



# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

906 South Orleans Avenue ♦ Tampa, Florida 33606-2941

Our mission is to proclaim, by word and example,  
the good news of God in Christ, and to build a spiritual community  
forming Christians of all ages through worship, education, and outreach.

## THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

**Holy Eucharist Rite II - 9:30am**  
**December 29, 2024**

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II

*Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the house of God.  
Before the service speak to the Lord; during the service let the Lord speak to you;  
After the service speak to one another.*

## The Rector's Welcome

“Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee with love and awe. Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.”

Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? Have you ever sat back and contemplated that line from the famous Christmas hymn *O Come all ye Faithful*? Take some time this Christmas season, which begins on Christmas Eve and ends on January 6th with the feast of the Epiphany, to ponder the miracle of the Incarnation. God among us, the creator living as part of his creation.

God so humbled himself that his very word lived, moved, worked, laughed, cried, bled, and loved as a human being, all so that he could redeem his creation and bring that creation into communion with God and the rest of the heavenly host. On Christmas, we remember the beginning of the final stage of God's rescue mission for us all. This Child, who in all ways seems so insignificant, is the savior of the world. O come, let us adore him! Merry Christmas to you all. May the word of God dwell within all our hearts.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Chris Wood" with a small cross at the end.

The Rev. Christian M. Wood

The people stand as the Ministers enter

Processional Hymn 82 Stanzas 1-3, 6

Divinum mysterium



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,  
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have \_\_\_\_\_ been, and that fu - ture  
world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♪ ♪ ♪

## PROPER ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant*

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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE 421

*Allein Gott in der Hoh*



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from  
2 O Lamb of God, Lord Je - sus Christ, whom God the Fa - ther  
3 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One, who came for our sal -



hea - ven, and God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be  
gave us, who for the world was sac - ri - ficed up -  
va - tion, and on - ly you are God's true Son, who



to all peo - ple giv - en. We bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for  
on the cross to save us; and, as you sit at God's right hand and  
was be - fore cre - a - tion. You on - ly, Christ, as Lord we own and,



your great glo - ry thanks and praise, O God, Al - might - y Fa - ther.  
we for judg - ment there must stand, have mer - cy, Lord, up - on us.  
with the Spi - rit, you a - lone share in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people sit*

**THE LESSON**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

*Lector* A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

**PSALM 147:13-21**

*Said in unison*

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
**praise your God, O Zion;**

14 **For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.**

15 **He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

16 **He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.**

17 **He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**

18 **He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?**

19 **He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**

20 **He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

21 **He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.**

**Hallelujah!**

**THE EPISTLE**

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

*Lector* A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might

be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

*The people stand*

**SEQUENCE HYMN 324**

*Picardy*



1 Let all mortal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on  
 3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard  
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -  
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man  
 on the way, as the Light of Light de -  
 sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
 ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood  
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,  
 Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,  
 he will give to all the faith - ful  
 that the powers of hell may va - nish  
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"



our full hom - age to de - mand.  
 his own self for heaven - ly food.  
 as the dark - ness clears a way.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

## THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The people sit*

## THE SERMON

Father Van Wormer

### THE NICENE CREED (*standing*)

*Celebrant and 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 was made man.**

**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 and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Form IV)*

*Deacon* Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*Leader*

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth,  
live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace;  
that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its  
resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ  
in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially those in  
hospital, \_\_\_ and those in hospice\_\_\_; give them courage and hope in their troubles,  
and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died especially \_\_\_; and for all those in  
whose memory the Christmas altar flowers are given; that your will for them may be  
fulfilled, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal  
kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**



*The Celebrant adds this concluding collect*

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who this day give thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All* Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us  
and forgive us; that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### THE PEACE

*All stand*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*The people sit*

### GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Offertory Sentence

*The people stand*

#### Offertory Hymn 94

*Winchester Old*

1. While shepherds watched their  
flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind;  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.

3. "To you, in David's town, this day  
is born of David's line  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

4. "The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid."

5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:

6. "All glory be to God on high and on earth be peace; good will henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease."

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *Eucharistic Prayer B*

*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 him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*

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

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said*

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:

### **Sanctus and Benedictus S128**

William Mathias

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 kneel*

*Celebrant*

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.

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;**

*Celebrant*

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 the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John, 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 author of our salvation.

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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread after which the following anthem is said*

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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



*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.  
If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing  
(indicated by crossing your arms over your chest).*

**Please fill in the kneelers at the altar during Communion from the center out, towards the side aisles.**

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

*or with these words*

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

### **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.**

### **THE BLESSING**

*The Celebrant*

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the ✠blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

*The Deacon gives the Dismissal.*

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

Processional Hymn 100

Antioch

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 cm - 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 - cous - 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 -  
 3 far as the curse is found, far  
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

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,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,





*The Adoration of the Christ Child*, after Jan Joest, oil on panel, ca. 1450-1519, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.





# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

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## AND Episcopal Parish Day School

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### THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

THE RIGHT REVEREND DOUGLAS FREDERICK SCHARF

*VI Bishop of Southwest Florida*

### THE WARDENS, VESTRY, AND OFFICERS OF THE PARISH

ELIZABETH S. GRAHAM (2024)

*Senior Warden*

ANDREW M. BROWN (2025)

*Junior Warden*

DOUGLAS F. ARTHUR

*Treasurer*

LAURA V. HOBBY

*Clerk of the Vestry*

ROBERT O. ALTER (2026)

RODDY D. BELFATTI (2025)

CARY R. BROWN (2026)

C. TWEED ECKHARD (2025)

DONNA A. GEM (2024)

JOHN N. GIORDANO (2024)

JEFFREY M. HUNT (2026)

LISA J. LEAL (2026)

JOHN H. MCKAY (2025)

STEPHEN B. STRASKE, II (2024)

### THE CLERGY AND STAFF

THE REVEREND CHRISTIAN M. WOOD

*XVII Rector*

THE REVEREND DALE W. VAN WORMER  
*Associate Priest for Liturgy and Formation*

THE REVEREND CHARLES E. CONNELLY

*Retired Priest in Residence*

SIMON J. MORLEY

*Organist and Director of Music*

LAURIE D. LAWTHER

*Parish Administrator*

JANICE A. DE PINTO

*Parish Secretary*

RODERICK MORRIS

*Sexton*

THE REVEREND JOHN R. PETERSON

*Rector Emeritus*

THE REVEREND DONALD P. GOODHEART

*Retired Priest in Residence*

THE REVEREND MARY ALICE LOPEZ

*Deacon*

THE REVEREND TANIA M. WILKES

*Deacon*

HUGH A. R. JEBSON

*Head of St. John's School*

LEE M. LOWRY

*Director of Communications*

AYANA S. GRADY

*Director of Children, Youth &  
Family Ministries*