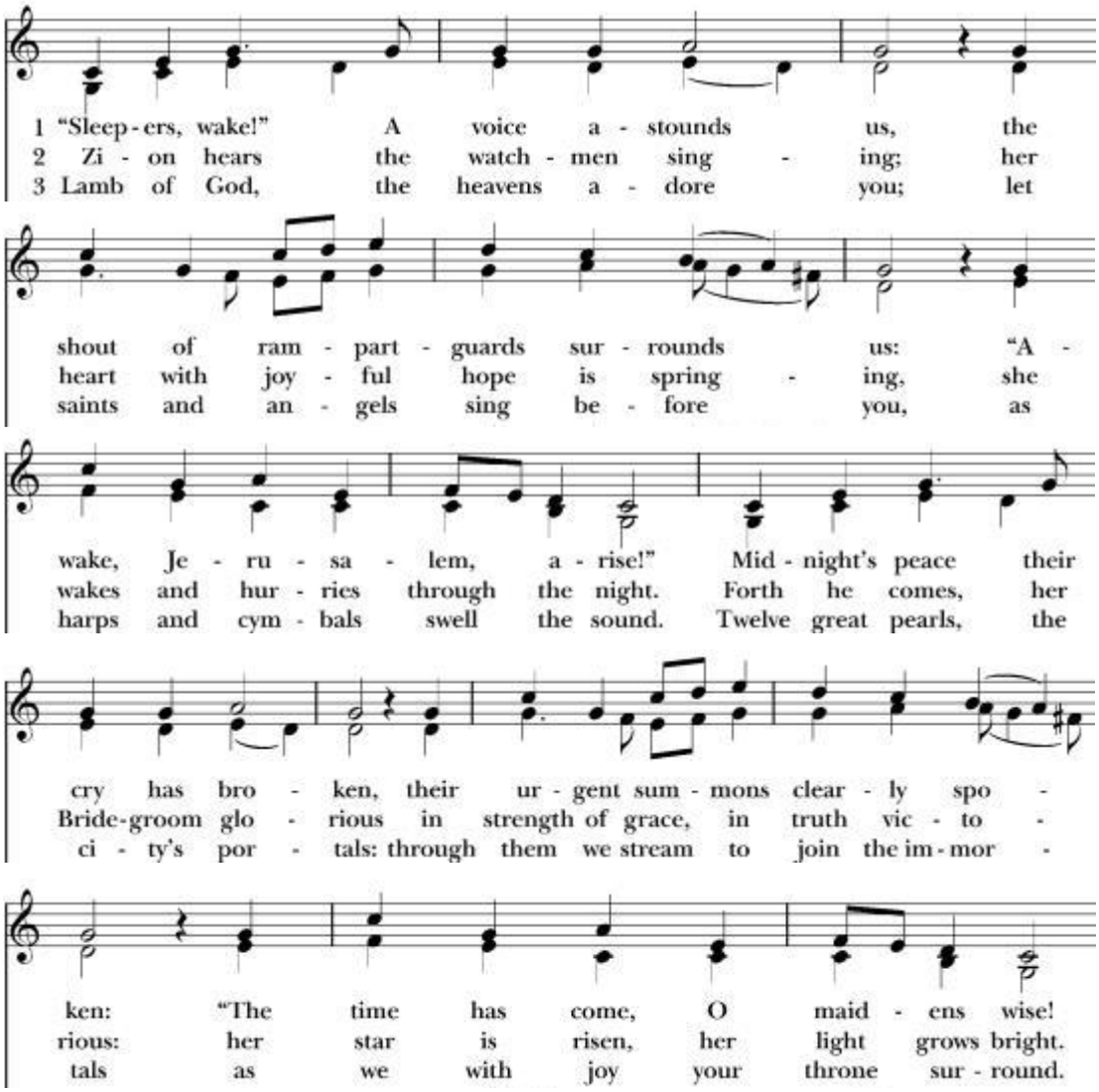
Presider Behold who you are. Become what you receive.

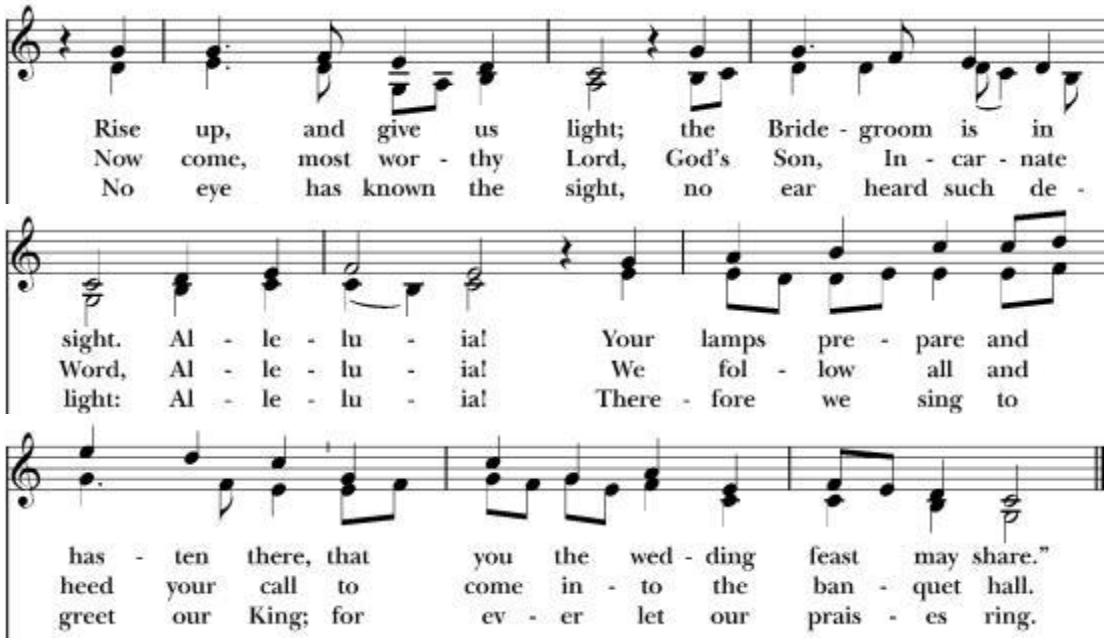
This is Christ's table, and Christ is our host at this feast. Everyone who comes to the altar seeking Christ will be welcomed. The bread used for Holy Eucharist at St. John's is gluten-free. If you are unable to come to the altar, but desire Communion, please notify an usher.

Healing - Those who would like prayers for healing may go to the healing station in the west transept for prayers during communion.

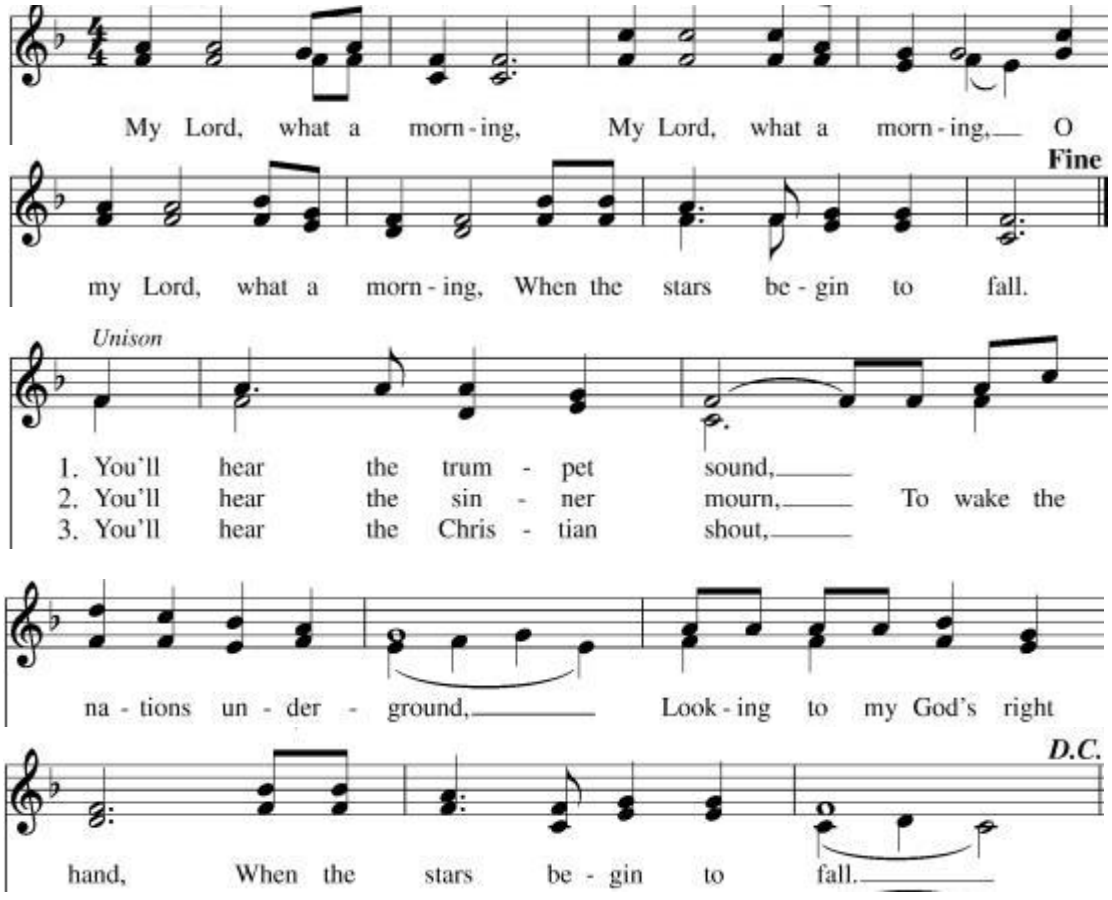
COMMUNION HYMNS *(at 10:15am)*

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us — The Hymnal 1982, 61





My Lord, what a morning LEVAS II, 13



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The people stand as they are able and pray together.

Presider Eternal God,

All **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.

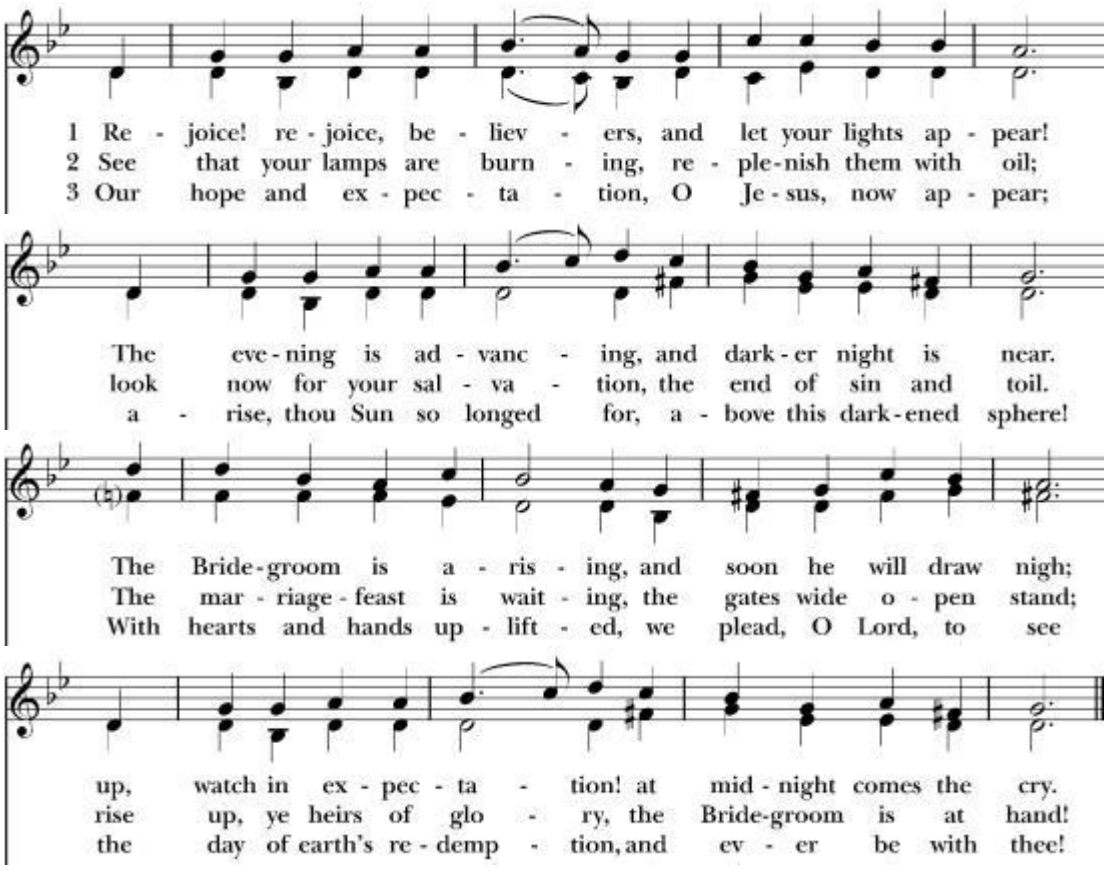
BLESSING

Presider Let us pray.
The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *(at 10:15am)*

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers 13 H1982, 68



DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

We continue to pray for …

Lorie, Patty, Wilma, Nan, Chris, Jan, Dot, Brad, Lori, Lisa, Kristy, Richard (by Maryann LeComb & Kathy Stricker), Kayson (by Kim Unrau and Maryann Maiuri), Gayle (by Pam Lupinski), Abby, Lois (by Marcy Darin), Johnny (by Susan Bonnen) Owen Klein, Woody (by Cheryl Clouthier), Dame (by Celeste Stone & Cindy Fellner) Rich (by Jenny Galat), Jamie (by Debbie Smith), Jennifer, Bob, Gary (by Deborah Shepherd), Ross (by Kevin McLogan) Gene and Marg (by Jannah Cole), Oliver, Olivia, Angelina (by Allyson Frank), Lindsey Anderson (by Joan McFeaters), Dave (by Erica Anculle), Jillian (by Will Wittig), Bernie Ethridge, Marilyn Robinson (by Janice Pedersen), Dale Gilbertson (by Jennifer Bartleman), Russell (by Jane Linn), Marian, Cindy Wolff, Debbie (by Tamra Zakar) John Trace, Bruce Robson, Bob Walsh, Marcy Darin, James, Barbara Thornton, John Trace, Kevin McLogan, David Landis.

Visit our website to make a prayer request online OR
contact the church office at 248-546-1255 / office@stjohnro.org

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Advent Week Two: Sunday, December 6 (Worship at 8:00 & 10:15am)
Advent Week Three: Sunday, December 13 (Worship at 8:00 & 10:15am)
Blue Christmas: Tuesday, December 15 (Worship at 7:00pm)
Advent Week Four: Sunday, December 20 (Worship at 8:00 & 10:15am)

Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24
(Worship at 5:00pm at 10:00pm)
Christmas Day: Friday, December 25
(Combined Service at 9:30am)

Ministers of Today's Service: The People of St. John's

Acolytes
(8:00a.m.) Joey Spano
(10:15a.m) Annalise Galat, Julian Griffin, Ryley Griffin

Altar Guild
(8:00a.m.) Bob Lazich
(10:15a.m.) Barb Moran, Denise Barnett, Sarah Muth

Bread Baker
Christy Scott

Eucharistic Ministers
(8:00a.m.) Joey Spano, Peg Coury
(10:15a.m.) Askari Asante, Barb Moran, Chris Moran, Veronica Griffith

Greeters
(8:00a.m.) Jackie Speer
(10:15a.m.) Lisa Phillips, Marie Donigan

Greeters during service
(8:00a.m.) Dennis Spatafora
(10:15a.m.) Richard Le Jeune

Healing Ministers
(8:00a.m.) ----------
(10:15a.m.) Bob Davis

Interim Director of Youth & Family Ministry
Emma Bruns

8:00a.m. Lectors
Yve Jones – First Lesson and the Psalm
Rosemary Spatafora – Second Lesson and the Prayers of the People

10:15a.m. Lectors
Linda Watkins – First Lesson
Mozhgon Rajaee – The Psalm
Veronica Griffith – Second Lesson and the Prayers of the People

Musicians
Dr. Steve McGhee, *Music Director and Organist*
St. John's Chancel Choir
Cailin Weber, *Choral Scholar*

Opener/Closer
Dennis Spatafora, Pete Kelly

Parking Lot Greeters
Sarah Muth, Veronica Griffith

Tech Team
Barbara Jones, Chris Bosley, Laurie McLaughlin, Tales Lima,

Ushers
Bruce Donigan, Chris Davis, Gregory Taub

Vergers
Kevin McLogan, Rachel Andrews

Interim Rector
The Rev. Dr. Maryjane Peck

UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES

Sunday, November 29
Advent Begins!
Worship at 8:00am & 10:15am

Wednesday, December 2
St. John's Reads at 1:00pm
in the Community Room

Saturday, December 5
Open Hands Food Pantry open 8:30am – 10:00am

Sunday, December 6
Worship at 8:00am & 10:15am
(No First Sunday Breakfast)


Retirement Celebration for
Rev. Dr. Maryjane Peck at 2:00pm

Monday, December 7
First Monday Meditation at 7:00pm on Zoom

Tuesday, December 8
Card Ministry meeting at 10:30am
in the Church Library

Friday, December 11


St. John's Holiday Jam
Doors open at 6:00pm
Concert begins at 7:30pm

Sunday, December 13
(Rev. Maryjane's last service at SJRO)
Worship at 8:00am & 10:15am

Tuesday, December 15
(Welcome Pastor Becca Kello!)
Coffee with a Cause meeting at 10:30am


in the Church Library
Blue Christmas Worship Service at 7:00pm

Saturday, December 19
Open Hands Food Pantry open 8:30am – 10:00am

Sunday, December 20


Worship at 8:00am & 10:15am
Children's Christmas Pageant at 10:15am
Greening of Church after 10:15am service

Thursday, December 24
CHRISTMAS EVE (SJRO OFFICE CLOSED)
Worship at 5:00pm and 10:00pm

Friday, December 25
CHRISTMAS DAY (SJRO OFFICE CLOSED)
Worship (Combined Service) at 9:30am

Sunday, December 27
Worship at 8:00am & 10:15am

Thursday, December 31
NEW YEARS EVE (SJRO OFFICE CLOSED)
Blessing of Calendars Worship Service at 5:00pm

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2027

Friday, January 1
NEW YEARS DAY (SJRO OFFICE CLOSED)

Saturday, January 2
Open Hands Food Pantry open 8:30am – 10:00am

Sunday, January, 3
Epiphany – Feast of Lights
Worship at 8:00am & 10:15am
First Sunday Breakfast in Jatho Hall

Wednesday, January, 6
Day trippers & Youth Group attend
Motor City Cruise/Pistons Game at 6:00pm

Sunday, January, 10
Worship at 8:00am & 10:15am

Sunday, January, 17
Worship at 8:00am & 10:15am

Sunday, January, 24
Combined Worship at 9:30am
St. John's Annual Meeting after Worship

Sunday, January, 31
Worship at 8:00am & 10:15am


Join us for Healing Service every Thursday at 11:30AM in the Church Library

St. John's Holiday Jam!

Together, We Create a Place for Everyone

EXCITING HOLIDAY JAM UPDATE:

We raised $5,000 before the Holiday Jam, which means the cost of the food, band and beverages for the event are already covered! As a result, the money raised through ticket sales, the silent auction and 50/50 raffle will go directly to our $30,000 goal of supporting St. John's.

Thank you to the generous anonymous parishioner who kicked things off with a $2,000 gift, and another anonymous donor who matched additional contributions dollar for dollar, up to $1,500!

Every donation, no matter the size, helped us achieve this goal before the big night and we are tremendously grateful to everyone who contributed! Now let's celebrate! Grab your ticket, bring a friend (or two!), and join us Friday, December 11, for a night of great music, exciting auction finds, good company, and a whole lot of SJRO spirit!

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

General Admission: $30

VIP Experience: $75

Tickets will be available **online only** (no paper tickets or cash sales).

Don't forget to register to bid for the silent auction! **Please remember: Purchasing a ticket does NOT automatically register you to bid in the auction. Both steps must be completed!**

Please scan this QR code to purchase your tickets and register to bid in the silent auction:

Questions?

Reach out to any committee member:

Marie Donigan, Lisa Machesky, Maryann Maiuri, Kelly Mankin,
Elizabeth Moon, Scout Osborne, Andy Stewart.
Mankin, Elizabeth Moon, Scout Osborne, Andy Stewart.

Celebrating The Rev. Dr. Maryjane Peck

Please join us on Sunday, December 6, at 2:00 p.m. in Jatho Hall as we celebrate The Rev. Dr. Maryjane Peck and thank her for her ministry to St. John's!

As we send Maryjane off to enjoy her retirement, we're hosting a farewell brunch in her honor! Along with our SJRO parishioners, we've invited members of her previous congregations, fellow clergy, family, and friends to join in the celebration. Chef Dallas will be spearheading the meal, and we're asking our SJRO folks to help round things out with beverages, cupcakes, and fresh fruit. Please use the link below or QR code to sign up to bring something to share:

Donations should be brought to church on Sunday, December 6, and dropped off in Jatho Hall before the 10:15 service. Disposable serving pieces and platters are preferred. If you'd like something returned, PLEASE label it with your name and remember to take it home at the end of the event. We're also looking for volunteers to help with setup and cleanup. Not the most glamorous jobs, perhaps, but both are vital to making the celebration a success! Thanks, everyone, for pitching in and helping us give Maryjane the wonderful send-off she deserves!



As Maryjane begins retirement and pursues her passion for quilting, we invite the St. John's community to contribute to her Clergy Farewell Fund as a special token of our appreciation. Contributions may be made online through the **Clergy Farewell Fund** button on our website or by cash or check marked "Clergy Farewell Fund."

New To You

HOLIDAY SALE

11/27 BLACK FRIDAY

HALF OFF entire store
10am-4pm

11/28 SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

HALF OFF entire store
10am-1pm

Some exclusions may apply.



Christmas Pageant Sign Up

Open to all Children &

Youth ages 0-18

Volunteers Welcome

YOU'RE INVITED TO ST. JOHNS

Moms Holiday Party

Saturday 7pm | 12 | December 2026

BRING AN APPETIZER OR DESSERT TO SHARE

OPTIONAL GIFT EXCHANGE (BUDGET: $10-15)

RVSP TO JWO920@YAHOO.COM BY 12/5

12786 Lincoln Dr
Huntington Woods, MI



FROM ONE HAND TO ANOTHER: STEWARDSHIP 2027

Thank you for your generous pledge and for supporting the mission and ministry of St. John's! Your commitment helps us continue to grow in faith, serve our neighbors, and create a place where everyone is welcome and everyone belongs!

Amanda & Paul Nash
Ann Marie Piwonski & Maria Walter
Anna Ruggirello & Marsha Tuck
Askari Asante
Aubrey & Sarah Muth
Barbara E. Jones
Barbara Lugger
Bernadette Ethridge
Betsy & Larry Morton
Bill & Katie Weide
Bob Davis & Linda Watkins
Bob Nagaj
Bobbie Schillag
Brent & Joan McFeaters
Bruce & Cheryl Donigan
Carol Berousek
Carl Jones & David Landis
Carol Aaron
Cathy Holcomb
Charles & Shelley Baker
Cheryl & Kevin Clouthier
Cheryl Fehan
Chris & Barbara Moran
Chris Davis & Lonnie Shelton
Christopher & Carol Swan
Christy & Colin Scott
Chuck & Linda Tucker
Dale & Barbara Gilbertson
Dennis & Rosemary Spatafora
Elizabeth Swanchara
Eric & Kellie Kornmiller
Gail Gordon
Geoffery & Kristen Benes
George Blair
Gregory Gmerek
H. Michael Falconer
Jacquelyn (Jackie) Speer
James & Barbara Karchon
James (Jim) Whipple
James (Woodie) & Mary Adams
Jane Linn
Janice Pedersen
Janise Donovan & Andy Legeay
Jeff Parent
Jenny & Richard Galat
JoAnna & Jerry Prudden
JoAnne Bigler
Joey Spano
John Trace & Michael Perry
Joyce A. Morey
Justina Misuraca
Karen Kashner
Kathy Brooks & Obie Burch
Kathy White
Kayleigh Long
Kelly & Gary Neighbors
Kelly Mankin & Michael Tonda
Kim Smith
Kim Unrau & Maryann Maiuri
Kristine Sprague & Scout Osborn
Krystn E. Aversa
Lisa Dion & Peg Coury
Marie Donigan & Kevin McLogan
Marilyn R. Robinson
Mary & Steve Fairman
Mary Ann Morrow
Mary Gilhuly
Maryann LeComb & Kathy Stricker
Michael & Heather Dinunzio
Ned & Melanie Macey
Pam Lupinski
Paulynn Auger
Perry & Beth Threatt
Rachel Andrews & Kathy Battles
Ray & Diana Kwiatkowski
Richard Le Jeune
Robert Lazich
Roberta Schillag
Rosalie Beoerkoel
Sandra Curtis
Sharon & Brian Kennedy
Sue Tower
Tamra Zakar
The Rev. Becca Kello
The Rev. Linda Northcraft & Ellen Ehrlich
Tim & LeAnn Morgan
Veronica Griffith
Waymon Howard
William & Kate Weide

This list is current as of Wednesday, November 25, 2026.
Questions? Contact the church office at 248-546-1255 OR office@stjohnro.org.
Thank you for your continued generosity and support of St. John's!

VESTRY INFORMATIONAL MEETING – December 7 at 7:00pm

Looking for Strong, Committed Leaders!

Have you ever wondered what vestry members do or felt called to serve but had questions? St. John's is looking for strong leaders, and this could be you!

Join us **Monday, December 7, at 7:00 pm on Zoom** (link will be posted on the church website) to learn about the vestry, its responsibilities, and how to become a candidate. There will be time to ask questions and learn about next steps.

Candidate Requirements:

All candidates must submit a photo and complete a Google Form answering:

- Why you want to serve
- Your history at St. John's
- Volunteer activities and ministries
- Education and professional experience
- Skills and abilities you would bring to the Vestry

Important Dates:

- **December 18:** Candidate forms and photos due to the church office (office@stjohnro.org)
- **January 24:** Election at the Annual Meeting. Four members will be elected to serve three-year terms.

Unable to attend the December 7 meeting?
Contact a member of the Vestry Nominating Committee
for questions and instructions on completing the Google Form.

Nominating Committee:

Jonatan Ascarruz
Cathy Holcomb
Keith Freeman
Lisa Machesky
Marcy Darin