

A FESTIVAL OF
NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS



The Feast of the Holy Name
December 31, 2021
5 p.m.

St. John's Cathedral
The Episcopal Diocese of Florida
Jacksonville, Florida

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 Hymnal 1982 found in your pew rack. Please silence all audible electronic devices. If you are in need of an assisted listening device, please see an usher.

The first Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols was held in Truro Cathedral, Christmas Eve 1878. The service was created to replace the practice of the Cathedral Choir caroling parishioners at their homes, but to still offer the Christmas cheer of hearing beloved carols. Edward Benson, then bishop of Truro, later became Archbishop of Canterbury and the Festival service began to spread. The most famous Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is that of King's College, Cambridge, which began in 1918. The longest running service in the U.S. is celebrated at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Hanover, NH, which has presented the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols since 1935.

Thank you for being here, and we hope to see you again soon!

VOLUNTARIES

Prelude and Fugue in A, BWV 536

Johann Sebastian Bach

Noël X

Louis Claude Daquin

ORDER OF SERVICE

The People stand and sing.

IN PROCESSION, HYMN 102

“Once in royal David’s city”

Irby

Soloist Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
 Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
 with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Choir We, like Mary, rest confounded that a stable should display
 heaven’s Word, the world’s creator, cradled there on Christmas Day,
 yet this child, our Lord and brother, brought us love for one another.

Choir For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew,
 he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.
 Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

All And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
 for that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above;
 and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

All Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round,
 we shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround:
 Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God’s right hand on high.

Rebecca Andrews, soprano

THE BIDDING PRAYER, THE LORD’S PRAYER, AND THE GRACE

The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead, Dean

The People remain standing. The Officiant says

Dear People of God, in this Christmas Season, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy Child, 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 goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially for the Church in this country and within this city. And because God particularly loves them, let us at this time remember the poor and helpless, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and

those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, and all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Lastly, let us remember before God Jesus' pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

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 Priest blesses the people.

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.

The People are seated.

THE INVITATORY CAROL

A Carol

Roland E. Martin

Once for a shining hour, heav'n touched earth.
Hope was born anew, and peace reigned in the world.

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Lector A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL

O remember Adam's fall

Grayston Ives

O remember Adam's fall,
O thou man,
From heav'n to hell!
How we were condemned all
Into hell perpetual,
Therefore to dwell.

O remember God's goodness,
O thou man,
And promise made!
In a stable was He born,
Our Redeemer thought no scorn
Our flesh to take.

Oh, the angels all did sing,
O thou man,
On heav'n's high hill!
'Praise be to our glorious King,
And on earth in ev'rything,
To men goodwill!

Carole Clifford, soprano

Luke Hopper, tenor

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6, 19

The prophet Isaiah in exile foresees the coming of the glory of the Lord.

Lector A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come

to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD. The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Of the Father's love begotten

Piae Cantiones
Arr. Robert Ashfield

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have
been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessed!
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him;
Angel-hosts, his praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him,
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert sing,
Evermore and evermore.

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

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. 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.

CAROL

Sussex Carol

Traditional English
Arr. David Willcocks

On Christmas night all Chris-
tians sing,
To hear the news the angels
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,
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
light,
Which made the angels sing
this night:
'Glory to God and peace to
men,
Now and for evermore.
Amen.'

HYMN 78

“O little town of Bethlehem”

Forest Green

All 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.

All 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.

Choir 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 in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

All O holy Child of 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!

The People are seated.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:2, 4, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foretold.

Lector A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.	His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.	For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree	I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile: Under the shadow I will be, Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.	This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.
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The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

Lector A Reading from the Gospel of Luke.

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. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Rosa Mystica

Chrysogonus Waddell

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!*

The People stand and sing.

HYMN 105

"God rest you merry, gentlemen"

God Rest You Merry

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. *Refrain*

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might." *Refrain*

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
and with true love and charity each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace. *Refrain*

The People are seated.

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Saint Luke tells of the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem.

Lector A Reading from the Gospel of Luke.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL

The Cradle

Bryan Kelly

He smiles within his cradle,
A babe with face so bright
It beams most like a mirror
Against a blaze of light:
This babe so burning bright.

And who would rock the cradle
Wherein this infant lies,
Must rock with easy motion
And watch with humble eyes,
Like Mary pure and wise.

O Jesus, dearest babe of all
And Dearest babe of mine,
Thy love is great, thy limbs are small.
O, flood this heart of mine
With overflow from thine!

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

Angels proclaim the Messiah's birth; the shepherds go to the manger.

Lector A Reading from the Gospel of Luke.

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!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Welcome and Announcements

We welcome you to Saint John's Cathedral! It is our privilege and joy to offer quality programs of music like this one. Please help us continue this great tradition through your generous donation during the Offering. Together we gather to make music to the glory of God and to make a difference in the city of Jacksonville.

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 Beth'lem 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.

Maria walks amid the thorn

Mark Schweizer

Maria walks amid the thorn, <i>Kyrie eleison,</i> Maria walks amid the thorn, Which seven years no leaf has born. Jesus and Maria.	What 'neath her heart doth Mary bear? <i>Kyrie eleison,</i> The little Child doth Mary bear, Beneath her heart He nes- tles there. Jesus and Maria.	And as the two are passing near, <i>Kyrie eleison,</i> As the two are passing near, Lo! roses on the thorns ap- pear! Jesus and Maria.
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Jonathan Spencer, soprano
Paul Fisher, countertenor
Bradley May, baritone
Pamela Searcy, flute

The People stand and sing.

HYMN 94

“While shepherds watched their flocks by night”

Winchester Old

All While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
 the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

All “Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;
 “Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.

Choir “To you, in David’s town, this day is born of David’s line
 the Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:

Choir “The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
 all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.”

All Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng
 of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:

All “All glory be to God on high and on the earth be peace;
 good will henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease.”

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men are led by the star of Jesus.

Lector A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

***CAROL**

A Christmas Prayer

Byron Adams

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 worship of the Magi.

Shut 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 of Christ,
and teach us to love one another.

May the Christmas morning
make us glad to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to rest
with grateful hearts,
forgiving and forgiven,
in the Name of the incarnate Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

The People stand for this reading.

THE NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Lector A Reading from the Gospel of John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that

all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

HYMN 83

“O come, all ye faithful”

Adeste fidelis

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, O come let us adore him, 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*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

THE COLLECTS FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

The People stand as the Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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 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. *Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

HYMN 87

“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 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 man 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 People remain standing for the retiring procession.

Chorale Prelude on *In Dulci Jubilo*

Marcel Dupré

The People are seated for the Voluntary.

Chorale Improvisation on *In Dulci Jubilo*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert



PROGRAM NOTE

“A Christmas Prayer was commissioned by Tim Tuller, Canon for Music, and the Choir of St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral, in order to celebrate the bicentennial in 2022 of the founding of the city of Jacksonville, Florida. I grew up in Jacksonville, sang in the Cathedral Choir as a young man, and practiced on the organ in the Cathedral, perspiring heavily on hot days. As a member of the Choir at St. John’s Cathedral, I received an invaluable education in the composition of choral music, singing works written especially to celebrate Christmastide by Vaughan Williams, Howells, and Holst, among others.

I chose this text, often attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894), for its ongoing relevance. Here is a prayer that seems to speak particularly to our own present day, an era roiling with anger, conflict, and partisanship; in fact, these words transcend any one particular time, and will continue to inspire hope in future ages. Despite the darkness that often hovers over our world, I believe that love, kindness, selfless service to the poor and outcast, and generosity will not pass away as long as human hearts continue to beat, generation after generation. As one of my favorite saints, Saint Teresa of Ávila, once wrote: ‘Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things are passing, God never changes.’” – Byron Adams



ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

The Right Reverend Samuel Johnson Howard, Bishop
The Right Reverend Charles L. Keyser, Assisting Bishop
The Right Reverend Dorsey F. Henderson, Assisting Bishop
The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead, Dean
The Reverend Gerald G. Alexander
The Reverend Deacon Sandra Kidd
The Reverend Deacon Linda Rosengren
The Reverend Canon Raja Zabaneh
Timothy Tuller, Canon for Music
John Barry, Canon for Music Emeritus



**WE INVITE YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US.
HOLY EUCHARIST ON SUNDAYS AND WEEKDAYS**

Sundays at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Wednesday & Friday at 12:10 p.m.



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