

# Welcome!



SAINT JOHN'S  
CATHEDRAL  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

December 23, 2018 - 8 a.m.  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

LOVE *at the* CORE.

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

You may notice that we are celebrating a special season right now. This season is called Advent. The name comes from the Latin word *adventus* which means coming. Since the year 496, the church has prepared for the Feast of Christmas with a season of waiting and of prayer. As the days grow darker, the church begins the services of Advent by bringing light into the darkness. Each week, we light one additional candle on the Advent wreath that stands next to the altar. When the entire wreath is lit, it is time for the light of Christ to enter the world.

While the rest of American culture has already launched into Christmas, we here at the Cathedral are preparing. We are waiting not just to celebrate the Christmas holiday, but we are waiting to see Jesus again. All Christians wait for him, we long to see him face to face.

Please know that we are so happy that you have joined us. You bring us joy just by walking in the door. No matter where you came from, no matter how you are dressed, no matter if you understand the worship or find it all new, you are welcome. We believe that worship should be a beautiful and sacred time, a way to slow down the rush of our lives and to experience the peace of **God. I hope that you feel God's love this morning.**

If you have questions or you are in need of prayer, please come to one of the side altars during communion or come and find me or one of the priests after the service. May God bless you.

**In Christ's love,**

Kate+

# 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.*

In Procession, Hymn 54      “Savior of the nations, come!”      *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Celebrant*      Blessed be our God.  
*People*      For ever and ever. Amen.

*Celebrant and People*

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.

*The Celebrant and the People say together*

### The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*      And also with you.  
*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

*The Celebrant continues*

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The People are seated.*

### The Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

*Lector*      A Reading from the book of Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

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

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

*The Psalm is read in unison.*

Psalm 80:1-7

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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

*The People stand.*

The Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

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

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 leaped 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 leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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

*The People are seated.*

The Sermon

The Reverend Allen LaMontagne

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

*The People stand.*

## The Nicene Creed

*The Celebrant and People say*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*The Prayers of the People All remain standing as able. The Leader and People pray responsively*

Eternal God, in this season of Advent, awaken your whole Church to see our unity more than what divides us; Give us strength and courage to find quiet moments to sit still and wait for you to come. Lord, we wait for you.

*Lord, come among us.*

We give you thanks for the gift of our lives, our loved ones and the coming of our Lord Jesus. Lord, we wait for you.

*Lord, come among us.*

We ask your blessing on all who are sick, grieving, struggling with poverty or alone during the holidays. **(We pray especially for...)** Lord, we wait for you.

*Lord, come among us.*

We ask you to bring peace to the world and to this, our city, that we may respect and honor one another. Lord, we wait for you.

*Lord, come among us.*

We ask you to help us learn to tell the truth of our stories so that other people may be drawn to you. Lord, we wait for you.

*Lord, come among us.*

We ask you to welcome into your embrace those who we love who have died, that they may see **you face to face.** **(We remember especially...)** Lord, we wait for you.

*Lord, come among us.*

*The Celebrant concludes the prayers.*

## The Confession of Sin

*The People kneel.*

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

*Celebrant and People*

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 Celebrant says*

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

## 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.*

## Welcome and Announcements

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Representatives of the congregation bring forward the People's offerings of money, and other gifts. The People stand when the offerings are brought forward and placed on the Altar.*

Hymn 380, stanza 3 “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

*Old 100th*

The Great Thanksgiving, from the BCP of the Church of England

*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 him thanks and praise.

*The Celebrant continues*

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever!

From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

*The Celebrant and People say*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues*

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord! As a mother tenderly gathers her children you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends, and taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take eat: this is my body which is given for you

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you 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, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*The Celebrant and People say*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant continues*

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand. Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us into the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. Remember Lord your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace. Bring us at the last with John and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendor for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by him, with him, and in him, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

*The Celebrant and People say*

*Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.*

*The Celebrant continues*

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

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

## The Breaking of the Bread

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

*Celebrant* My flesh is food indeed.  
*People* And my blood is drink indeed, saith the Lord.

*The Celebrant continues*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. (Take them in remembrance that Christ 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.*

## 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, Hymn 57 “Lo, he comes with clouds descending”

*Helmsley*

## The Dismissal

*People* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.

+ + +

*The flowers at the High Altar are given to the glory of God, the flowers at the Holy Communion Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Amelia Shields DeMuth, Bayard Shields Benoit, Carl Robertson Kurtz, Jr., Bayard Shields Ferber, Amelia K Ferber, Paul L Ferber and other members of the Shields Family by Paul S Ferber.*



# SERMON NOTES

*Season's Blessings*  
*Christmas at S t. J ohn's Cathedral*

Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve  
Holy Eucharist & Chancel Drama | 4 p.m.  
Holy Eucharist & Cathedral Choir | 6 & 11 p.m.  
(incense will be used at 11 p.m.)

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day  
Holy Eucharist with Cathedral Choir | 10:30 a.m.

**Monday, December 31 New Year's Eve**  
The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols | 5 p.m.

## SOMETHING NEW FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AT 4 P.M.

How do we make Christmas come alive?

The answer will find expression in the light of Christ at the 4 p.m. service on Christmas Eve when the Youth Group stages a play called *Virtual and Virtuosity*. It's a story about two teenagers who find something very real between the virtual world of smart phones and the stable where Jesus is born.

Some parts of the play resemble a Christmas pageant. But the dialogue between the teens before and after the Nativity scene is what makes the story of Christmas become our story. Chancel drama is a time-honored way of bringing God's Word to life. These plays often open up Scriptures in a way that is different from listening to the reading of the lessons and Gospel.

The Ministry of the Word—the part of the service before Communion—will look and feel different. Everyone in the congregation will be encouraged to have a part, especially the children. **Don't get nervous! What we have in mind is easy, and it will be fun!**

Come with an open mind and heart, and may the Spirit fill us with the joy of Christmas!

Peace,  
Father Allen



## ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
and Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Please remember St. John's Cathedral in your will or trust.**