



SAINT JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rooted in God, Growing in Faith

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025 8 a.m.

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

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.**

An 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 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 his
sovereign word. **Amen.**

Collect for Advent I *Please stand 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.*

First Lesson *Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25*

Lector

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.**

Collect for Advent II

Please stand 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, one God, now and for ever. *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.**

Collect for Advent III

Please stand 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.**

Collect for Advent IV

Please stand 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.**

Collect for the Visitation *May 31* *Please stand as you are able*

Father in heaven, by your grace the Mother of your incarnate Son was blessed in bearing him, but still more blessed in keeping your word: Grant us who honor the exaltation of her humility to follow the example of her devotion to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Fifth Lesson: Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

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.*

Homily

The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel

Offering

Scan this QR Code for easy giving options:



Birthday/Anniversary

Prayer #51, BCP, p. 830

Watch over your child, O Lord, as *his/her/their* days increase; bless and guide *him/her/them* wherever *he/she/they* may be. Strengthen *him/her/them* when *he/she/they* stands; comfort *him/her/them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him/her/them* up if *he/she/they* fall; and in *his/her/their* heart may your peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of *his/her/their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Prayer I

Prayer Book, 333

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Book, 336

The Breaking of the Bread

Prayer Book, 337

The Communion

*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.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer Book, 339

Blessing and Dismissal

Prayer Book, 339

Service Participants

Celebrant: Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel

Readers: Peg Calogero & Peggy Long

Usher: Steve Long

Counters: Lydia Dell'Osa, David Dell'Osa & Nancy McKean

Altar Guild: John Pachkowski, Tracey Payne & Debbie Miller

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.

January Events – Please join us!

- 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

Parish Weekly Prayer List

View our Prayer policies and make requests at SaintJohnsConcord.com/prayer-requests

Please keep the following People in your Prayers

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

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

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.****

<u>Church Staff</u>	<u>Vestry Members, Wardens and Officers</u>
Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel - <i>Rector</i> Rev. Terry Dinovo – <i>Priest Associate</i> Rev. Elizabeth Brickle – <i>Deacon</i> Laura Seidemann – <i>Organist</i> Jen Troutman – <i>Parish Administrator</i> Margaret Hatcher – <i>Christian Education Director</i> Dakota Pauswinski - <i>Sexton</i> Maureen Thompson – <i>Office Volunteer</i>	Danielle Yoch (<i>Rector's Warden</i>) Dick Constable (<i>Vestry Warden</i>) Burt Blackburn (<i>Treasurer</i>) Jacqui Dunn, Carla Durdan, Ron Hammer, Jen Osgood, Gerry Tierney, Tracey Payne, Debbie Miller, Diane Stover & Philip Thompsen

Office:	Church Office Hours:
office@SaintJohnsConcord.com 610-459-2994	Monday – Friday: 9 AM – 1 PM
Rev. Jill:	SaintJohnsConcord.com
RevJill@SaintJohnsConcord.com	facebook.com/SaintJohnsConcord
Rev. Terry:	instagram.com/SaintJohnsConcord
RevTerry@SaintJohnsConcord.com	youtube.com/SaintJohnsConcord
Rev. Elizabeth:	Talking about us on social media? Be sure to use our hashtag #SJConcord
RevElizabeth@SaintJohnsConcord.com	