



# St. John's Episcopal Church

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

REBUILDING,  
REVIVING,  
RENEWING.



THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
DECEMBER 24, 2023  
6:00 P.M.

# 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.*

Greensleeves

Ralph Vaughan Williams

## Processional Hymn 83

*O come, all ye faithful*

Adeste Fideles

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 heaven above;  
glory to God,  
glory in the highest; **(Refrain)**

4. See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps; **(Refrain)**

5. Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly? **(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 glory of the Lord has been revealed:

**People:** *And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.*

### The Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Reader:** We light this candle to remind us of the great light that comes at last with the birth of Jesus, the Word of God made human for us. As we welcome him in the poor stable in Bethlehem, we offer ourselves to bring his transforming love to birth in all dark places, and to serve him in all our brothers and sisters.

*The Christ candle is lit.*

**Reader:** Let us pray.

O God, your love was so great for us that you gave us your Son to shine out in our darkness. Help us to make that love known to all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:** *Amen.*

1. Angels we have heard on high  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.

**Refrain:**

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear? **(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)**

**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 have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

*Please be seated.*

**The First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**

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

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 Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

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

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 Second Reading: Titus****2:11-14****Reader:** A reading from the letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.**People:** *Thanks be to God.**Please stand.***Sequence Hymn 78***O Little town of Bethlehem*

Forest Green

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 Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

**Celebrant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

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.

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

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

*Please be seated.*

## The Homily

*A period of silent reflection is kept.*

*Please stand.*

## The Apostles' Creed (metrical)

Regent Square(93)

We believe in God the Father,  
God almighty, by whose plan  
earth and heaven sprang to being  
all created things began.

We believe in Christ the Savior,  
Son of God in human frame,  
virgin-born, the child of Mary  
upon whom the Spirit came.

Christ, who on the cross forsaken,  
like a lamb to slaughter led,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
he descended to the dead.

We believe in Jesus risen,  
heaven's king to rule and reign,  
to the Father's side ascended  
till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit;  
in one Church, below, above:  
saints of God in one communion,  
One in holiness and love.  
So by faith, our sins forgiven,  
Christ our Savior, Lord and friend,  
we shall rise with him in glory  
to the life that knows no end.

## The Prayers of the People

**Celebrant:** With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

**Intercessor:** 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.

**People:** *Lord, have mercy.*

**Intercessor:** For Ruth, our Bishop, for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury and for all priests and deacons and all who minister in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** *Lord, have mercy.*

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

**People:** *Lord, have mercy.*

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

**People:** *Lord, have mercy.*

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

**People:** *Lord, have mercy.*

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

**People:** *Lord, have mercy.*

**Intercessor:** 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.

**People:** *Lord, have mercy.*

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

**People:** *Lord, have mercy.*

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

**People:** *Lord, have mercy.*

**Celebrant:** In the communion of Blessed Mary, the mother of our Lord, Blessed Joseph, Blessed John the Evangelist and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**People:** *To you, O Lord our God.*

## 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.*

## Lessons from the Angel Oak

## Welcome and Announcements

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## The Offertory Sentences

### Offertory

*Coventry Carol*

*Please stand.*

## Presentation Hymn

## 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,  
7 heav'n — and earth are — full, full of your glo - - - ry. Ho -  
13 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - - - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
19 est. Bless - ed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
26 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

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 105***God rest ye merry, gentleman*

God rest ye merry, gentleman

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 pow'r  
when we were gone astray.

3. "Fear not," then said the angel,  
"let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior,  
the true and radiant light,  
to free all those who trust in him  
from Satan's pow'r and might." **(Refrain)**

**Refrain:**

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. From God our heav'nly 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)**

4. Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
and in true love and fellowship  
each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas  
is filled with heav'nly grace. **(Refrain)**

**Communion Hymn 109***The First Noel*

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Refrain:**

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. **(Refrain)**

3. And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. **(Refrain)**

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. **(Refrain)**

5. Then entered in those wise men three  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **(Refrain)**

6. Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made Heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought. **(Refrain)**



*Candles will be lit during the singing of this carol*

**Communion Hymn 89**

*It came upon a midnight clear*

Carol

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds  
the blessed angels sing.
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not  
the tidings which they bring;  
O hush the noise and cease your strife  
and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

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

**The Postcommunion Prayer** *(said together)*

365

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.

**Hymn 111**

*Silent Night*

Stille Nacht

1. Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

**The Christmas Blessing**

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 hosts proclaim  
 Christ is born in Bethlehem!

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
 Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
 late in time behold him come,  
 offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
 hail the incarnate Deity.  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell;  
 Jesus, our Emmanuel! **(Refrain)**

**Refrain:**

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
 glory to the newborn King!

3. Mild he lays his glory by,  
 born that we no more may die,  
 born to raise us from the earth,  
 born to give us second birth.  
 Risen with healing in his wings,  
 Light and life to all he brings,  
 hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
 hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
**(Refrain)**

**The Dismissal**

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

*Carol of the bells*

Mykola Leontovych  
 arr. by Brett Thompson



**Service Participants**

**Celebrant and Homilist**

The Reverend Canon Calhoun Walpole

**Assisting**

The Reverend Chris Huff

The Reverend Fred Thompson

**Music**

Anne Warf, Organist  
 Charleston Flute Quartet

Richard Show

Elaine Caine

Alexis Merritt

Carley Lewis

**Vergers**

Anne Norton

**Intercessor**

Nancy Kupersmith

**Ushers**

Karen Poehling

Tom Gibbs

**The Liturgy of the Christ Candle**

**Readers**

Clark Cromwell

Jamie Downs

**Acolytes**

Branch McAfee

Trace McAfee

Branch McAfee

Brian Gibbs

**Chalice Bearers**

Beth Gibbs

Thomas McAfee

## 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*

## 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  
Joyce & Oscar Fuller, Dorcas Fuller by Anne Warf  
Page Parrish Wright, Mary Ann Erwin Middleton, Mr. & Mrs. William Middleton,  
Dr. William Middleton, Jr. by Harriet Wright

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



## A CHRISTMAS NOTE FROM THE PRIEST ASSOCIATE

From Chris:

Kimmie shared this beautiful piece 4 years ago. She he is practicing what she preaches, only writ large because now I'm the one having trouble making it up the stairs... sometimes physically, sometimes emotionally. Although I am not old, per se, I have terminal cancer, and she comes to meet me, and she brings Jesus with her.  
--Chris

From Kim:

Making it up the Stairs

I am sitting in my downstairs rec room this morning having my quiet time with Argus, my grand dog. He's a big boy, a Great Dane/Lab mix and a real sweetie. He is content here, familiar with our house and I am down here with him away from my usual den rocker because he is old now and can no longer negotiate the stairs. But he still loves company. He will give me a friendly bark--just his way of saying he would like some company-- just being present seems to quiet him.

As we prepare our hearts again for the birth of this tiny baby who is our mighty King of Kings, I question what I can do to be Christ's presence to those in my life who are lonely, broken or have simply lost the joy they once had. It occurred to me that I'm a lot like Argus. He just wants to be near to those he loves... close, present. Jesus is my shepherd in a world where I need care and direction. Jesus is the light in my life when the world seems to go dark. Jesus is the door that is always open for me to enter and stay awhile in his presence. Jesus is the one to whom I call out from my places of brokenness, and he comes down to meet me because I can't quite make it up the stairs to be with him. Jesus calls out, "Come to me all you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Christmas is a beautiful season, but for many the light seems to have gone out. Let us be Jesus to someone today. Let us be the one that brings comfort and God's presence to our world, to our family and our friends--indeed to strangers. And like Argus, may our souls and theirs be quieted and stilled in the presence of Jesus, who comes to us when we can't seem to walk up the stairs anymore.

Wishing you joy this season.

## COMING UP AT ST. JOHN'S

### Sauntering Prayer

Join Callie on Tuesdays at 1:00pm on the front steps of the church for Sauntering Prayer.

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### Grace Chapel

Regular Sunday afternoon services at 4pm.

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### Private Prayer List

If you would like to add someone to our private prayer list please contact Caroline Sinkler at [calsinkler@yahoo.com](mailto:calsinkler@yahoo.com)

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### Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training

On the First Sunday after Christmas, December 31st at 9:15am

Are you being called to deliver the Sacrament of Holy Communion to the sick? If so, please contact the Director of Parish Life, [ccromwell@stjohns1734.org](mailto:ccromwell@stjohns1734.org) or the Rector, [cwalpole@stjohns1734.org](mailto:cwalpole@stjohns1734.org) and plan to be present for a training session in Walton Hall on the 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 9:15.

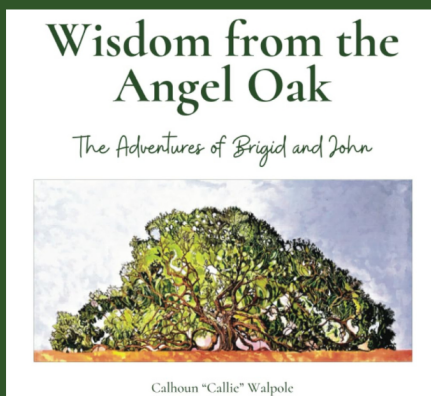
We will be joined by several friends from the Church of the Heavenly Rest in Estill who also will be participating in the session.

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## Now Available!

# Wisdom from the Angel Oak:

*The Adventures of Brigid and John*



A collection of children's stories about the natural world and the Christian life in the form of conversations with the storied Angel Oak on John's Island, South Carolina by Calhoun "Callie" Walpole, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church. Artwork by acclaimed Angel Oak artist Frank DeLoach. Photographs by Nancy Dutrow and other local photographers. Poetry by noted McClellanville writer William Baldwin.

Available in Guerry Hall at St. John's Episcopal Church or online.



St. John's Episcopal Church  
3673 Maybank Highway  
John's Island, SC 29455  
843.947.5593 [stjohns1734.org](http://stjohns1734.org)

# 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.

3673 Maybank Highway John's Island, SC 29455  
Mailing Address - P.O. Box 423 John's Island, SC 29457  
(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)

*The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.*

