Saint John's Episcopal Church Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024 10 a.m.

576 Concord Rd. Glen Mills, PA 19342 Phone: 610-459-2994 SaintJohnsConcord.com

Founded 1702 Celebrating 322 Years of Worship



The Rev. Jill M. LaRoche Wikel – Rector The Rev. Terry Dinovo – Priest Associate

Mission of Saint John's: To be a welcoming community committed to seeking, serving, and growing in Christ.

Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God. St. John's welcomes all to our diverse, inclusive, and affirming community.

HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II 10 AM

Welcome to Saint John's, Concord (Glen Mills) - Welcome to all who are visiting Saint John's today. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us and that you are blessed by God.

Prelude

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Processional Hymn

We're Marching to Zion

LEVAS 12



Lighting the Advent Wreath

Advent means "coming" and is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. Waiting for God's Kingdom to come, this is the good news we strive to live by: that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair – and the light of God's love will extinguish forever all shadows. This is our Advent hope symbolized by each candle we light.

Advent 4

Leader: Like the sun in the morning sky, the Savior will dawn. (Light the candle)

All: Like rain on the meadows, he will descend to be born of Mary.

Leader: Father of light, you have fulfilled your promise of old: The virgin has given birth to your Son, Emmanuel.

All: God be with us today.

Leader: As Christ shared our life in this world, may we share his life in your kingdom to come. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus.

All: God be with us today.

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. *All:* **Amen.**

Advent Bidding

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of God's beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that, when we were far off, God met us in God's Son and brought us home; how God humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share God's divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with God's life; that we may bear witness to God's glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

May God grant to all God's people a new trust in God's good providence and a new obedience to God's sovereign word. *Amen.*

Congregational Hymn

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

- While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus

Hymnal 99

Celebrant

 3 Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessèd Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Go Tell It on the Mountain, #99 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967). Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arrangement, Copyright © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.

Collect for Advent I Standing as you are able

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.*

Sunday School

Children process over to the Parish Hall for Sunday School.

First Lesson

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis.

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up-- for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground-- then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;

this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

4

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. People: Thanks be to God.

Lector

Miss Margie Hatcher

Congregational Hymn

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

Collect for Advent II

Standing as you are able

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Second Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,

who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Hymn

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Hymnal 67

Lector

- Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
 Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.
- 2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near, calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.
 Oh, that warning cry obey!
 Now prepare for God a way; let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

3 Make ye straight what long was crooked,

make the rougher places plain; let your hearts be true and humble,

as befits his holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord

now o'er earth is shed abroad;

and all flesh shall see the token

that the word is never broken.

Comfort, comfort ye my people, #67 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

Collect for Advent III Standing as you are able

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Third Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

Lector

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

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.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

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.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

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,

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. People: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn

Tell Out My Soul

Hymnal 438

- Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of his word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name! Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;

his mercy sure, from age the same; his holy Name—the Lord, the Mighty One.

- Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
 Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
 Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
- Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
 Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord to children's children and for evermore!

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord, #438 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*. Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press.

Collect for Advent IV Standing as you are able

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Fourth Lesson

Luke 1:26-45

Lector

Reader: A reading from Luke's Gospel.

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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

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 leaped 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 leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. People: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn

The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

Hymnal 265

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,

his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady," Gloria!

- 2 "For know a blessèd Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady," Gloria!
- Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
 "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
 "my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
 Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say— "Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, #265 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: Gabriel's Message, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H OLD, England.

Fifth Lesson: Gospel

Matthew 1:15-25

Lector

Reader: A reading from Matthew's Gospel.

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." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. People: Thanks be to God.

Concluding Prayer

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin, that he whose second Coming we await, may make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love *Amen*.

The Peace		
Children return	from Sunday School.	

Offertory Choir Anthem

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Traditional German Hymn

BCP, p. 360

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The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving	Eucharis	tic Prayer A	BCP, p. 361
Please stand in body or spirit fo	or the Eucharistic Praye	•	
Celebrant: The Lord be with you	1.	People: And also with ye	ou.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.		People: We lift them to t	the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.		People: It is right to give	e God thanks and
		praise.	
Then the Celebrant continues	It is right		BCP, p. 361

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

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: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel in body or spirit.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to 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 he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

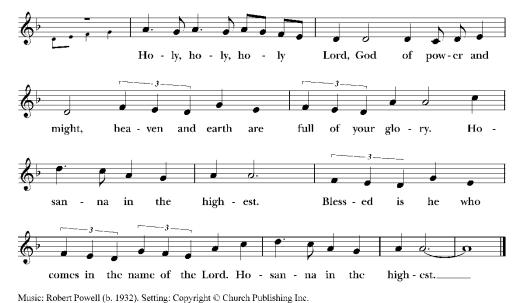
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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*.

Celebrant and People

Sanctus S-129



Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant:

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

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction AnthemThank You, Lord(sung twice)LEVAS 232Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord; Thank you Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. We have two Chalices: for dipping your wafer, please remain at the altar rail; to sip wine, please visit the Chalicist at the organ. We have gluten-free wafers for those that need them; please let the Priest know.

Communion Music

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hymnal 66

- Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art: dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
- Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit

raise us to thy glorious throne.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, #66 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart,* melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesange,* 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

Communion Anthem

Breath of Heaven

piano solo Amy Grant arr by Amanda Smith

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: 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.

Blessing

BCP, p. 365

Recessional Hymn

Soon and Very Soon

Soon and very soon, We are going to see the King. (Repeat 3 times) Hallelujah, hallelujah, We are going to see the King.

No more crying there, We are going to see the King. (Repeat 3 times) Hallelujah, Hallelujah, We are going to see the King.

No more dying there, We are going to see the King. (Repeat 3 times) Hallelujah, Hallelujah, We are going to see the King.

Dismissal

Postlude

Hark a Thrilling Voice is Sounding



SAINT JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rooted in God, Growing in Faith

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Celebrant: Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel Organist: Laura Sidelmann Readers: James Yoch & Ella Dunn Acolyte: Allie Yoch & Lily Flanagan Usher: Jacqui Dunn *Counters:* Bill Angus, Carol Angus & Miriam Stanton *Altar Guild:* John Pachkowski & Tracey Payne *Tech Team:* Gerry Tierney & Patti Doyle

Parish Weekly Prayer List

Please Note: View our prayer request procedure at SaintJohnsConcord.com/prayer-requests

Please keep the following People in your Prayers

Barrie	Ed B.	Ann M.	Mildred T.	Portale Family Jenna L.
Grace R.	Nancy D.	George S.	John A.	Daniel Stock (Navy)
Rylin B. (Army)	Teal J.	Albert	Jeff F.	

For the concerns on our hearts and for those who have no one to name them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Season Schedule

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

3:00 PM - Cocoa, Carols, and Creche - A thirty-minute, family Communion service with cocoa and cookies in the Parish Hall following the service!
5:00 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Choir Music
7:30 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Choir Music *(live-streamed)*

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day @ 10 AM - Contemplative Worship (live-streamed)

Sunday, December 29 @ 10 AM - ONE Service of Christmas Lessons & Carols (live-streamed)

Limited Office Hours Between Christmas & New Year's

The Parish Office will have limited office hours the week of Christmas and New Year's. The office will be closed December 25 & 26 and Monday, January 1. If you plan to stop by on another day those weeks, please call ahead to be sure the office is open.

January Events – Please join us!

Thursday, January 9 & 23 @ 10 AM – Thursday Morning Café; Healing Eucharist @ 11:30 AM Saturday, January 11 @ 2 PM – Burning of the Greens Saturday, January 11 @ 8:30 AM – Men's Breakfast
Saturday, January 12 & Saturday, January 26 @ 4 PM – Youth Group Tuesday, January 21 @ 6:30 PM – What Would Jesus Brew? Saturday, January 25 @ 4 PM – Movie Night