

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 SECOND SUNDAY of Advent

Holy Eucharist Rite II – 9:30am December 8, 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

Happy Advent, everyone! This season of preparation is one of the best times of the year. While the world around us celebrates the "Holiday Season," we remember the preparation the Holy Family did as Mary and Joseph anxiously awaited the birth of Jesus. Can you imagine the pressure they must have felt preparing a home for the Son of God?

We also spend time this season preparing for the return of Jesus and the culmination of the Kingdom of God. Advent is a time to consider how we are living out our call as Christians to love each other as Jesus loves us. It is a time to remember the Great Commission that he gave his original disciples, but we continue to abide by God, therefore, and make disciples of all nations in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

I pray that, as we all eagerly await the season of Christmas, we also contemplate the incredible humility of our Lord Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of his divinity to live as one of us and save us from ourselves. I also pray that as we contemplate the Incarnation of God, we consider that we can live in an incarnational way by allowing God's Holy Spirit to shine into the world by loving those around us in the name of Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,

Fr. Chr. Word+

The Rev. Christian M. Wood *Rector*

cwood@stjohnstampa.org

Processional Hymn 68

Llangloffan



PROPER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

The people kneel

THE EXHORTATION

Beloved in the Lord: Our Savior Christ, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood as a sign and pledge of his love, for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of his death, and for a spiritual sharing in his risen life. For in these holy Mysteries we are made one with Christ, and Christ with us; we are made onebody in him, and members one of another.

Having in mind, therefore, his great love for us, and in obedience to his command, his Church renders to Almighty God our heavenly Father never-ending thanks for the creation of the world, for his continual providence over us, for his love for all mankind, and for the redemption of the world by our Savior Christ, who took upon himself our flesh, and humbled himself even to death on the cross, that he might make us the children of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, and exalt us to everlasting life.

But if we are to share rightly in the celebration of those holy Mysteries, and be nourished by that spiritual Food, we must remember the dignity of that holy Sacrament. I therefore call upon you to consider how Saint Paul exhorts all persons to prepare themselves carefully before eating of that Bread and drinking of that Cup.

For, as the benefit is great, if with penitent hearts and living faith we receive the holy Sacrament, so is the danger great, if we receive it improperly, not recognizing the Lord's Body. Judge yourselves, therefore, lest you be judged by the Lord.

Examine your lives and conduct by the rule of God's commandments, that you may perceive wherein you have offended in what you have done or left undone, whether in thought, word, or deed. And acknowledge your sins before Almighty God, with full purpose of amendment of life, being ready to make restitution for all injuries and wrongs done by you to others; and also being ready to forgive those who have offended you, in order that you yourselves may be forgiven. And then, being reconciled with one another, come to the banquet of that most heavenly Food.

And if, in your preparation, you need help and counsel, then go and open your grief to a discreet and understanding priest, and confess your sins, that you may receive the benefit of absolution, and spiritual counsel and advice; to the removal of scruple and doubt, the assurance of pardon, and the strengthening of your faith.

To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory in the Church evermore. Through him let us offer continually the sacrifice of praise, which is our bounden duty and service, and, with faith in him, come boldly before the throne of grace and humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and most merciful father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,

and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent,

according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,

that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,

to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Celebrant

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLet us pray.

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.**

THE LESSON

Lector A reading from the Book of Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For your name will for ever be called by God, "Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

LectorThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

GRADUAL: Benedictus Dominus Deus

Thomas Attwood Walmisley

Sung by the choir

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, * for he hath visited and redeemed his people; And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us * in the house of his servant David, As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, * which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, * and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, * and to remember his holy covenant; To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, * that he would give us, That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies * might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, * all the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, *

for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people * for the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God, * whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us; To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, * and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Baruch 5:1-9

THE EPISTLE

Lector A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel thus about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All elementary-age students will now follow the cross down the center aisle and process to Children's Chapel in the parish hall.

SEQUENCE HYMN 67

Psalm 42

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THE GOSPEL

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tibe'ri-us Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturae'a and Trachoni'tis, and Lysa'ni-as tetrarch of Abile'ne, in the high-priesthood of Annas and Ca'iaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechari'ah in the wilderness; and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The people sit

THE NICENE CREED (standing)

Celebrant All	 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;
	 For our sake ne 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.

Father Van Wormer

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 V)

Deacon or other leader

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Douglas our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who live and work in this community, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For _____, for those in hospital _____, and those in hospice _____, we pray to you, O Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the recent faithful departed, _____; [for _____ in whose memory the Altar Flowers are given today;] for all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God. To you, O Lord our God.

The Celebrant adds this concluding Collect

Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you. Celebrant And also with you. People

The people sit

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Offertory Anthem *The truth from above*

Sung by the choir

This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love, therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate is that God did man create; the next thing which to you I'll tell woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes, til God the Lord did interpose; and so a promise soon did run that he would redeem us by his Son. Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

And at that season of the year our blest Redeemer did appear; he here did live, and here did preach, and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved. to show us how we must be saved; and if you want to know the way, be pleased to hear what he did say.

Hymn 56 Stanza 2

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

The people stand

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer B

The people stand

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 S125

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 remain standing as they are able

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; Richard Proulx

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,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread after which the following is sung

Fraction Anthem S170

Sung by the choir

Whoever eats this bread will live for ever. This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Whoever believes in me shall not hunger or thirst, for the bread which I give for the life of the world is my flesh.

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).

Mason Martens

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

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

or with these words

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

Communion Motet Creator of the stars of night

Plainsong Mode 4

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light, O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe, you came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild. At your great Name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow: all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day; defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

Latin, 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

All stand.

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

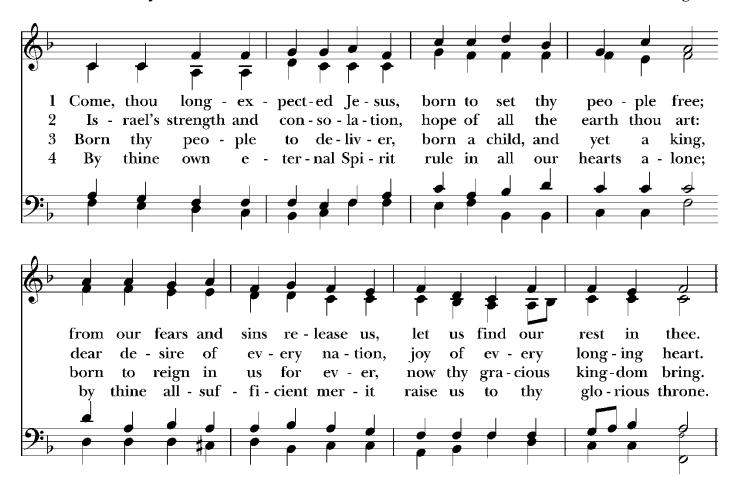
May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the ₱blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon gives the Dismissal.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Processional Hymn 66



UPCOMING SERVICES AND NOTICES

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, 24th December

Christmas Pageant and Eucharist – 3:00 p.m. at St. John's School Gymnasium, Upper Division Campus, 240 S. Plant Ave.

Sung Eucharist with full choir – 6:00 p.m.

Midnight Mass: Sung Eucharist with full choir - 11:00 p.m. (pre-service music at 10:30)

Christmas Day

Wednesday, 25th December

Holy Eucharist, Rite II – 10:00 a.m. With Congregational Carols

Christmastide Schedule

26th December – 6th January

Mass in the Chapel on Wednesdays and Thursdays as always but with special mention of the following:

The Feast of St. Stephen Thursday, 26th December – 12:15 p.m. with healing prayers

The Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (Patronal Feast) Friday, 27th December – 12:15 p.m.

> Holy Innocents Saturday, 28th December – 10:00 a.m.

 \clubsuit The Parish Offices close Tuesday, 31^{st} December and reopen Thursday, 2^{nd} January \clubsuit

The Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus Wednesday, 1st January – 12:15 p.m.

> **The Epiphany** Monday, 6th January – 12:15 p.m.



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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