

Welcome!



SAINT JOHN'S
CATHEDRAL
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

December 23, 2018 - 9 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

Introit

Come, Emmanuel

Don Besig and Nancy Price

St. John's Celebration Singers

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.

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.*

Call to Worship Song

“An Invitation to Advent”

Ruth Elaine Schram

St. John's Celebration Singers, Jr. Choristers & Children's Chapel Friends arr. Douglas Nolan

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.

Solo

“Breath of Heaven”
Melody Choate, soprano

Amy Grant

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.

Song

“Mary, Did You Know?”

Max Moorehead, soloist; Jake Moorehead, guitar

Scene 7 - The Wise Men

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.

Song

“Follow the Star”

St. John’s Celebration Singers, Jr. Choristers & Children’s Chapel Friends

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.

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

He Is Born (*Trad. 19th Cent. French Carol*) arr. Dave and Jean Perry
St. John's Celebration Singers and Friends

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

BCP 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 - lv. ho - lv. ho - lv Lord. God of

6 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

26 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 255

“Lo! How a Rose E're Blooming”

Celebration Hymnal 262

“Away in a Manger”

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

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People 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

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.