

# The Eve of the Nativity



December 24, 2018  
Four O'clock in the Afternoon

St. John's Cathedral  
Jacksonville, Florida

## THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY

Welcome to Saint John's Cathedral! We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God. This bulletin contains the entire service and music. If you are in need of an assisted listening device, please see an usher. Thank you for being here, and we hope that you will worship with us again soon! Blessings to you in this Holy Season.

Dean: The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead  
Sub-Dean: The Rev. Canon Allen LaMontagne  
Canon for Music: Timothy Tuller

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Music Before the Service

Jesus Come to Us  
Fum, Fum, Fum

David Haas  
A Spanish Carol

*St. John's Celebrations Singers, Jr. Choristers and Friends*

*The People remain seated. The candles are lit on the Advent wreath as the light of Christ comes into the world.  
The People stand.*

### In Procession,

“O come, all ye faithful” (*Stanzas 1-3*)

*Adeste fideles*

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, Christ the Lord.*

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

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest; *Refrain*

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

*The Celebrant and People say*

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.

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

*The Celebrant continues*

### The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The People are seated.*

### The Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

*Lector* A reading from the Book of 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.

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

### **Chancel Drama and Homily**

“Virtual and Virtuosity”  
Youth Group Players, Dean Kate and the Congregation

### **The Prayers of the People**

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Let us pause for a moment and give thanks to God for all our many blessings. I invite you to speak aloud your thanksgivings...

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

We ask your blessing on all who are grieving or ill during this holiday season. Let us speak their names aloud...

We ask your peace throughout the world, especially in the Middle East and on the streets of our own city.

May Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen. *- altered from a Christmas prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson*

*Silence*  
*The Celebrant concludes the prayers.*

### **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says*

*People*           The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
                    And also with you.

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

*Merry Christmas and a warm welcome to our visitors and guests today. Please know how happy we are to have you worship with us. We would love to welcome our guests, so please fill out a visitor card and drop it in the offering plate as it comes by. God's blessings for a merry Christmas. We hope you will come again!*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*Representatives of the congregation collect the offerings of the People.*

### **The Offertory**

An Invitation to Advent           Ruth Elaine Schram, arr. Douglas Nolan  
*St. John's Celebration Singers, Junior Choristers & Friends*

*Representatives of the congregation bring forward the People's offerings of bread and wine, money, and other gifts. The People stand when the offerings are brought forward and placed on the Altar. You may also text the dollar amount of your gift to 904-584-3116.*

*The People stand and sing.*

“Hark! The herald angels sing”

*Mendelssohn*

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! *Refrain*

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*

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*

*Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*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.

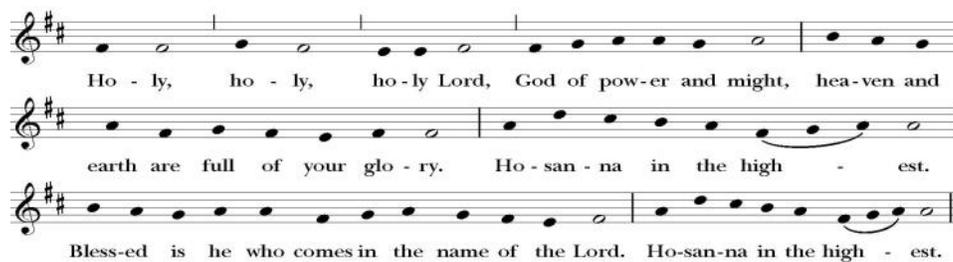
*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*



*The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

*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 for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*  
We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to

that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

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* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*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.)

*The Lord's Table is open to all. Baptized persons are welcome to receive communion. Unbaptized persons are invited to the altar to receive a blessing. To signify that you do not desire communion, please cross your arms over your chest, and a priest will administer a blessing.*

### **Music at Communion**

#### **“Away in a Manger”**

*Luther's Carol*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

#### **“Silent night, holy night”**

*Stille Nacht*

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.

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

### **Postcommunion Prayer**

*The Celebrant says*  
Let us pray.

*The People kneel. The Celebrant and People say*

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, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

**In Procession,**

“Joy to the world! The Lord is come”

*Antioch*

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

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

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.

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

**The Dismissal**

*People*

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Concluding Voluntary**

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach



Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem is over...our Savior is born and lies in a manger.  
The shepherds have listened to the angel and hurried to see the babe in swaddling cloths.

The Wise Men travel on, led by a star.

Two ways to meet our Lord—drop everything and believe  
or with quiet study and longing, find the way.

The journey to Bethlehem is complete, but the story is only beginning...

# WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AGAIN SOON!

## CHRISTMAS DAY - 10:30 A.M.

Holy Eucharist in celebration of the birth of Christ

## NEW YEAR'S EVE - 5 P.M.

A traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols service  
sung by the Choir of St. John's Cathedral.

## HOLY EUCHARIST ON SUNDAYS

Our regular Sunday service times of 8, 9 and 11 a.m. resume December 30.

## HOLY EUCHARIST ON WEEKDAYS

7 a.m. every Wednesday  
12:10 p.m. every Tuesday-Friday

## PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Gather. Connect. Engage. Discovery 2019

Join us for an 8-week series of dinner and discussions that will start you on a spiritual journey of self-discovery, acknowledging your gifts and revealing ways to use those gifts in parish life.

January 9 - February 27 | Wednesday evenings | 5:45- 8 p.m. | Taliaferro Hall

Let's Talk: A Cathedral Civil Discourse Series

Dean Kate and Father Allen have preached about parish diversity and the call to nurturing relationships in Christ. We live in a fractured society. Does the church have a healing role to play?

Begins January 9 | Wednesday evenings | 6 p.m.

Thursday Morning Bible Study: The Lively Word

11 a.m. | Cummings Chapel

New Dean's Forum on the Life of St. Francis of Assisi

Begins January 13 | Sunday mornings | 10 a.m. | Taliaferro Hall

## PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN & PARENTS

We invite all children to join us for Children's Chapel during the 9 a.m. Sunday service. Please join us in the back of the Cathedral. Children will return to join their family for communion.

Godly Play and our Parent Group resume Sunday, January 6 at 10 a.m.

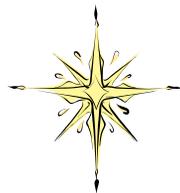
Contact Terry Jamerson Hunt for information: [thunt@jaxcathedral.org](mailto:thunt@jaxcathedral.org)

## PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Sunday classes for middle school and high school students resume January 6 at 10 a.m.

Youth Group resumes Wednesday, January 9 at 6 p.m. Join us for games, prayer and worship!

Contact Liesl Gavronsky-Howsare for information: [lgavronsky@jaxcathedral.org](mailto:lgavronsky@jaxcathedral.org)





*Christmas Flowers Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of*

Paul & Clara Hafner  
Janet K. Collins  
Richard Marty  
Darrell & Jo Perkins  
Robby Pinkerton  
Bertha & Artis Pinkerton  
Jean & Fred Wilson  
Mary Laverne Watts  
Calvin T. Watts  
Edith Hulsey Shurley  
Fletcher R. Shurley  
Chester & Fate Wilkinson  
Kenon Ferguson  
Michael Ferguson  
Sarah Ferguson  
Aunt Jay  
Aunt Belinda & Great Granny  
Victor M. Slaght  
Ray & Doris Slaght  
Bill & Janelle Parrish  
Catherine McCranie  
Wallace Baldwin  
Maria Celeste Catino  
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Osborn  
Pauline Conklin  
Liz & Eddie Driscoll  
Father Jack & Betty Flynn  
Annetta Cogdell  
Jim & Adele Higgins

James & Florence Halpin  
Annie & George West  
George H. West, Jr.  
Joyce Sleaf  
Lillian & William Armsby  
Richard Bush  
Melvin & Fay Doiron  
Eugene & Joyce Schrader  
Jerry Singleton  
Kate Willis  
Jack Willis  
Bobby Jackson  
Lois Morgan  
The Very Rev. Gustave Weltsek  
Robert C. Sneller  
Hunter M. Kelly  
Claude Walker  
John Walker  
Max Harvey  
Ray Young  
Jack & Marjorie Weatherford  
Jimmy & Laura Young  
Jack, Ruth & Craig Carpenter  
Donald & John Deakin  
Afifeh & Mitchell Mackoul  
Dr. Raymond Klein  
Dr. Victor Mackoul  
Walter Mackoul

*Christmas Flowers Given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for*

Phoebe Stephens  
Jack Stephens  
Dinah Stephens  
Mattie Sacks  
Spencer Sacks  
Beck Sacks  
Flora Grace Sacks  
Tom & Lorraine Corey  
Thomas & Emily Corey  
Renee & Alex Ellis  
Abigail Hunt  
David Alexander II  
Kamryn Alexander

Nicholas Spicer  
Elizabeth Spicer  
Tory Walker  
Collin Walker  
Kristen Santarone  
Leslie, Roger & Margo Clark  
Laura, Kenny, Savannah & James Kwaak  
Dot Walker  
Kathy Lind  
Russell Lind