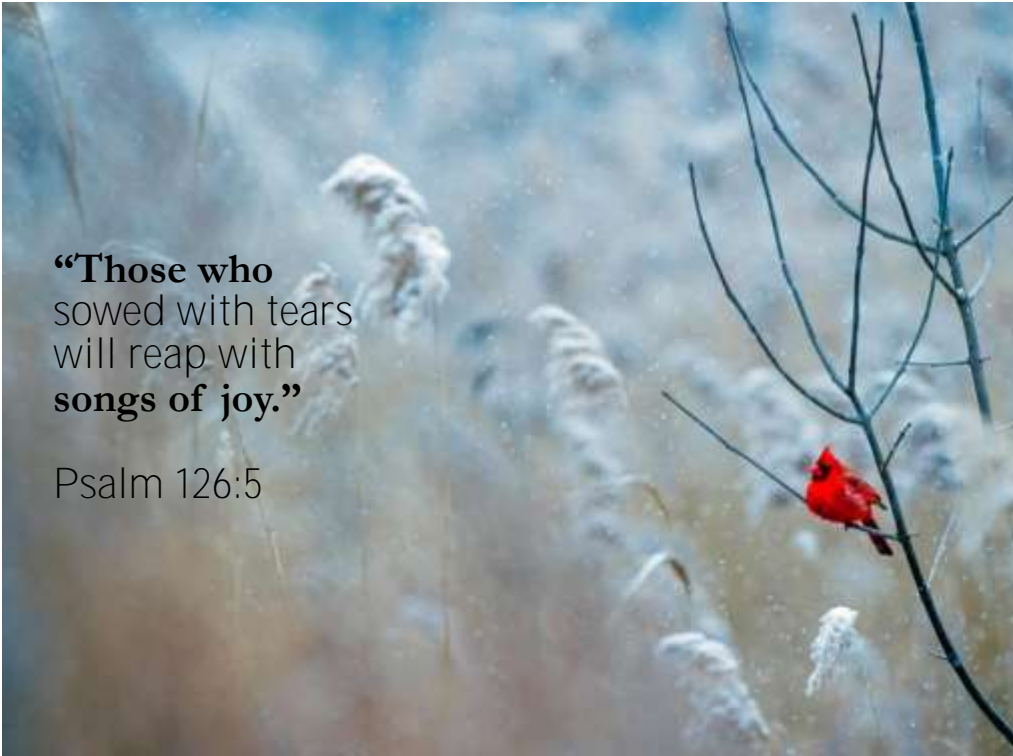


# Welcome to **St. John's Cathedral**



**“Those who  
sowed with tears  
will reap with  
songs of joy.”**

Psalm 126:5

December 17, 2017 - 9 a.m.  
The Third Sunday of Advent

LOVE *at the* CORE.

Welcome to St. John's Cathedral! We are so glad that you are here.

We worship God in the heart of the city. We are surrounded by the poor in an area of town that is often neglected. In his life, Jesus often ministered to the poor and needy, and we believe that by worshipping **God in the urban core, we can catch a glimpse of God's love.**

We welcome all people. Our nursery is open all morning on Sundays. We would love to get to know you better, and you can help us by filling out a visitor card located in your pew and placing it in the offering plate as it comes by, or by handing it to an usher. Please let us know if you need prayers and if you would like us to email you our online newsletter. Listening devices are always available for the hearing impaired and large-print bulletins for those who have trouble with their eyesight. Please ask an usher if you need these items or anything else. We want to help you feel at home here.

We believe that worship should be beautiful and sacred, a moment to hush the hurriedness of our lives and experience the peace of God. I **hope that you feel God's love this morning.**

Faithfully,

The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead,  
Dean

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT TODAY AT 9 A.M.

In his book, “The Life of St. Francis of Assisi,” St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan monk, states that St. Francis received permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a manger with hay and a couple of animals, an ox and a donkey, in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. There, in 1223, he performed a midnight mass. Villagers came to view the scene and to hear St. Francis recount the story of our Lord’s birth. And, voilà—Francis’ display quickly evolved into what we would recognize as a Christmas pageant. Remember, in 1223, church services were conducted only in Latin, which most people did not understand. The pageants, or plays, were a vehicle for all to learn scripture and to engage in the service.



Our Christmas Pageant has become a much loved tradition at St. John’s Cathedral for all our children and families who participate, as well as for those who simply answer the call to “come and see.” This is a special opportunity to journey back in time with us to the very first Christmas when God gave the world the best gift of all... Jesus. We hope you’ll delight in our cast of characters including Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, camels, piggies, wise men and women, angels, stars, dinosaurs, donkeys, grasshoppers, shepherds, sheep and a few surprises! So if you happen to spy a stray little lamb or adorable angel, just follow them into the cathedral!



# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*On each of the four Sundays of Advent, a candle is lit on the Advent wreath as the light of Christ comes into the world.*

Welcome

The Bidding Prayer

*The Celebrant says*

Dear People of God: In this Advent Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us **hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose and the glorious redemption** brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for the Church in our country and in this city. And because God particularly loves them, let us remember the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

*Scene 1 - An angel visits Joseph in a dream*

The First Reading

Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

Celebration Hymnal 243

"Emmanuel" *(sung twice)*

*Scene 2 - The Annunciation*

The Second Reading

Luke 1:26-31, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### *Scene 3 - The Visitation*

#### The Third Reading

Luke 1:39-47

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she **entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."** And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

Organ

Noël X

Louis-Claude D'Aquin

### *Scene 4 - The Registration*

#### The Fourth Reading

Luke 2:1-5

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.

Celebration Hymnal 250 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *Stanzas 1-2*

### *Scene 5 - The shepherds are visited by angels*

#### The Fifth Reading

Luke 2:8-14

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!"

Celebration Hymnal 278 "Angels We Have Heard on High" *Stanzas 1-3*

### *Scene 6 - Jesus in a manger*

#### The Sixth Reading

Luke 2:6-7, 16

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, 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. The shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol

"Mary Did You Know"  
*Jake and Max Moorehead*

The Seventh Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Celebration Hymnal 288      “We Three Kings” Stanza 1

*A period of silence for reflection follows the hymn.*

*The Dean concludes the pageant with the reading of John 3:16-17. The children then sing “Happy Birthday, Jesus” at the manger.*

*The children are invited to remain at the altar during The Great Thanksgiving.*

The Peace

*The People stand.*

*Celebrant      The peace of Christ be always with you.*

*People      And also with you.*

*The Clergy and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

“Ordinary Baby”

*Cheryl Bowen*

*As the Altar is prepared for Communion, representatives of the congregation collect the offerings of the People. The people stand when the offerings are brought forward and placed on the Altar.*

Celebration Hymnal 244      “Come thou long expected Jesus”

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer III

Book of Common Prayer of the Church of Ireland

*The People stand.*

*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.

*The Celebrant continues*

Father, Lord of all creation, we praise you for your goodness and your love. When we turned away you did not reject us. You came to meet us in your Son, welcomed us as your children and prepared a table where we might feast with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

*He opened wide his arms upon the cross and, with love stronger than death, he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.*

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer, on the night before you died you came to table with your friends. Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying, Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

*Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the bread of life.*

At the end of supper you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

*Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the true vine.*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:

*Dying, you destroyed our death, rising, you restored our life; Lord Jesus, come in glory.*

Holy Spirit, giver of life, come upon us now; may this bread and wine be to us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

*As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us, who know our need of grace, one in Christ, our risen Lord.*

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity: with your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise and lift our voice to join the song of heaven, for ever praising you and singing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow - er and might, heaven and earth are



11 full of your glor - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

17 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

22 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

28 in the high - est. Ho - san - na

30 in the high - - - est.

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words.  
*Amen. Amen. Amen.*

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

*Celebrant and People*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
*People* We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

*The Celebrant continues*

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Remember that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.



***Please join us at God's table.***

*All baptized people are welcome to receive communion. Everyone is welcome to come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, please fold your arms across your chest. You are also invited to receive prayers and anointing with holy oil in one of our transept chapels (Ascension to the south, and Holy Communion to the north) where anointers wait to pray with you.*

Music at Communion

Celebration Hymnal 251

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Celebration Hymnal 249

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

The Postcommunion Prayer

*The Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The Celebrant and People say together*

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.

The Blessing

May Almighty God watch over you who wait for Christ to come again, you who long to see His face. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

In Procession, Celebration Hymnal 258 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

The Dismissal

*Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.*

*Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*

+ + +

*The flowers at the High Altar are given to the glory of God,*

## THIS SUNDAY AT THE CATHEDRAL

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

8 a.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

9 a.m. Cathedral Christmas Pageant  
Reception to follow in Tallaferro Hall

▶ **Church on the Mat**

10 a.m. Cummings Chapel  
A gentle yoga class with the reading of Scripture. Bring your yoga mat!

▶ **Coffee, Tea and Conversation**

10 a.m. Room 305

▶ **Christian Formation for all ages** will resume on January 7.

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

11 a.m. Cathedral

## NEXT SUNDAY AT THE CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY, DEC. 24 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

8 a.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

10:30 a.m. Cathedral

SUNDAY, DEC. 24 - Christmas Eve

▶ **Family Service with Holy Eucharist**

4 p.m. Cathedral Nursery available.

▶ **Holy Eucharist with Bishop Howard, Cathedral Brass and Choir**

6 p.m. Cathedral Nursery available.

▶ **Holy Eucharist with Dean Moorehead, Cathedral Brass and Choir**

11 p.m. Cathedral  
Incense will be used. No nursery available.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, DEC. 23

► **The Greening of the Cathedral**

9 a.m. Cathedral

The Sanctuary Guild invites everyone to join them in adorning the sanctuary with garland, wreaths and poinsettias. All hands are welcome!

MONDAY, DEC. 25

► **Holy Eucharist with Cathedral Choir**

10:30 a.m. Cathedral

TUESDAY, DEC. 26 - OFFICES CLOSED

SUNDAY, DEC. 31 - **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

► **The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

5 p.m. Cathedral

A candlelight service of Christmas scripture and traditional carols sung by the Cathedral Choir.

No nursery available.

MONDAY, JAN. 1 - **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

OFFICES CLOSED

SATURDAY, JAN. 6

► **Storytelling workshop with Bishop Porter Taylor and his son Arthur Taylor**

Save the date and make plans to attend! *Telling Our Stories: My Story, Our Story, God's Story* aims to help participants articulate parts of their story and relate them to our story of faith. Because January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, we will focus on two themes: Epiphany—letting the divine light shine in and through us—and Metanoia or the great turning—which is how we allow God to redirect/reconfigure our lives.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

MONDAY, DEC. 18

▶ **Friends of Bill W.**

5:30 p.m. Ingram Lounge

▶ **Adult Children of Alcoholics**

6 p.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Boy Scouts**

6 p.m. Taliaferro Hall

TUESDAY, DEC. 19

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

12:10 p.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Yoga**

5:45 p.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **EFM (Education for Ministry)**

7 p.m. Ingram Lounge

▶ **Girl Scouts**

7 p.m. Basement “Coffee House”

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

7 a.m. Holy Communion Chapel

▶ **Healing Service**

12:10 p.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Wonderful Wednesday Classes will resume January 10.**

▶ **Choir Rehearsal**

7:30 p.m. Choir Room

THURSDAY, DEC. 21

▶ **Shakespeare Reading Group**

9:30 Ingram Lounge

▶ **Holy Eucharist**

12:10 p.m. Cummings Chapel

▶ **Celebration Singers Rehearsal**

5:30 p.m. Ascension Chapel

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

▶ **Clara’s at the Cathedral**

11 a.m. Taliaferro Hall

▶ **Contemplative Holy Eucharist**

12:10 p.m. Cummings Chapel

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ► **St. Mary's Bag-a-Month Club - December**

Help out members of St. Mary's this cold and flu season! Pick up a marked brown bag this Sunday and fill it with pain and fever relievers, cough and cold medicine, band aids, etc. Bring your bag back by next Sunday, December 24.

## ► **Donate Christmas Flowers**

Remember loved ones and/or honor those you cherish by donating money for Christmas flowers. If you donate by Tuesday, December 19, we can list the names of your loved ones in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. Donation envelopes are located in the pews, or donate online at [www.jaxcathedral.org](http://www.jaxcathedral.org) and click "Donate Altar Flowers" under the Give tab.

## ► Christmas gift ideas!

A new shipment of hand cast, bronze Celtic crosses and a special Nativity from Ireland-based Wild Goose Studio has arrived! Supplies are limited, so come by the bookstore and pick up one of these beautiful pieces for someone on your list.

## ► Fresh Greens from Fresh Ministries

See Kathryn Bisette in the Cathedral Bookstore to buy greens and more from Fresh Ministries today! Just \$4/bag.

## ► **Call for Vestry and Convention Delegate Nominations**

The Vestry Nominating Committee will nominate candidates for vacancies on the Vestry as well as Delegates to the Diocesan Convention. The election for those positions will be conducted at the Parish Annual Meeting on February 4, 2018. Parish members are encouraged to submit the names of nominees to Nancy Purcell, Communications Director, at [npurcell@jaxcathedral.org](mailto:npurcell@jaxcathedral.org). Please obtain the permission of your nominee before submitting his or her name. Nominations will be reviewed by the nominating committee members: Kirk Altman, Martha Cox, Robert Hyde, Claude Moulton, Joe O'Shields, and Faye Wisner.

Qualifications for Vestry members (4 to be elected): A Vestry nominee 1) must be a communicant of St. John's Cathedral in good standing for a period of at least 12 months prior to election; 2) if a nominee has served two full terms (for a total of six years), there must be a two-year break before he or she may be nominated again; 3) must be actively involved in the ministries of the Parish; 4) must be willing to accept active leadership, including responsibility for decision making that represents the entire Parish; 5) must, if called upon, serve on the boards of affiliated corporations of the Cathedral; 6) must be willing to invest the time necessary in the ministry of leadership, including attendance at worship, Vestry meetings and other scheduled Vestry activities, special events, and satellite activities; and 7) must be otherwise eligible. In addition to the above qualifications contained in the bylaws, the Vestry believes that nominees for service should possess special skills, gifts and talents in visionary and strategic thinking, be courageous, and have skills in fiscal planning and policy. Finally, the Vestry is seeking members who represent the diverse composition of our congregation.

Diocesan Convention Delegates (2 to be elected): The Senior Warden fills one of the five delegate positions. The remaining four delegates serve two year terms, with one or two rotating off each year. At the 2018 Annual Meeting, we will elect two delegates and two alternates for the 2018 Diocesan Convention.

► **Angel Tree Christmas 2017**

If you chose an angel from our angel tree, today is the day to return your gift. Please put it under the tree with the tag attached by noon. Help is still needed to deliver the gifts! If interested, please contact Megan Cochran at (904) 233-9583.

► **Art Exhibit: Raquel**

Now through January Taliaferro Hall

The present exhibition of paintings by Raquel is a beautiful array of works formed by a mature artistic vision. Impressionistic in style, ranging from classic images to Cezanne-like paintings, Raquel's work suggests early Cubist landscapes and shows the influence of her native Spain. The paintings are for sale through the bookstore.

► **2018 Offering Envelopes**

If you indicated on your pledge card that you would like offering envelopes for 2018, they will be available for pickup at all Sunday services on December 31, 2017 and in the following weeks.

► **Birthday Blessings**

Sunday, December 17

Mrs. Hicks, Carolyn Foley, Tim Engemann, Carrie Gentry, Eve Erstling

Monday, December 18

Joann Watson, Nancy Reynolds, Chris Likins, Daniel Abdelnour

Tuesday, December 19

Shirley Bush, Sam Craddock, William Bruce IV

Wednesday, December 20

Lanea McCrea, Liesl Gavronsky-Howsare, Yetiva Comacho

Thursday, December 21

Doug Maurer, David Vormack, Sarah Miller, Samuel Holcomb

Friday, December 22

Tammie Corey

Saturday, December 23

Noel Dana, Robert Nichols

# SERMON NOTES



## ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

256 East Church Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202  
(904) 356-5507 - [www.jaxcathedral.org](http://www.jaxcathedral.org)  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
and Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

You can now watch our 11 a.m. service live on our website!  
Just click the Live Broadcast link on the homepage.

Forgot your checkbook or cash? Text the dollar amount of your gift to  
904-584-3116. (Example: \$20)