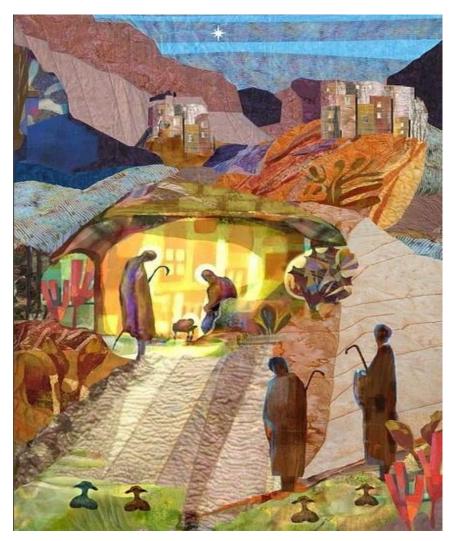
# The Eve of the Nativity



Shepherds at Bethlehem by Michael Torevell.

**December 24, 2021** 6 p.m. and 11 p.m.

St. John's Cathedral The Episcopal Diocese of Florida 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 would like, you may also refer to the Book of Common Prayer and The Hymnal 1982, found in your pew rack. If you are in need of an assisted listening device, please see an usher. Thank you for being here, and we hope to see you again soon! Blessings to you in this Holy Season.

Masks are optional as we are following the most recent CDC guidelines. Your safety is important to us.

The Right Reverend Samuel Johnson Howard
The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead
The Reverend Gerald G. Alexander
The Reverend Adam Greene
The Reverend Eric Kahl
The Reverend Deacon Saundra Kidd
The Reverend Canon Raja Zabaneh
Canon for Music: Timothy Tuller

#### MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Ricercar del duodecimo tuono

Andrea Gabrieli

Yuletide Carols for Brass and Organ

Various/Traditional Arr. R. Powell

Noël sur les jeux d'anches

Louis Claude D'Aquin

Christmas Suite No. 4

Various/Traditional Arr. T. Steve

Duet

Were You there on that Christmas Night?
Rebecca Andrews, soprano
Stuart Edward Meyer, baritone

Natalie Sleeth

The People remain seated. The lights are dimmed and the Advent wreath is lit. As the Christ Light begins to shine forth, we hear the opening sentences of Saint John's Gospel.

#### THE WORD OF GOD

#### In Procession

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 "O come, all ye faithful"

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

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

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* 

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; Refrain Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant says

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.

Hymn

"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

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

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

#### The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant continues

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 First 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.

A period of silence follows the reading for reflection.

Psalm 96 (sung by the Choir)

O SING unto the LORD a new song; \* sing unto the LORD, all the whole earth.

CHANT: Thomas Attwood

Sing unto the LORD, and praise his Name; \* be telling of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his honour unto the heathen, \* and his wonders unto all people.

For the LORD is great, and cannot worthily be praised; \* he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for the gods of the heathen, they are but idols; \* but it is the LORD that made the heavens.

Glory and worship are before him; \* power and honour are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, \* ascribe unto the LORD worship and power.

Ascribe unto the LORD the honour due unto his Name; \* bring presents, and come into his courts.

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \* let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Tell it out among the heathen, that the LORD is King, and that it is he who hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved; \* and how that he shall judge the people righteously.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; \* let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.

Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it; \* then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the LORD.

For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth; \* and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.

The Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

Lector A reading from the letter of Paul 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.

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

A period of silence follows the reading for reflection.

The People stand and sing.

Hymn

"It came upon the midnight clear"

Carol

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.

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.

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!

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.

4

The Gospel Luke 2:1-14

Gospeler 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!"

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

#### The Sermon

The Right Reverend Samuel Johnson Howard (6 p.m.)

The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead (11 p.m.)

A period of silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The People stand.

#### The Nicene Creed

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.

All remain standing as able.

#### The Prayers of the People

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

We pray for God's people throughout the world. For all who suffer from the coronavirus and its effects. For the sick, the hungry and those who have no home. Pray for all those in need, especially those affected by tornadoes in Kentucky.

Silence

We pray for the city of Jacksonville and for this Cathedral district here in the heart of the urban core. Pray that we may bring new life to downtown Jacksonville and serve those in need. *Silence* 

We pray for the nations of the earth, especially Afghanistan, Belarus, Haiti, Somalia, and all nations torn by war, injustice and oppression. Pray for peace. *Silence* 

We pray for this beautiful earth that You have given us. Pray that we may cherish and care for this planet. *Silence* 

We pray for all who have died, that they may be welcomed into your loving embrace. Pray for those we love but see no longer.

Silence

Praise God for the gift of Christ's birth, for the gift of our lives and for all the people we love. *Silence* 

The Celebrant concludes the prayers.

#### The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People 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 tonight. Please know how happy we are to have you worship with us. We'd love to welcome our guests, so please fill out a visitor card and drop it in the offering plate as it comes by. We hope you'll come again!

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

Representatives of the congregation bring forward the People's offerings of money, and other gifts. You may also text jaxcathedral \$(amount) to 73256. The People stand when the offerings are brought forward and placed on the Altar.

#### The Offertory Anthem

Shepherds loud their praises singing

Alec Rowley

Shepherds loud their praises singing, Fill the skies with anthem ringing: Hence all fears and sadness flinging: Born today is Christ our King.

Gentle Child, so still Thou sleepeth, Tender watch His mother keepeth O what pains Thy love it reapeth, Born today is Christ our King.

Kings to meet Him forth are faring, Gold, frankincense and myrrh preparing: Straight all to the manger bearing; Born today is Christ our King. Lo! the star o'er Bethl'em stayeth: Heaven's own light the Child arrayeth: Peace on earth, goodwill bewrayeth: Born today is Christ our King.

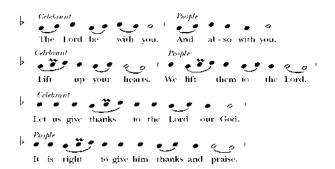
Son of God, the earth adorning, Angels sing this joyful morning Peace on earth, all sadness scorning. Born today is Christ our King.

#### Hymn 380 vs. 3

#### The Great Thanksgiving

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"

*Old 100th* 

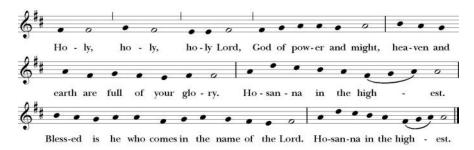


Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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:



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



#### 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.

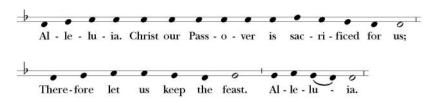
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

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. Then the Celebrant and People sing



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.

All baptized persons are welcome to share in the banquet of the Lord's table. Kneel or stand at the rail and receive the bread (a wafer) in the palm of your outstretched hands. Receive the wine which follows either by drinking from the common cup extended to you, or by retaining the wafer, to either dip the wafer lightly into the cup for yourself, or leave it on your palm for the Chalice Bearer to dip and place on your tongue. If you are not receiving, you may cross your arms over your chest to receive a prayer blessing. Gluten-free communion bread is available. Please let the priest know of your need.

#### **Music at Communion**

Choir Sussex Carol Traditional English

Arr. David Willcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing, bring, News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad, To hear the news the angels Since our redeemer made us glad, When from our sin he set us free, All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace, Then life and health come in its place; Angels and men with joy may sing, All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have Which made the angels sing this night: 'Glory to God and peace to men, Now and for evermore. Amen.'

## Rosa Mystica

There is no rose of such virtue As is the rose that bare Jesu: Alleluia!

For in that rose contained was Heaven and Earth in little space: Resmiranda!

By that rose we well may see There be One God in Persons Three: Pares forma!

> The angels sang, the shepherds too: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gaudeamus.

Leave we all this worldly mirth And follow we this joyful birth: Transeamus! Chrysogonus Waddell

During the singing of the carols, the congregation will have their candles lit. Please hold your candle as still as possible. After blowing candles out, please keep candles upright until the wax hardens again.

Hymn "O little town of Bethlehem" St. Louis

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.

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.

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 watching and faith holds in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in. comes once more.

Where children pure and O holy Child of happy pray to the blessed Child, where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild; where charity stand wide the door, the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas

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!

#### Hymn

"Away in a manger, no crib for his bed"

Cradle Song

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.

The lights dim. The People remain kneeling for the singing of "Silent Night."

Hymn

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"

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Stille Nacht
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 God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. 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, Hymn

"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

The Celebrant says People Alleluia, alleluia. Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

### **Concluding Voluntary**

Hodie Christus Natus Est

Giovanni Gabrieli Arr. S. Drummond Wolff



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...

# Christmas Slowers Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of

Bud Staggs by Kristin Douberly

Terry Lisa Jamerson Hunt by Lewis Hunt

Vivian June De Long by Michele Holt

Patty Waidner by Beth Kirwan

Sally Noll by Robert Bailey

James and Bobbye Bailey by Robert Bailey

Amy Caroline Purcell and Barbara Jennison by Nancy Purcell

Arthur J. Vaughn by Patrick Kimball

Helen Scribner Euston by Gregory Euston

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

Edith & Clarence Osborn and Norman and Lane Osborn by Marsh Hohimer

George Dorion by Dorothy Dorion

Carol & Ray Wetzel by Linda Crofton

Marie Sefton by John Sefton

Shirley P. Bush by Richard Bush

Don Neifert by Jacqueline Neifert

Paul & Clara Hafner, Janet K. Collins and Richard Marty by Ron Hafner

Kathi Chalk by Vonciel Gore

Tv Wood

Allison Jennings by David and Jackie Busse

Roy & Yvonne Messerschmidt

Lou & Virginia Kennitz

Michael A. Spruill

Col. Jim & Adele Higgins

Lillian & William Armsby by Sylvia Armsby

Elaine Sandifer by Debbie and Hans Tanzler

Edith Hulsey, Fletcher R. Shurly, Mary Laverne Watts and Calvin Watts by Robin and Marilyn Hyde

Mr. & Mrs. Rogers Hazlehurst by Debbie and Hans Tanzler

Maxine Hoyte and Sherone Hoyte by Velda Browne

Arthur Hall by Jennifer and Tommy Donahoo

Our mothers by Linda and Garfield Rosengren

Ken Alvarex by Alexa Alvarez

Gary F. Keys, Sr. by Beverly Keys

Tate Wilkinson and Minnie Masters by Chet Wilkinson and George Masters

Mark Gillis

Chester Gillis

# Christmas Slowers Given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for

Sharon Staggs by Kristin Douberly

St. John's Cathedral Clergy and Staff by Beth and Michael Kirwan

Robbye Rowland by Robert Bailey

Michael, Jennifer and Matthew Purcell by Nancy Purcell

All of the Ushers at St. John's Cathedral by Patrick Kimball

Our children Mattie, Spencer, Flora Grace and Beck Sacks by Meg and Jon Sacks

Tim Tuller and the Cathedral Choir by Ron Hafner

The health of our family by Tom and Sheila Burrell

# **NEW YEAR'S EVE** FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS, PREMIERE OF THE CAROL A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR CHOIR AND ORGAN BY BYRON ADAMS, SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED FOR THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF JACKSONVILLE 5 P.M.

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

8 A.M. & 10 A.M.

# ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL 256 East Church Street

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

(904) 356-5507 - www.jaxcathedral.org

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