



# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

## **The NATIVITY of OUR LORD**

### **The Christmas Pageant**

December 24, 2024  
5:00 P.M.



St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church  
in the Admiral District of West Seattle

*We acknowledge that we are on the unceded traditional land of the Coast Salish people,  
including the Duwamish and Suquamish People past and present.*

*We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish and Suquamish tribes.*

*Please know, that wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you have a place at St. John's.*



## Welcome

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

These words from the Gospel according to John ring out through the challenges of our current time, reminding all of us that Christ, the light, the Word, shines, even through times of great adversity.

As we gather together to worship and celebrate Christ's birth—the advent of God with us, Emmanuel, I welcome you to St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church. It is a blessing to worship with you today!

Each of us is walking a journey where we bear different burdens, and in whatever challenges you may be facing, please be assured that you are not alone—God is with you, as God is with us, as we celebrate and mark Christ's Incarnation. God is walking with each of us and you are not carrying those burdens on your own.

Also, please know that you are welcome here at St. John's! We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive community that shares the love of God and neighbor, and we are glad you are here! If you'd like to know more about this faith community, please reach out to me.

We are so glad you are here! Merry Christmas!

Peace and good,

*Elise+*

The Reverend Canon Elise B. Johnstone, D. Min., *rector*  
St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church  
[elise@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:elise@sjbwestseattle.org)

## Christmas Flowers



Layne and Rick Bautista in memory of our friend Paul Abrahamson

Anne Bucci and Mary Kay Jones in honor of Loy and Curt

Pam Crenshaw in memory of her parents

Sten Crissey in memory of Dick and Nell Rehm

Lu Drevecky in memory of Harold Drevecky

Ken and Joanne Duvall in memory of the Duvall and Malek Family

Karen and Jim Jarvis in memory of Loved Ones

Carolyn Koehler in memory of Fred Koehler and Helen Hansen Koehler

Kathy Lund in memory of her entire family

Donna McNamara in memory of Harry Stephen Epply

Janet Murphy in memory of Terry Murphy

Sue Quanbeck, Terrie Ingram, Tom Rehm and David Rehm  
and the Rehm grandchildren in loving memory of Dick and Nell Rehm

Robbie Ralkowski in memory of Jan Ralkowski

Carol Sutcliffe in memory of Brian Sutcliffe

Paul and Maria Weber in memory of William C. Heffner, Naeko Heffner,  
Paul Heffner, Tom Weber, Margaret Raley, and Linda Firkel

Richard and Julia Wight in honor of Dau Flynn and in memory of Andy Kohn

Bonnie Young in memory of Robert Young

Portions of this service are from the optional expansive-language versions of the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*, as authorized by the 79th General Convention in 2018.

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### Prelude

*What Child is This*

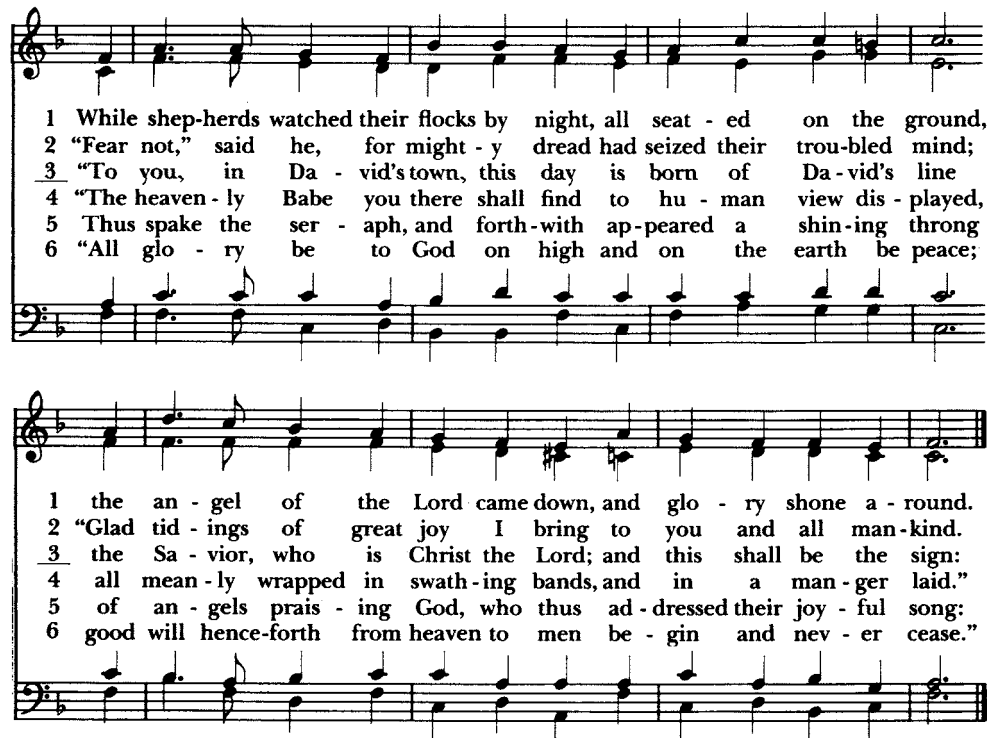
arr. Gayle Kowalchyk (b. 1955)

*Ringing of the church bell, standing as able.*

### Hymn 94

While shepherds watched their flocks by night

TUNE: *Winchester Old*



1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat-ed on the ground,  
2 "Fear not," said he, for might-y dread had seized their trou-bled mind;  
3 "To you, in Da-vid's town, this day is born of Da-vid's line  
4 "The heav-en-ly Babe you there shall find to hu-man view dis-played,  
5 Thus spake the ser-aph, and forth-with ap-peared a shin-ing throng  
6 "All glo-ry be to God on high and on the earth be peace;  
1 the an-gel of the Lord came down, and glo-ry shone a-round.  
2 "Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.  
3 the Sa-vior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:  
4 all mean-ly wrapped in swath-ing bands, and in a man-ger laid."  
5 of an-gels prais-ing God, who thus ad-dressed their joy-ful song:  
6 good will hence-forth from heaven to men be-gin and nev-er cease."

Words: Nahum Tate (1625-1715)

Music: *Winchester Old*, melody from *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*, 1592; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*  
Public domain.

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### Blessing of the Crèche

*Presider* O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,

*People* That animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger!

Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

*Presider* The Word was made flesh

*People* And dwelt among us.

*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Opening Acclamation

*Presider* Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

*People* **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Presider* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day

### Christmas

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading

### Isaiah 9:2–7

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Response

*Read responsively by whole verse.*

### **Psalm 96 • Cantate Domino**

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 **Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \***  
**proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \***  
**he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 **Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \***  
**Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \***  
**bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 **Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! \***  
**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;**  
**he will judge the peoples with equity."**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy**  
**before the LORD when he comes, \***  
**when he comes to judge the earth.**
- 13 **He will judge the world with righteousness \***  
**and the peoples with his truth.**

## THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*Please join in singing the carol after each reading, to proclaim the good news!*

*Children are invited to remain on the steps after coming forward.*

### **Hymn 89**

**It came upon the midnight clear**

TUNE: *Carol*

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

*Narrator 1* 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.

*Narrator 2* Mary and Joseph, expectant of miracles, buoyed by strange dreams and clinging to hope, set out for Bethlehem to register for the census. While they were there, the labor pain began. Mary was away from the comfort of home. She was away from her midwife, her family and everything that was familiar. But from the beginning, this whole thing seemed to be out of her hands.

## **Hymn 79**

**O little town of Bethlehem**

TUNE: *St. Louis*

**1 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.**

*Narrator 2* They knocked on door after door. "Just some cloth please, just a bit of floor on which to rest." Desperately they searched for a place to stay. The space that was finally offered was not fit for childbirth. It was not fit for anyone but a cow and a pig. But here she was, here they were.

*Narrator 1* In the beginning was the Word. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

*Narrator 2* Then and there in the dust and dirt, life was born. Tears were abundant in the stable that day, with newborn cries and new parents overwhelmed with exhaustion and relief. The baby they wrapped in bands of cloth, so gently as if he might break. This child that would save everyone. They laid him in a manger, a feeding trough, because there was no place for them in the inn. There was no place for him.

*Narrator 1* 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.

## **Hymn 101**

**Away in a manger**

TUNE: *Away in a Manger*

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

*Narrator 2* It started out as an ordinary night for shepherds nearby. Watching for wolves, waiting for morning to come. But light broke forth a different way than expected, the light of angels, the glory of God. They shivered with fear, clutching at one another in terror. Amazement zipped from their heads to their toes.

## **Hymn 109**

**The first Nowell**

TUNE: *The First Nowell*

**1 The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

*Narrator 2* 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 everywhere the shepherds looked they saw bright beautiful beings, a whole host of angels. They burst into song:  
“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all!”

### **Hymn 87**

**Hark! the herald angels sing**

TUNE: *Mendelssohn*

**1 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!  
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!**

*Narrator 2* The shepherds looked at one another, smiling. “What are we waiting for?” Brimming with excitement, they took off running to the stable. At the stable door, they paused, entered slowly, hearts racing. Here was the child, just as the angels said.

### **Hymn 115**

**What child is this**

TUNE: *Greensleeves*

**1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

*Narrator 2* The shepherds were bursting with the news of the Christ child. They rushed to their homes and told everyone on the way about the miraculous birth. All who heard it were amazed. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

### **Hymn 96**

**Angels we have heard on high (refrain)**

TUNE: *Gloria*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*Narrator 1* And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

### **Hymn 83**

**O come, all ye faithful**

TUNE: *Adeste fideles*

**1 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;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**  
**3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; Glory to God, glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**



*Children may join their families in the pews.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Standing as able.*

*People* We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **The Peace**

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Those present celebrate the peace with a bow, hands raised in blessing, or the peace sign.*

*You may be seated.*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## **Offertory Sentence**

*Presider* Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips  
that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for  
such sacrifices are pleasing to God. — Hebrews 13:14–15

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*If you wish to make online donations to the ministry of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, please visit:*

<https://sjbwestseattle.org/give>

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*Please stand as you are able.*

# Hymn 89 It came upon the midnight clear

TUNE: Carol

2 Still through the cloven skies they come with  
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the  
4 For lo! the days are hastening on, by

peace-ful wings un-furled, and still their heaven-ly  
world has suf-fered long; be-neath the heaven-ly  
pro-phets seen of old, when with the ev-

mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;  
hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;  
cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told,

a-bove its sad and low-ly plains they  
and war-ring hu-man-kind hears not the  
when peace shall o-ver all the earth its

bend on hov-ering wing, and ev-er o'er its  
tid-ings which they bring; O hush the noise and  
an-cient splen-dors fling, and all the world give

Ba-bel-sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.  
cease your strife and hear the an-gels sing!  
back the song which now the an-gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt.

Music: Carol, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

CMD

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The congregation's gifts of money for the mission and ministry of St. John's and food for the Food Bank and Little Free Pantry are presented and placed on the Holy Table.

## Presentation

*People* All things come from you, O God, and from your own have we given you.

*Please remain standing.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer D*, expansive language

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Presider* It is truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

## Sanctus S128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is the one who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934), alt.

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*Please remain standing.*

*Presider* We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death.

In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Holy God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Jesus lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose Jesus gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who died and rose for us, you sent the Holy Spirit, your own first gift for those who believe, to complete your work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them Jesus 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 Jesus 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."

Almighty God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and descent among the dead, proclaiming Christ's resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting Christ's coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*People* **We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

*Presider* God our Creator, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

[Remember (NN. and) all who minister in your Church.] [Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.] [Remember \_\_\_\_\_.] [Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.]

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with matriarchs, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, (with \_\_\_\_\_) and] all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Presider* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

*People* **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 Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

## Fraction Anthem S155



Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

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## The Invitation to Communion

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*You may be seated.*

*To receive Communion, you are invited to come to the altar rail and stand or kneel at one of the cushions. To receive the bread (wafer), please hold your hands palms up, and the Presider will place a wafer in your hands. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding your hands palms down initially. If you do not wish to partake of the consecrated wine from the common chalice, you may consume the wafer at the altar rail or return to your seat to consume it.*

*To receive the wine, please consume your wafer, and then wait for the Eucharistic Minister to bring the common cup to you at the altar rail. Please do not attempt to intinct (dip) the wafer into the chalice. If you prefer not to partake of the common cup, but would like to receive the words of ministration, simply cross your arms in front of your chest when the Eucharistic Minister comes to you at the altar rail.*

*Reception of the sacrament in one kind (either bread or wine) is considered a full experience of the sacrament.*

*If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion, when you come to the altar rail, simply cross your arms in front of your chest, and the Presider will greet you and offer God's blessing.*

*If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.*

## Communion Music

Medley of Christmas carols

### Prayer for Those Worshipping at Home During the Time of Communion

*Those worshipping at home are invited to pray.*

*People* O Christ, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

— from *Saint Augustine's Prayer Book*, Forward Movement, 2014

*If you are watching at home, you are invited to light a candle as we sing Silent Night.*

*If you are in the congregation, you are invited to light your candle at this time.*

### Hymn 111 Silent night, holy night

TUNE: *Stille Nacht*

*Sung kneeling as able.*

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - dant

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
beams from your ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at your birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885  
Tune: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

STILLE NACHT  
irregular

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## **Postcommunion Prayer**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Presider* Let us pray.

*People* **Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of 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 Savior. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

*Presider* 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.**

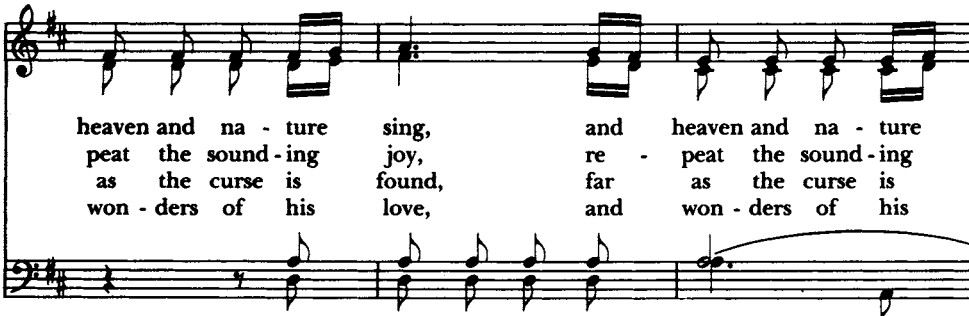
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and



heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)  
 Public domain.

CM with Repeat

## Dismissal

*Presider* Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

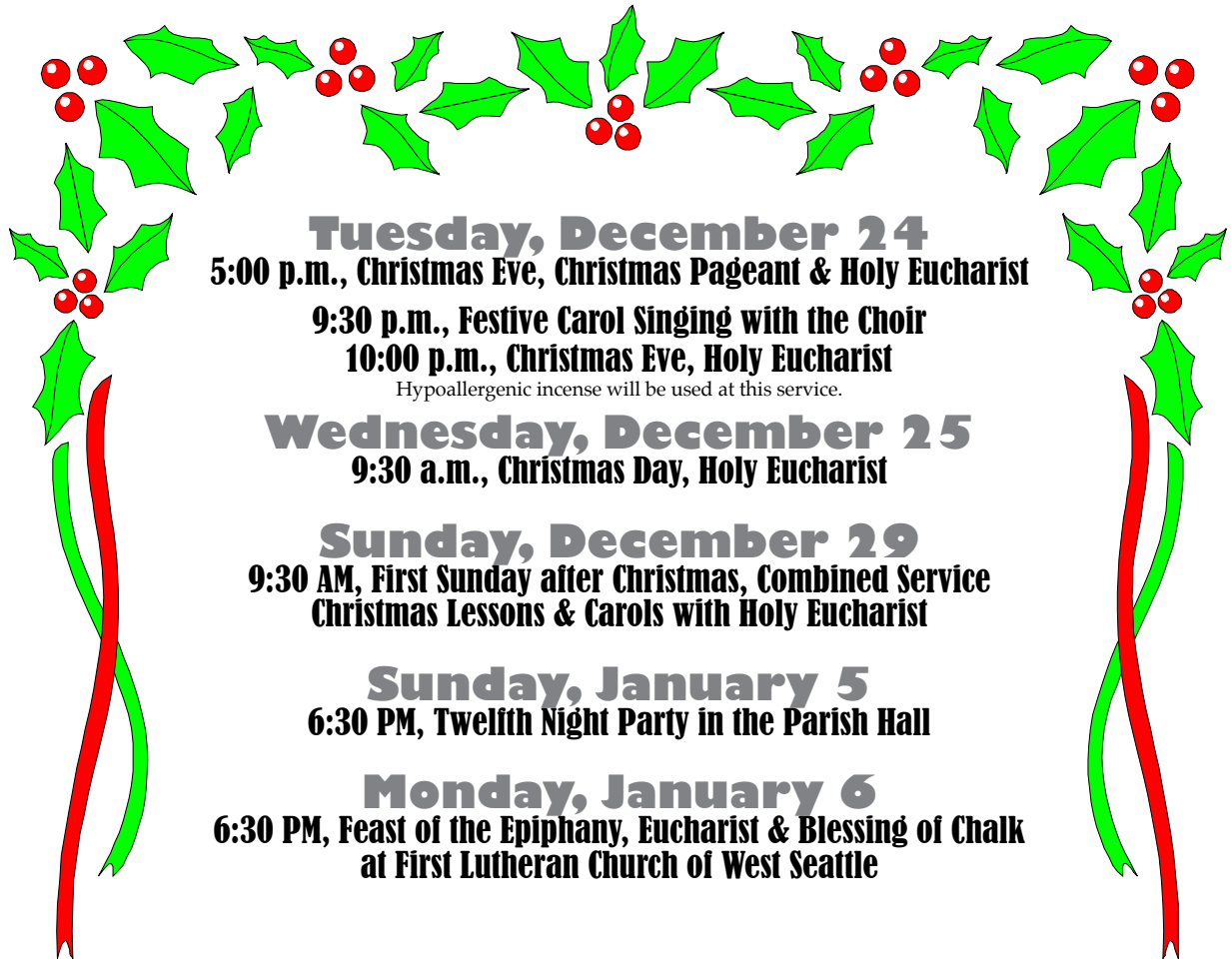
*Joy to the World*

arr. Eugénie Rocherolle (b. 1939)



## **Serving in Worship This Afternoon**

**Advent Wreath:** Carol Eaton, Wilma Hansen; **Acolyte:** Mary Johnson;  
**Altar Guild:** Jasmine Horton-Carrol; **Eucharistic Minister/Intercessor:** Tom Taylor;  
**Music:** Joyce Gibb; **Presiding:** The Rev. Robert Stevens; **Reader:** Josh Polansky;  
**Usher:** Sharon Parker.



**Tuesday, December 24**  
5:00 p.m., Christmas Eve, Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist  
9:30 p.m., Festive Carol Singing with the Choir  
10:00 p.m., Christmas Eve, Holy Eucharist  
Hypoallergenic incense will be used at this service.

**Wednesday, December 25**  
9:30 a.m., Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, December 29**  
9:30 AM, First Sunday after Christmas, Combined Service  
Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, January 5**  
6:30 PM, Twelfth Night Party in the Parish Hall

**Monday, January 6**  
6:30 PM, Feast of the Epiphany, Eucharist & Blessing of Chalk  
at First Lutheran Church of West Seattle

## **INVITE · WELCOME · CONNECT** **WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 8**

**SAVE THE DATE**

It is not always easy or natural to invite, welcome, or connect someone new with your beloved church community, but SJB will be offering a workshop on February 8 to help you do these things in a way that is authentic to you!

Guided by the gospel imperative to “Go and make disciples of all nations,” the ministry of *Invite Welcome Connect* equips and empowers individuals and congregations to share the Good News of the risen Christ. This ministry of transformation hinges on the intentional practices of evangelism, hospitality, and belonging, and in this workshop founder Mary Foster Parmer will share the deep truths of this ministry as well as practical steps to assess your faith community. Mary will also preach on February 9. All SJB folks are welcome, as are teams from other Episcopal and full communion partner congregations!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Tuesday, December 24 at St. John the Baptist**

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Pageant in the Church Nave

9:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling in the Church Nave

10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Incense in the Church Nave

## **Wednesday, December 25 at St. John the Baptist**

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the Church Nave

## **One Service on December 29— Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist**

We'll gather for a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols for one combined service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 29. Please join us as we continue the celebration of Christmas throughout the 12 days!

## **Coffee Hour Hosts Needed**

If you are interested in providing snacks and hospitality during our weekly Coffee Hour, please sign up to host a Sunday on the blue sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. We are currently in need of Coffee Hour hosts starting December 22 through January. Please consider signing up to support this ministry. Thank you!

## **Coffee Hour Host Organizational Conversation**

Have you hosted coffee hour some time in the last few years? Are you interested in possibly hosting coffee hour? Please join Canon Elise and Lilith Lysistrata for a conversation to discern how we might best be approaching coffee hour hosting for where SJB is right now. We will get some coffee and snacks and meet in the Community Room at Noon on January 19.

## **2024 Pledge Fulfillment**

We are so grateful to all of you for your support of SJB's mission and ministry in 2024. If you have not yet met your annual pledge amount and would still like to give towards that commitment, or if you would like to make any kind of offering for 2024, there is still time! Contact Cn. Elise or [finance@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:finance@sjbwestseattle.org) for more information on your 2024 pledge and giving amounts. Thank you!

## **Adult Formation**

Adult Formation will take a brief hiatus over the Christmas Season and will resume on January 12, 9:40–10:20 a.m., in the library and on Zoom. Topics: 1/12: What is Epiphany; 1/19: Conversation with Mission to Seafarers; 1/26: Annual Meeting. Email Canon Elise for the Zoom link or more information: [elise@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:elise@sjbwestseattle.org)

## **Wednesday Evening Prayer on Zoom**

Evening Prayer will be on a brief hiatus during the Christmas season and will resume on Wednesday, January 8. Join us on Zoom Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. for Evening Prayer. At the beginning of our time together we will assign roles and participate together in this sacred way to wind down at the end of the day. If you wish to have a social time preceding, join or log in at 6:15 p.m. (optional). Meeting ID: 229 332 884. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/229332884>

## **Cold and Flu Season Reminder**

We encourage you to take precautions to protect yourself and others from illness, such as getting your Flu and Covid vaccines, joining worship via our livestream on Sunday if you are ill, and considering wearing a mask when attending in-person events. Your attention to these precautions helps us to protect our most vulnerable. Thank you.

## **2025 Estimates of Giving**

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have submitted their Estimate of Giving cards for 2025. There is still time to pledge your support to SJB for next year. Contact Cn. Elise with any questions.

## **Youth Group**

All youth 6th–12th grades are invited to join youth group in the Parish Hall on the first and third Sundays of each month for food, fun, and fellowship! Our next Youth Group will meet January 5 after the meal portion of the Twelfth Night Party, which begins at 6:30 p.m.

## **Twelfth Night Party**

We'll gather in the Parish Hall on Sunday, January 5, 6:30 p.m., for a festive celebration to include food, king cake, wassail, and song! If you'd like to contribute, contact Anne Rogers, 206-694-3690.

## **Epiphany Service with First Lutheran Church, WS**

We have been invited to share the celebration of Epiphany with our full communion partner neighboring church of First Lutheran Church of West Seattle, 4105 California Ave SW. Our joint service will be Monday, January 6, 6:30 p.m., with the blessing of chalk.

## **Services for Jim Barnecut**

Services for Jim Barnecut will be held Thursday, January 2, 2 p.m., at St. John the Baptist. Please keep his spouse Jamie, his sister, Maggie Abrahamson, and all of Jim's family in prayer.

## **Services for Paul Abrahamson**

Services for Paul Abrahamson will be held Saturday, January 11, 2 p.m., at St. John the Baptist. Please continue to keep Maggie and family in prayer.



## St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in the Admiral District of West Seattle

### A Note from Our Rector

We are so glad you are worshipping here today!

Visiting?

If you are visiting with us, we would be glad to answer any questions you may have about the Episcopal Church or about St. John's. I'm Elise, the Rector (the priest in charge) of St. John's—I encourage you to reach out to me—I'd love to meet you!

Interested in Baptism?

In the Episcopal Church, we believe that Baptism by water and in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is full initiation into the Body of Christ, the Church—regardless in which Christian tradition you may have been baptized.

If you are interested in Baptism, please reach out to me—I would love to talk with you about this.

As we like to say here, wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you have a place at St. John's!

Welcome!

Elise+  
[elise@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:elise@sjbwestseattle.org)

If there is a ministry you're interested in knowing more about or getting involved, you can also contact the office  
[office@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:office@sjbwestseattle.org)

### St. John the Baptist Vestry

#### Class of 2024

Maria Weber, *senior warden*  
Betty Ede  
Sharon Parker  
Tom Taylor

#### Class of 2026

Kitt Gassman  
John Hainze  
Lurilla Lee  
Cathy Thompson

#### Class of 2025

Katie Bucy  
Dan Johnson  
John Kettel, *junior warden*  
Anne Rogers

#### Chair

The Rev. Cn. Elise Johnstone  
**Clerk**  
Carol Sutcliffe  
**Treasurer**  
Monte Frazier

Would you like to request that our Prayer Chain pray for you or someone you know? Would you like to add a name to the Prayers of the People? Please visit

<https://sjbwestseattle.org/prayers>

### St. John the Baptist Staff and Office Information

3050 California Ave SW

Phone 206-937-4545

Seattle WA 98116

[www.sjbwestseattle.org](http://www.sjbwestseattle.org)

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

The Rev. Canon Elise B. Johnstone, *rector*

[elise@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:elise@sjbwestseattle.org)

The Rev. Robert G. Stevens, *curate*

[robert@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:robert@sjbwestseattle.org)

Katelyn Cowell, *parish administrator*

[office@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:office@sjbwestseattle.org)

Thomas Aláan, DMA, *choir director*

[thomas@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:thomas@sjbwestseattle.org)

Anita McKay, *bookkeeper*

[finance@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:finance@sjbwestseattle.org)

Jackson Espeut, *family life minister*

[familylife@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:familylife@sjbwestseattle.org)

Wayne Heuschele, *sexton*

Nora Jindrich, *nursery and youth assistant*

David O. Ruberg, *bulletin guru*

Joyce Gibb, *pianist*

If you wish to reach a staff person who does not have an email listed, please contact the office.

[office@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:office@sjbwestseattle.org)

### What's going on at SJB this week

Tuesday, December 24, 2024, 5:00 PM	Nave
<b>Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist</b>	
Tuesday, December 24, 2024, 9:30 PM	Nave
<b>Christmas Eve Carols</b>	
Tuesday, December 24, 2024, 10:00 PM	Nave
<b>Christmas Eve Eucharist with Incense</b>	
Wednesday, December 25, 2024, 9:30 AM	Nave
<b>Christmas Day Holy Eucharist</b>	
Thursday, December 26, 2024, 7:00 PM	Community Room
<b>AA 12x12</b>	
Saturday, December 28, 2024, 8:30 AM Parish Hall and Community Room	
<b>AI-Anon</b>	
Sunday, December 29, 2024, 9:30 AM	Nave
<b>Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist</b>	
Sunday, December 29, 2024, 10:40 AM	Parish Hall
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	
Tuesday, December 31, 2024, 9:00 AM	Parish Hall
<b>Emerald City Wanderers</b>	
Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 7:00 AM	Parish Hall
<b>Emerald City Wanderers</b>	
Thursday, January 2, 2025, 11:00 AM	Nave
<b>Services for Jim Barnecut</b>	
Thursday, January 2, 2025, 6:30 PM	Nave
<b>Choir Practice</b>	
Thursday, January 2, 2025, 7:00 PM	Community Room
<b>AA 12x12</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 8:30 AM	Nave
<b>Spoken Holy Eucharist</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 10:30 AM	Nave
<b>Holy Eucharist with Music</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 10:30 AM	Nave, Large Godly Play Room
<b>Children's Chapel with Godly Play</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 12:00 PM	Community Room
<b>Walking Through the Bible</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 3:00 PM	Mt St Vincent
<b>Worship at the Mount</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 6:30 PM	Parish Hall
<b>Twelfth Night Party</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 7:00 PM	Community Room
<b>Youth Group</b>	
Monday, January 6, 2025, 4:00 PM	Parish Hall
<b>Endolyne Children's Choir</b>	
Monday, January 6, 2025, 6:30 PM	First Lutheran Church
<b>Feast of the Epiphany Joint Holy Eucharist</b>	
*Indicates that a group is renting SJB for this use.	