

ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026, 9:30 AM
Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Whoever you are, and wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here, just as you are, to experience God's love.

St. John's is a compassionate Christian community of healing, hope, and hospitality at the heart of Centreville's Historic District. First consecrated on July 14, 1854, St. John's was partially burned in the Civil War, rebuilt, expanded, and is now home to many faith communities. To learn more about us, talk to one of our clergy, chat up a neighbor, join us after worship, and visit us at stjohnscentreville.org.

Today's service follows the red Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Responses are in bold. Music can be found in the blue hymnals in your pew or in the bulletin. Participate as the Spirit moves you!

Services are live-streamed, so please be aware that you are being recorded. Cell phone use—texting, pictures, video, social media—is encouraged, but please silence your devices and disable Wi-Fi during worship.

The Word of God

Prelude
Please take your seat as the music begins and prepare yourself quietly for worship.

Processional Hymn: H 56, vs. 1-2, "O come, O come, Emmanuel" *Veni Emmanuel*
Opening Acclamation BCP, p. 355
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity BCP, p. 355
Song of Praise: S 96, "Lord, have mercy" *Kyrie*

Collect of the Day BCP, p. 211, First Advent
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous

deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Response: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18, *Qui regis Israel* BCP, p. 702

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * **stir up your strength and come to help us.**
Restore us, O God of hosts; * **show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
O Lord God of hosts, * **how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**
You have fed them with the bread of tears; * **you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * **and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
Restore us, O God of hosts; * **show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, * **the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**
And so will we never turn away from you; * **give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; * **show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Gospel Hymn: H 68, "Rejoice! rejoice, believers" *Llangloffan*

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

Sermon: The Rev. Kevin Laskowski

The Nicene Creed BCP, p. 358

Prayers of the People
Prayers are adapted from Gail Ramshaw, ed., Intercessions for the Christian People (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1990). If you'd like to add a loved one to the parish prayer list, please contact clergy or the parish office.
Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Confession of Sin BCP, p. 360
Absolution BCP, p. 360

The Peace BCP, p. 360
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory
At this time, the gifts of God in bread and wine and the gifts of the people are collected and brought forward in thanksgiving. Thanks to all who have pledged a portion of their time, talent, and treasure to God's mission here at St. John's.

As the Spirit moves you, please give generously by cash or check or use the QR code at right to donate online. Donations of food and other items for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and the Katharine K. Hanley Family Shelter can be given to the usher or to the church office.

The Presentation of Alms & Oblations: H 380, v. 3 "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"
The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A BCP, p. 361
Sanctus: S 130, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord" *Sanctus*
Prayer A (cont.) BCP, p. 362
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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**.

The Lord's Prayer BCP, p. 364
Fraction Anthem: S 164 "Jesus, Lamb of God" *Agnus Dei*

Communion
All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. The ushers will invite you forward to receive the blessings that come from God's altar. To receive the wafer, extend one hand over the other. If you wish to receive the wine, take a sip by guiding the offered chalice to your lips. Dipping the wafer into the wine yourself is not permitted. The bishop's customary requires the minister to do it for you. If you wish the minister to intinct, make a dipping motion or point to the minister when you approach. If you would like Communion brought to you, please let an usher know. If you would like to receive a blessing rather than Communion, please cross your arms over your chest as you approach.

The table belongs to the Lord and the invitation comes from God. There are many kinds of blessing that come from it. Please come forward to receive them.

Communion Hymn: H 454, "Jesus came, adored by angels" *Lowry*
Post-Communion Prayer BCP, p. 365
Announcements
Blessing
Recessional Hymn: H 616, "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*
Dismissal BCP, p. 366
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Greens are given to the Glory of God.

A Special Thanks to Colin Levins, the day's director of music. Colin once again joins us from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC this week while Mandy Hull is away. Thank you for your ministry and sharing your gifts with us.

Growing the Kingdom! Our fall stewardship campaign has formally ended, but there's still time to get that commitment in. Prayerfully consider your financial commitment to St. John's for 2027 by **December 13**. Fill out a pledge card, give it to an usher or place it in the model church—or pledge online using the QR code at right. Join us in Growing the Kingdom!

Football Watch Party*, Today, 4:25 PM kickoff*. Join us in the parish hall to watch the Commanders vs. Cardinals game. RSVP online.

Angel Tree! This year, we are providing gifts to children at Katherine Hanley House. We are working with Katherine Hanley and Lord of Life Lutheran for this outreach. **All the gifts need to be back by December 9th**. Gifts need to be new and wrapped with the Angel tag attached. For consistency and fairness, they are asking that all of the gifts are in a $35 range, including the gift cards.

Christmas Boxes! St. John's has committed to provide a number of holiday meal boxes for families in need at Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. Please pick up a box, and sign it out as soon as possible. Purchase the sides and other items on the shopping list, and return your box(es) to the church (and check your name off the list) by **Thursday, December 17**. Help a family have a merry Christmas!

Coffee Hour. Please join us in the hall after the service for coffee and refreshments.

Adult Lectionary Forum. If you'd like to discuss today's readings in greater depth, grab coffee and a snack, and join us in the library after the service.

Visit Us! For more information, visit stjohnscentreville.org and subscribe to our E-notes.

TODAY'S MINISTERS

Celebrant:	The Rev. Kevin Laskowski	Acolyte:	Emori Moore
Music Director:	Colin Levins	Lector:	George Dewey
Vestry Member:	Ann Goldberg	Alms Counters:	Marcia Evans, Penny Parker
		Altar Guild:	Elise Crawford, Libby McCullough

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Rector, Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com
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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM
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