



# St. John's Episcopal Church

JOHN'S ISLAND - WADMALAW ISLAND  
KIAWAH AND SEABROOK ISLANDS  
SOUTH CAROLINA

REBUILDING,  
REVIVING,  
RENEWING.



THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
DECEMBER 25, 2023  
10:00 A.M.

# FLOWER MEMORIALS

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Edward Guilford Harrison, III by Lyn & Ed Bolling  
Holli Bolte, Blanche Bolte, Walter Bolte, Joan Bolte Adams, Raymond Morin, Georgette Morin, Colonel  
Raymond Morin, Jr. by Greg Bolte  
Jesse Cline by Pat Cline & Steve Costelli  
Emmett H. Zahn by Susan Davidge-Zahn  
The Rev. John E. Gilchrist, Virginia B. Bowen, Arlene A. Hill by Barbara Gilchrist  
Evelyn & Harold Glover, Edith K. Allan by Guerry Glover  
William D. Huff, Dorothy M. Huff, Warren H. Yeager by Kim & Chris Huff  
Jessie & Bev Jenkins, Eunice & Chuck Smith by Susie & Bubba Jenkins  
Esther Lane Copeland by Nancy & Leonard Kupersmith  
Gordon Lewis, Pamela Lewis, Rosemary Hughes, Edward Hughes by Peter, Melissa, & Bennett Lewis  
Lois & Harold Mann, Jr., Lula & Harold Mann, Sr., Carrie & Herman Thorton, Ada Jane Northrop,  
S. Brown Northrop, Jr., Margaret A. Stever, Arthur C. Stever Sr., S. Brown Northrop, Sr.,  
Constance R. Northrop, Marion V. Northrop by Peggy & Vance Mann  
Eugene duPont, III, Laura E. duPont, Cora Lee duPont, Cornelius T. and Lucia V. McShane,  
David Maybank, Jr. by Gigi & Mike McShane  
Lloyd & Juanita Norton, Alfred & Barbara Wellauer by Anne & Bob Norton  
Grandma Shimko & Grandma Pitrowski by the Pfeninger Family  
Gary & Anne Poehling, Ben & Dot Kaptur, Mick Block by Karen & Jim Poehling  
English Kerr, Ashley Rumph, Wanda Bennett, Frances Hudson by Alison & Stuart Rumph  
Alida & Huger Sinkler, Ruth Finch, Niven Cantwell, Frances & Huger Sinkler, Jr.  
by Caroline Sinkler & Jannette Finch  
Jan Stoney & Charles Stoney by the Stoney Family  
Adelaide & Ben Walpole, Virginia & Sonny Harrison, English Harrison Kerr,  
Edward "Ned" Guilford Harrison III by Lisa & Ben Walpole

AND IN THANKSGIVING OF:

Jason Dennis "JD" Hirth and Hudson Handy Church on their first Christmas by Sheila & Bill Church  
In thanksgiving for Blessings by Beth & Tom Gibbs  
Carlton Morrow and all those whose prayers have lifted him up by Guerry Glover  
For our children & grandchildren and in gratitude for the many blessings of God, so richly poured out to us  
through the love, kindness, and prayers from this faithful body of Christ, St. John's. by Kim & Chris Huff  
For our sons & for Callie Walpole by Susie & Bubba Jenkins  
The Flower Guild by Gigi & Mike McShane  
Rev. Kenneth Costin & Joan Costin, Mr. deRosset Myers, Sr. & Barbara Myers  
by Felicity & deRosset Myers, Jr.  
Grandma Linda & Lolo by the Pfeninger Family  
Jim Finch, Patrick, Lindsay, Ciaran & Caitlyn by Caroline Sinkler & Jannette Finch



# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church

Page numbers on the right side of this leaflet refer to the Book of Common Prayer. Hymn numbers are on the left side; numbers preceded by 'S' are from the Service Music at the front of the Hymnal.

## Prelude

*Please stand.*

Noel

Louis Claude Daquin

## Processional Hymn

*O come, all ye faithful*

Adeste Fideles(83)

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the King of angels;

### **Refrain**

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

2. God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
only begotten Son of the Father;  
**(Refrain)**

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest:

### **(Refrain)**

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

### **(Refrain)**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### The Acclamation and Response

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

**People:** *And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

**Celebrant:** The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

**People:** *And we beheld his glory.*

## Hymn

*Angels we have heard on high*

Gloria(96)

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.

### **Refrain:**

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? **(Refrain)**

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **(Refrain)**

4. See him in a manger laid,  
whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while we raise our hearts in love. **(Refrain)**

*Please be seated.*

## The Collect for The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

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

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

O 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 Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

**Reader:** A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

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

## Hymn

### *O Little town of Bethlehem*

Forest Green(78)

1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.
3. How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous Gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.
4. Where children pure and happy  
pray to the blessed Child,  
where misery cries out to thee,  
Son of the mother mild;  
where charity stand watching  
and faith holds wide the door,  
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks,  
and Christmas comes once more.
5. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

## The Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

**Reader:** A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

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

*Please stand.*

### Sequence Hymn

*Good Christian friends, rejoice*

*In dulci jubilo(107)*

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Good Christian friends, rejoice<br>with heart and soul and voice;<br>give ye heed to what we say:<br>Jesus Christ is born today;<br>ox and ass before him bow,<br>and he is in the manger now.<br>Christ is born today!<br>Christ is born today! | 2. Good Christian friends, rejoice<br>with heart and soul and voice;<br>now ye hear of endless bliss;<br>Jesus Christ was born for this!<br>He hath opened heaven's door,<br>and we are blest for evermore.<br>Christ was born for this!<br>Christ was born for this! | 3. Good Christian friends, rejoice<br>with heart and soul and voice;<br>now ye need not fear the grave:<br>Jesus Christ was born to save!<br>Calls you one and calls you all<br>to gain his everlasting hall.<br>Christ was born to save!<br>Christ was born to save! |
|---|---|---|

## The Holy Gospel: John 1:1-14

**Celebrant:** 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.

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

## The Sermon

*A period of silent reflection is kept.*

*Please stand.*

## The Nicene Creed

358

## The Prayers of the People

**Celebrant:** As we join the angels and celebrate with joy the birth of the Son of God, let us offer prayers to God who gives new birth to sons and daughters in every place; saying:  
Glory and praise to you, O living God.

**Intercessor:** By the birth of Jesus Christ in the womb of the Virgin Mary, we pray,

**People:** *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

**Intercessor:** For all bishops and all clergy, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God, we pray,

**People:** *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

**Intercessor:** For all believers who put their trust in the incarnate Son of God, we pray,

**People:** *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

**Intercessor:** For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, and for peace and justice, we pray,

**People:** *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

**Intercessor:** For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for the dying and the dead, we pray,

**People:** *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

**Intercessor:** For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, we pray,

**People:** *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

**Intercessor:** Remembering the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Nicholas, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ, we pray,

**People:** *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

**Celebrant:** Source of light and gladness, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow in Jesus Christ who unites our lives to yours and who is Lord for all eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## Confession of Sin and Absolution

360

*The people kneel or stand.*

## The Peace

360

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

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

*Please be seated.*

## Welcome and Announcements

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## The Offertory Sentence

*Please stand.*

## Offertory Hymn

*What child is this*

Greensleeves(115)

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

### **Refrain**

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.

### **(Refrain)**

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.

### **(Refrain)**

**Presentation Hymn**

*Hark! The herald angels sing*

Mendelssohn(87)

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
 Glory to the newborn King;  
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
 God and sinners reconciled:  
 Joyful all ye nations rise,  
 Join the triumph of the skies,  
 With the angelic host proclaim,  
 Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
 Hark! the herald angels sing  
 Glory to the newborn King.

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
 Late in time behold him come  
 Offspring of a virgin's womb:  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
 Hail the incarnate Deity!  
 Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
 Hark! the herald angels sing  
 Glory to the newborn King.

3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
 Light and life to all he brings,  
 Ris'n with healing in his wings  
 Mild he lays his glory by,  
 Born that man no more may die,  
 Born to raise the sons of earth,  
 Born to give them second birth.  
 Hark! the herald angels sing  
 Glory to the newborn King.

**Eucharistic Prayer B**

367

**The Great Thanksgiving**

367

**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 our thanks and praise.*

**Sanctus & Benedictus**

Picardy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of power and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless - ed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people kneel or stand.*

*The Celebrant continues.*

## The Lord's Prayer *(said together)*

364

## The Breaking of the Bread

### Fraction Anthem

*Christ our Passover*

Picardy



Christ our Pass-ov - er is sac - ri - ficed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast.

## Invitation to Communion

### The Communion of the People

*The congregation is invited to sing the Communion Hymns.*

### Communion Hymn

*Away in a manger*

Cradle Song(101)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Away in a manger,<br>no crib for his bed,<br>The little Lord Jesus<br>laid down his sweet head.<br>The stars in the bright sky<br>looked down where he lay,<br>the little Lord Jesus<br>asleep on the hay. | 2. The cattle are lowing,<br>the baby awakes,<br>the little Lord Jesus<br>no crying he makes,<br>I love thee, Lord Jesus!<br>Look down from the sky,<br>and stay by my side<br>until morning is nigh. | 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus,<br>I ask thee to stay,<br>close by me for ever,<br>and love me I pray.<br>Bless all the dear children<br>in thy tender care,<br>and fit us for heaven<br>to live with thee there. |
|---|---|--|

### Communion Hymn

*God rest ye merry gentlemen* God Rest You Merry Gentlemen(105)

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay;  
remember Christ our Savior  
was born on Christmas Day,  
to save us all from Satan's power  
when we were gone astray,

#### **Refrain**

O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy!

2. From God our heavenly Father  
a blessed angel came  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same:  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name.

#### **Refrain**

3. "Fear not, then," said the angel,  
"Let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior  
of a pure virgin bright,  
to free all those who trust in him  
from Satan's power and might."

#### **Refrain**

4. Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
and with true love and charity  
each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas  
doth bring redeeming grace.

#### **Refrain**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says let us pray.*

## The Postcommunion Prayer *(said together)*

365

## The Christmas Blessing



**Recessional Hymn**

*Joy to the world!*

Antioch

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;  
let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

**The Dismissal**

**Celebrant:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

**Postlude**

*In Dulci Jubilo*

Johann Sebastian Bach



† † †

***Service Participants***

**Celebrant**

The Reverend Canon Calhoun Walpole

**Music**

Anne Warf

**Readers**

Bonnie Branham

Rich Boss

**Chalice Bearer**

Jamie Downs

**Adult Acolyte**

Jane Charles

**Usher**

Jack Barnett

## A CHRISTMAS NOTE FROM THE RECTOR



*“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”* (John 1:5)

The prophet Isaiah writes: “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.”

When hope is seemingly lost, love enters in the form of a little child, the light of the world.

As a new priest, I lived on Winyah Bay in Georgetown—not far from the site where five rivers converge: the Black River, the Great Pee Dee, the Little Pee Dee, the Waccamaw, and Winyah Bay. The currents are powerful and can be treacherous. A vast expanse of marsh separated the bay from my house. When, on occasion, a boater would run into trouble at night on the dangerous waters, a single beam of light from a rescue helicopter would break through the darkness in search of the stranded or overturned boater.

The beam of light would effortlessly slash through the night—not obliterating the darkness but shining through it. No matter how dark the night might be, the light would always shine through. The poet Boris Khersonsky writes: “A flash of light is more likely in the thickness of darkness.”

This is what John means when he writes that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not/could not/cannot/will not overcome it. No matter our own darkest of darkest nights, the light which is Christ our Saviour always shines through. Even if we may not always have the eyes to see, the light still shines.

The hope offered in the Christmas gift of light is no cruel false hope; it is God himself in the flesh of Jesus Christ, love incarnate. Our Saviour who is love and light—and our very life—does not remove our pains, but he does give us the assurance of himself—wherever we may go or whatever may happen to befall us.

Such a light beams into the very darkness of our world. You can count on the light that shines in the darkness.

Yours,  
*Callie*

# ST. JOHN'S WELCOMES YOU

**We are glad you are with us today.** If you are new to St. John's, please fill out the visitors card below. Here is some information that you may find helpful.

**Welcome:** All are welcome to receive communion. To receive the consecrated Bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed. Having consumed the Bread, you may return to your seat. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please speak to a priest when you come forward for Communion. If you prefer not to receive the Sacrament, you may ask for a blessing by crossing your arms across your chest.

**Help:** If you need assistance at any time, our ushers are happy to help.

**Handicapped Parking:** Our facility is handicapped accessible with multiple handicapped parking spaces available in the lot. A handicap ramp serves the entrance of the church and church office.

**Children:** All children are welcome and encouraged to attend any of our services.

**Activity Bags:** Bags are located in the back of the church for children to use in the pew during the service. Please return when the service is over.

**Nursery:** The nursery is open on Sundays from 9:00am - 12:00pm in the LaRoche Building behind Guerry Hall next to the church.

**Sunday School:** Join us Sunday at 9:15am as Lucy and Thomas McAfee and friends lead us through our school year. This class meets in the LaRoche Building behind Guerry Hall next to the church.

**Nametags:** Nametags are available. If you would like one printed for you, please contact Karen Poehling at karenheiman@me.com

## Weekly E-Newsletter

Get the latest St. John's news sent straight to your inbox! Use the QR code to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter and be up to date on all the exciting things happening at St. John's Episcopal Church.



## Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church

We are delighted you have joined us for worship. Please fill out this contact information card and drop it into the offering plate or give it to one of our greeters. You may also use the QR Code to scan and fill out our google doc instead. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Information

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Family Members: (Please include ages if child/youth)

Please Circle All That Apply:

First-time Visitor  
Returning Visitor

In Town Visiting Family/Friends (or) On Vacation  
Add me to the Newsletter/Mailing list  
A Ministry Member may call



Rebuilding,  
Reviving,  
Renewing.

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(843) 974-5593

The Right Reverend Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop  
The Reverend Canon Calhoun "Callie" Walpole, Rector  
Mobile - (843) 607-4591

The Reverend Chris Huff, Priest Associate

David H. Maybank, Jr., Senior Warden  
Anne-Clark Cromwell, Parish Administrator  
Clark Cromwell, Director of Parish Life  
Anne Warf, Organist & Choir Director

Thank you for your gifts.  
Please make checks payable to St. John's Episcopal Church.

[www.StJohns1734.org](http://www.StJohns1734.org)  
[stjohns@stjohns1734.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohns1734.org)

*The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.*

