

SAINT JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rooted in God, Growing in Faith

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025 10 a.m.

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

Founded 1702 - Celebrating 323 Years of Worship

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

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.

Welcome to Saint John's, Concord (Glen Mills) – Welcome to all who are visiting today. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us and that you are blessed by God. Please fill out one of the visitors' cards in the pew or use the QR code so that we can help you get to know St. John's.

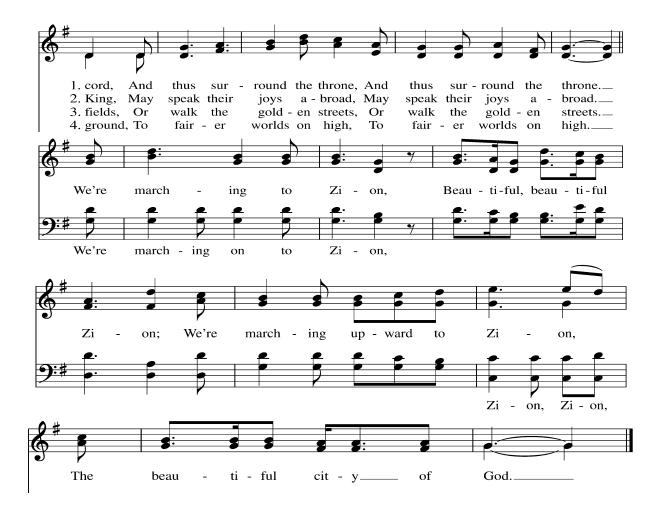


Holy Eucharist Rite II

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter





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. Each of the four Sundays of Advent reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ: Patriarchs and Matriarchs; the Prophets; John the Baptist; and Mary, the Mother of God. 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.

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another. (Light the candles)

All: Because love is from God.

Leader: God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. Strengthen us to love one another.

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: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in love by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Advent Bidding Celebrant

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

Hymnal 99

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

- 1 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 that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 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 Miss Margie Hatcher

Children process over to the Parish Hall for Sunday School.

December 21, 2025 3 10:00 AM

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.

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

Congregational Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

Hymnal 102, v. 1, 2, & 3

- 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 Lector

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

- 1 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.
- 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,

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

My Soul Give Glory to my God

VF 117



Words: Miriam Therese Winter © 1987 Medical Mission Sisters. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Morning Song, melody att. Elkanah Kelsay Dare (1782–1826); harm. Charles H. Webb © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved.

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Collect for Advent IV Stan

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Standing as you are able

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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*.

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ness.

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

- 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!
- 3 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!
- 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.

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 BCP, p. 360

Children return from Sunday School.

Offertory Choir Anthem O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hal Hopson, arr. by Emily Lund

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The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B BCP, p. 367

Please stand as you are able for the Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Then the Celebrant continues

BCP, p.

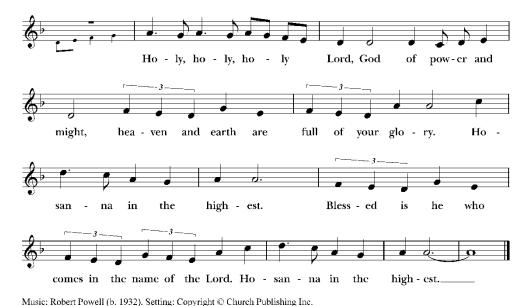
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It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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:

Communion Sanctus (see pew card) 129

Hymnal S-



Music. Robert I owen (b. 1952). Setting. Copyright & Charen I donsin

The people stand or kneel.

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

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

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

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

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

People and Celebrant:

author of our salvation.

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 Anthem

Thank You, Lord (sung twice)

LEVAS 232

Thank 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 Hymn

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hymnal 66

- 1 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.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 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 Child of Love by Sara Groves Sung by Laura Sidelmann

Post Communion Prayer BCP, p. 365

Blessing

Recessional Hymn Soon and Very Soon LEVAS 14

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 Prepare the Way O Zion

All scripture and prayers are printed with permission. View FULL bulletin online at SaintJohnsConcord.com/DigitalBulletins

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Celebrant: Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel
Deacon: Rev. Elizabeth Brickle
Organist: Laura Seidelmann
Choir Director: Martin Hinkley
Lector: Mary Gonzalez
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Rocky Bassick
Unvested Lay Chalicist: Danielle Yoch
Crucifer: Dean Dannaker

Ushers: Greg Moore & Glenn Wikel
Counters: Lydia Dell'Osa, David Dell'Osa &
Nancy McKean
Altar Guild: John Pachkowski, Tracey Payne &
Debbie Miller
Tech Team: Gerry Tierney, Phil Thompsen, Bill
Klingler & 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

Daniel S. (Navy) Ann M. Mildred T. Ienna L. Geri P. George S. Matt D. Rylin B. (Army) Christine C. Mary S. Eric B. Remi S. Carlin Family Carl & Susan B. Jean R. Anne L. Sue R. Beth G. Laurn John T. John F. Ellie Barbara D. Joyce E. Cheryl K. Jim K.

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

Birthdays: Drew Stiteler Janice Turner Dorothy Collman Lauren Weaver Gary Gaster Cordell Payne Melody Calhoun Bill Shank Sherry Thompsen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Season Schedule

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

3:00 PM - Cocoa, Carols, and Creche - A short, family Communion service including a pageant with cocoa and cookies in the Parish Hall following the service!

5:00 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Choir Music (live-streamed)

7:30 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Choir Music

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

Sunday, December 28 @ 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 Thursday, January 1.

If you plan to stop by on another day, please call ahead to be sure the office is open.

<u>January Events – Please join us!</u>

Thursday, January 8 & 22 @ 10 AM – Thursday Morning Café;

@ 10:30 – Bible Study

@ 11:30 AM - Healing Eucharist

Saturday, January 10 @ 8:30 AM – Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 10 @ 2 PM – Burning of the Greens

Sunday, January 11 @ 11:15 AM – Green Team Meeting

Sunday, January 18 @ 12:30 PM – Literary Ladies

Tuesday, January 20 @ 6:30 PM – What Would Jesus Brew?

Sunday, January 25 @ 11:30 PM – Youth Group

Wednesday, January 28 @ 6 PM – WOW Dinner

Save the Date: Annual Meeting: February 15, 2026 @ 9 AM

What is an "Annual Meeting?"

The Annual Meeting is a business update for our parishioners: we look at the past year and what we've accomplished, we look at the coming year and what we project forward, and we look at our budget.

At the Annual Meeting, the congregation voices its preferences for leadership by electing members to the Vestry (governing board) and as well as representatives who will vote at the yearly Diocesan Convention.

Vestry Nominations

The people of St. John's will elect five parishioners to serve a two-year term on our Vestry. If you are interested in learning more about serving St. John's in this way, please speak with Rev. Jill, Rector's Warden Danielle Yoch, or Vestry's Warden Dick Constable.

All members of Saint John's are invited and encouraged to attend.

Committee reports for the Annual Report are **due to Jen Troutman (office@SaintJohnsConcord.com) by January 22.**

Office:	Church Office Hours:
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