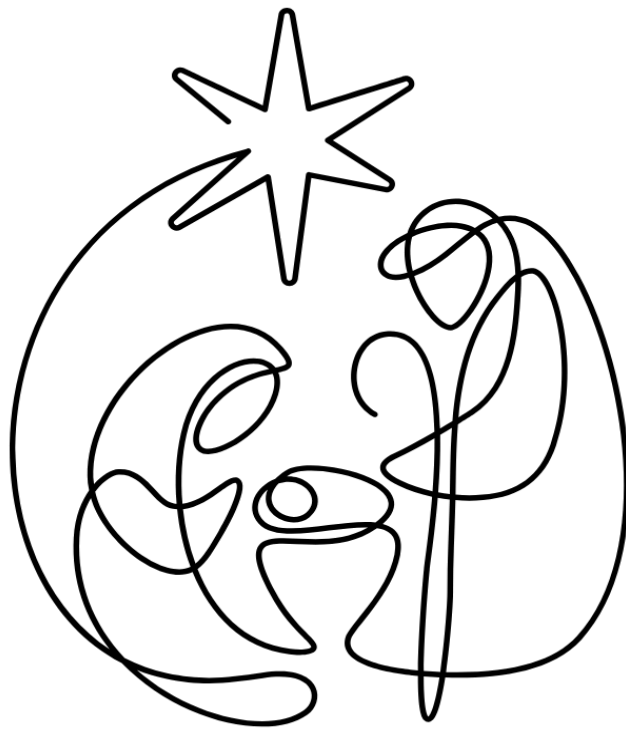


First Sunday of Christmas

Lessons and Carols



December 29, 2024

St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church

Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's!

Name tags are available. We'd love to make one for you if you do not have one already.

Help yourself to coffee in the "cafe," and feel free to bring it to your pew. We're casual.

We invite children to make themselves at home at our children's table, where there are weekly activity bulletins and crayons.

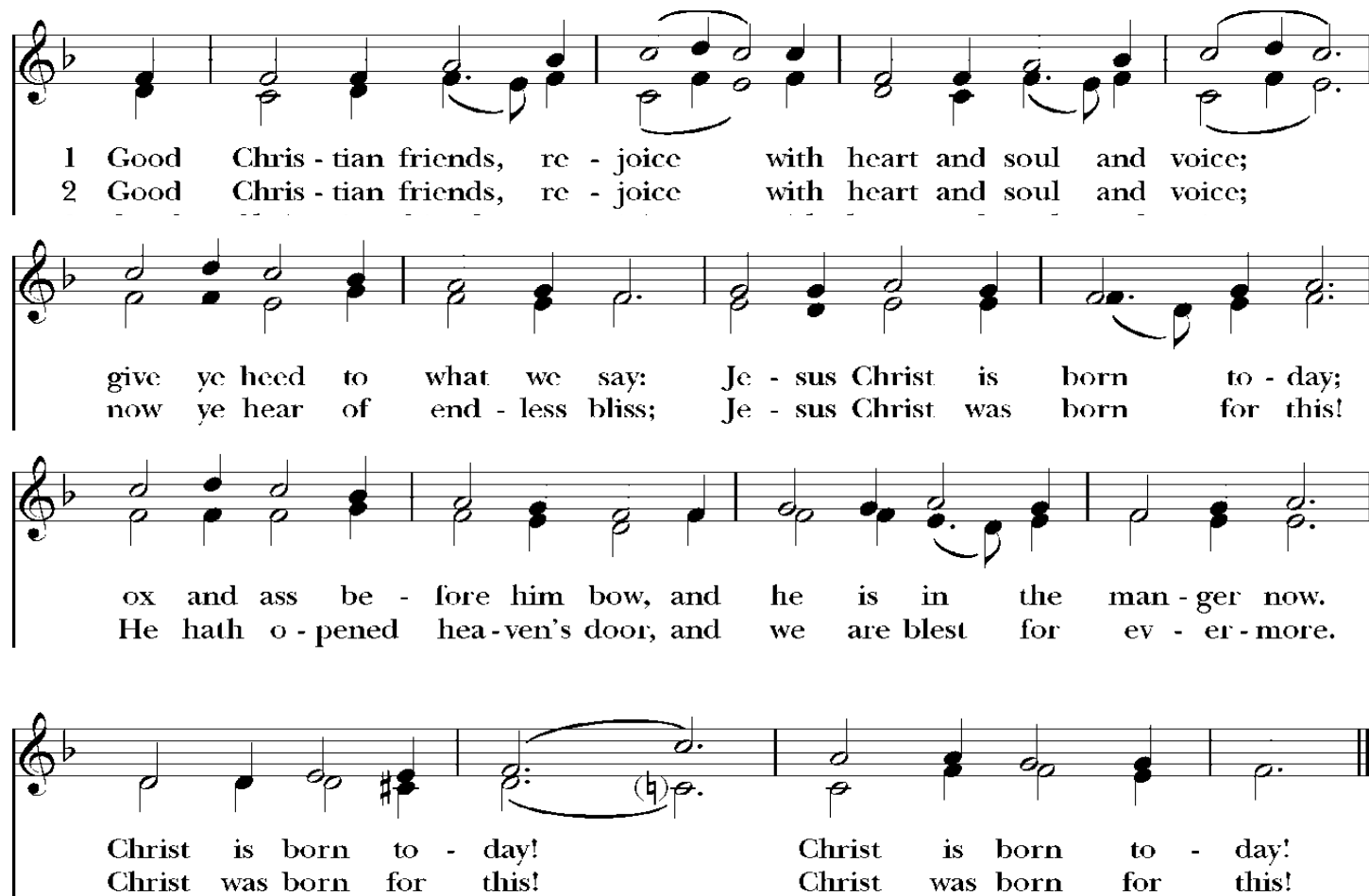
Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 7 pm.
Our YouTube channel link is available on our website,
stmarksandstjohns.org.

We appreciate your financial generosity to support our mission and ministry. Though we do not pass the offering plate during service, you can find it at the entrance of the church or contribute online at stmarksandstjohns.org/give.

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE HYMN

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!

OPENING ACCLAMATION

My soul magnifies the Lord.

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

The Mighty One has done great things.

Holy is God's name!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift-up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear". The score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are arranged in two columns, with the first column starting on the first staff and the second column starting on the second staff. The lyrics are: 1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly near the earth to touch their harps of gold: mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world; "Peace on the earth, good and will to men, from a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing. Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
"Peace on the earth, good and will to men, from
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
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bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.

READING

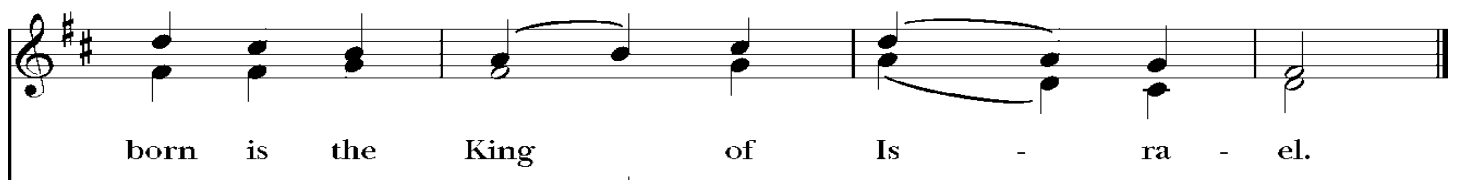
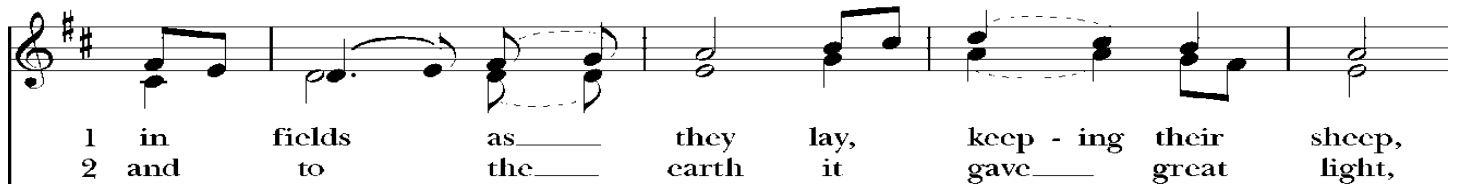
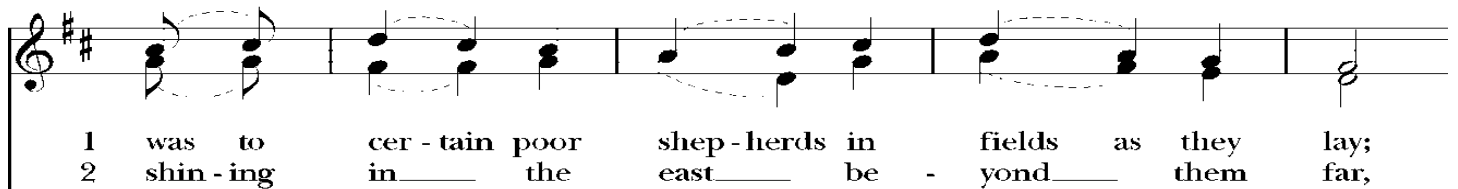
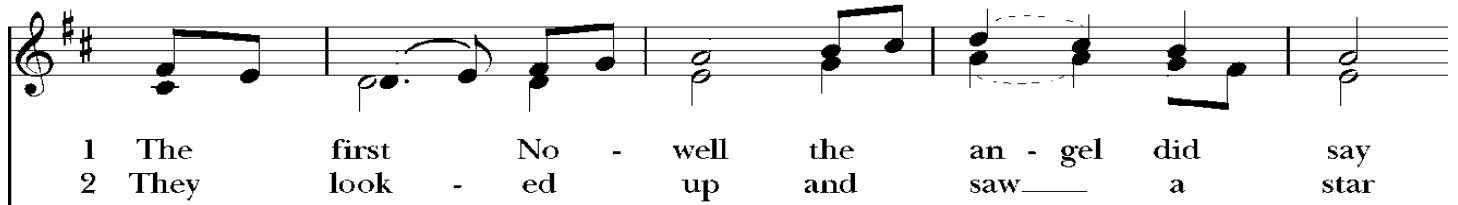
Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being 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 up 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 shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that 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.

Hear what the Spirit is Saying
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"The First Noel"



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 Counsellor, 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.

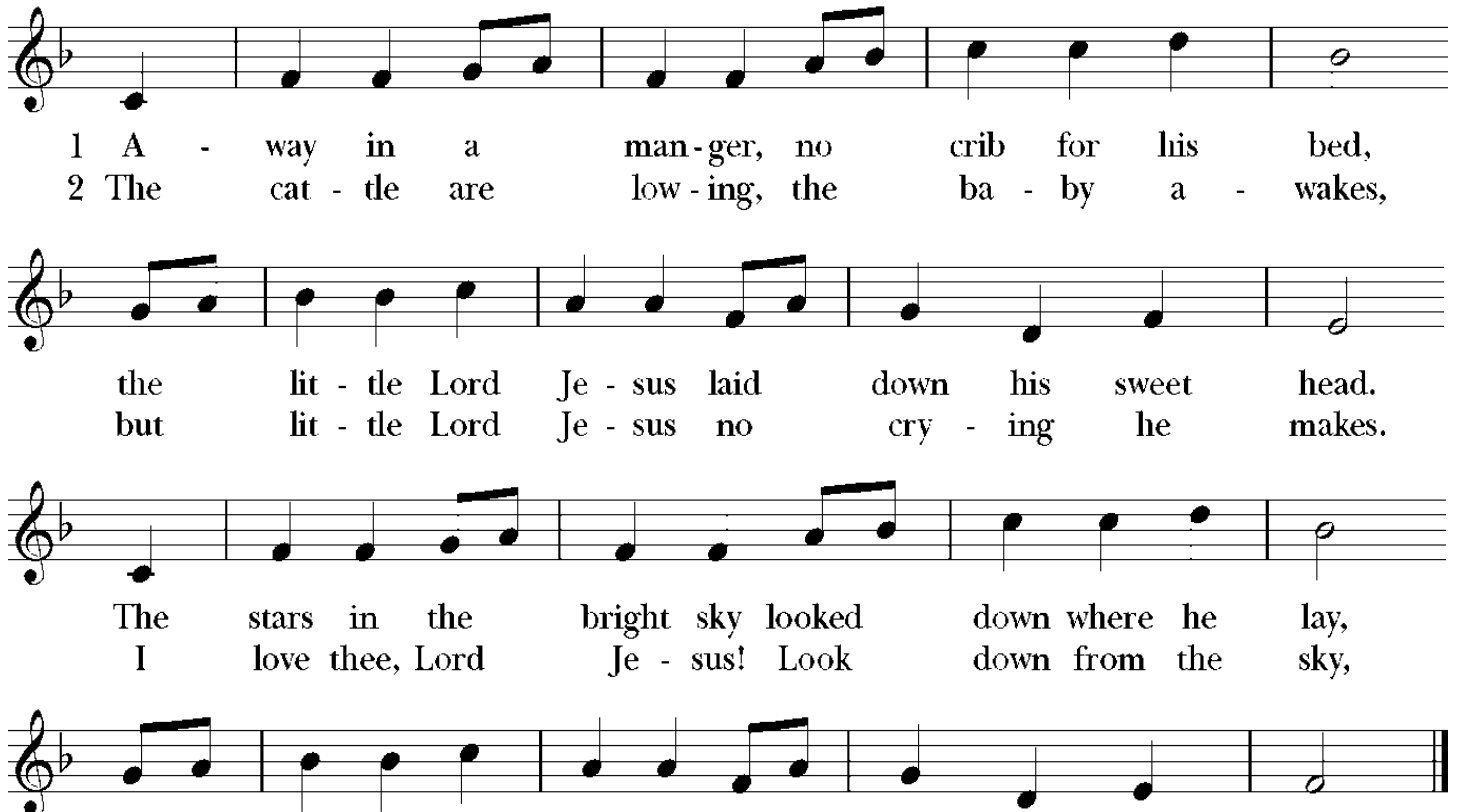
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with
righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Away in a Manger"



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.

READING

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

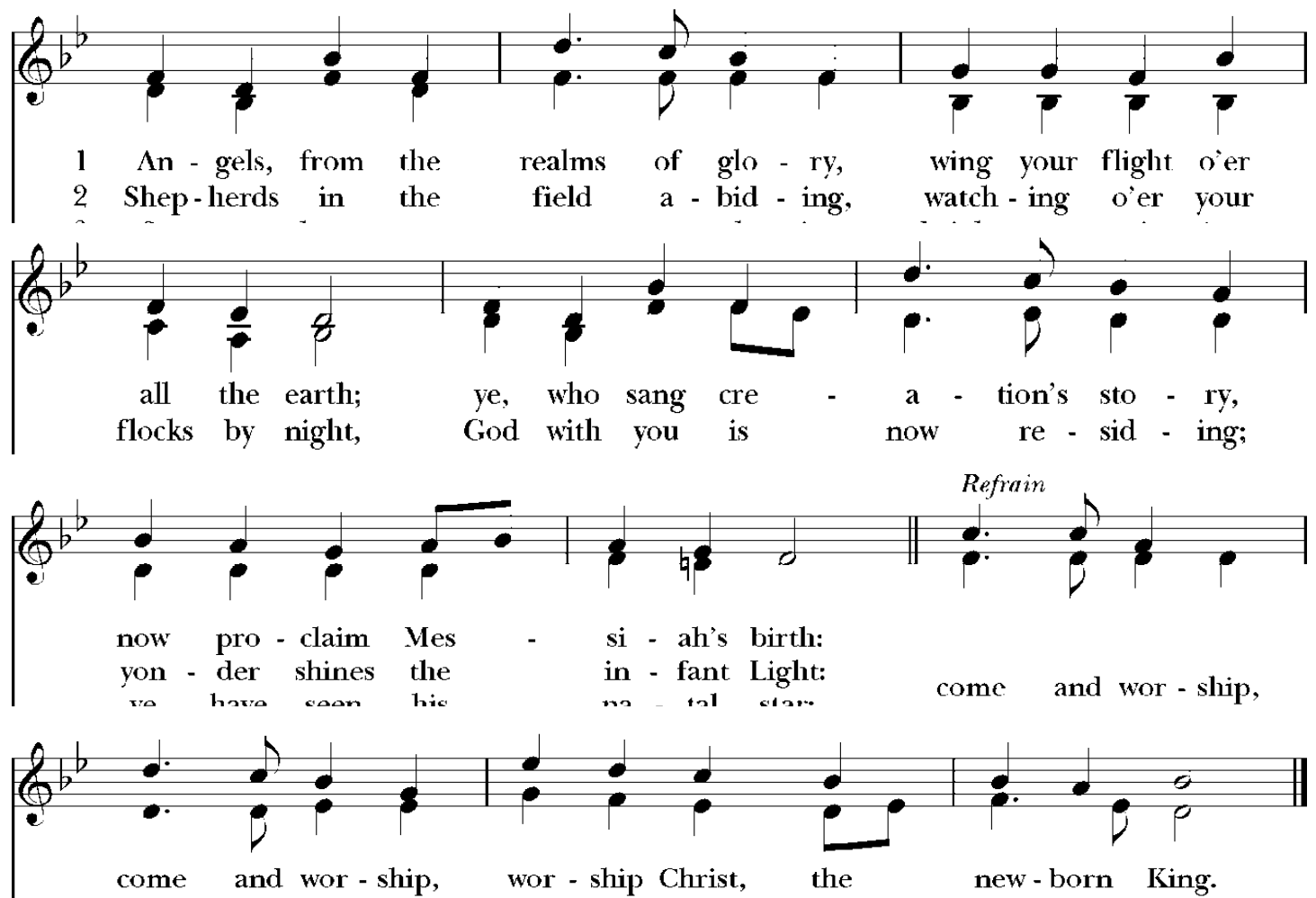
For to which of the angels did God ever say,
'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'?

Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'?
And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
'Let all God's angels worship him.'
Of the angels he says,
'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.'
But of the Son he says,
'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'
And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like
clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be
changed.
But you are the same, and your years will never end.'
But to which of the angels has he ever said,
'Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'?
Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the
sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Hear what the Spirit is Saying
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;

Refrain
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal stars

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:15-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

In that region, there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

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 there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hear what the Spirit is Saying

Thanks be to God.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2 From God our heav - en - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came

re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:

to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.

Refrain

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and
joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen". It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff has two vocal parts, numbered 1 and 2. The lyrics are: "1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may; 2 From God our heav - en - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came". The second staff continues the lyrics: "re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day, and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:". The third staff continues: "to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray. how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.". The fourth staff is the start of the refrain: "O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and". The fifth staff continues the refrain: "joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!".

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S TABLE

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift-up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right that we should praise you, God of love, our source and our fulfillment, for you create all things, and in you we live and move and have our being. You gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made a perfect human being of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Now we join hands around your table, and with all creation we sing your hymn of unending love,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

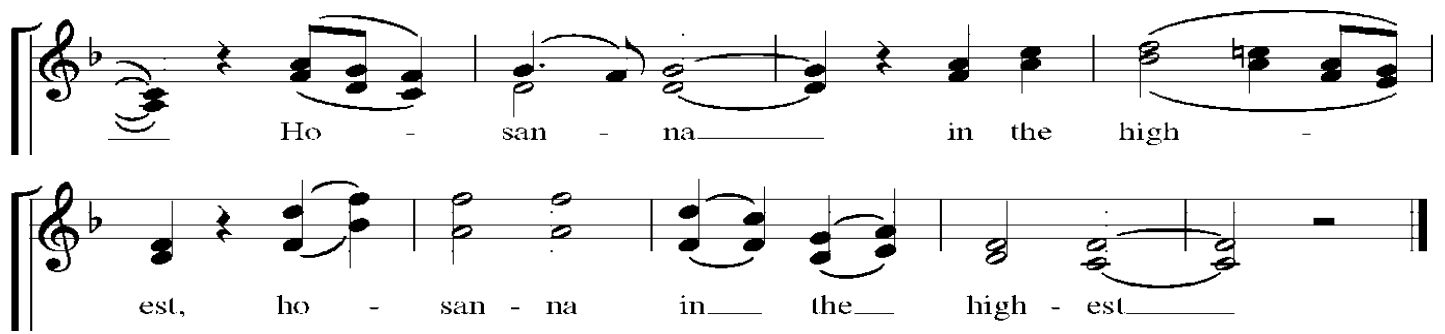
ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name

of the Lord, of the Lord.



To you indeed be glory, almighty God, on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

And so in this sacrament we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.**

Therefore, loving God, recalling now Christ's life, death and resurrection, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon us and this celebration, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness. Strengthen

us to do your work, and to be your resurrected body offering hope to the world.

Unite us in Christ and give us your peace. Through your Holy Spirit, burning as a flame, gentle as a dove, may we who receive these gifts live lives of justice, love, and prayer.

Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we share in this one bread.

All are invited to partake of this holy meal. If you would like to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms in front of you.

After receiving the Eucharist, please have your candles ready. Ushers will light them. Please share your light with each other.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Silent Night"



Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,
all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,
Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
peace. born! Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace. born!
birth. Christ, the Sa - vior, is born! birth.
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation.

And in this meal, we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
sing, joy, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to share the story of Jesus.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Lectors - December-February *(Readers)*

Date	First Lesson & Psalm	Second Lesson & Usher	Prayers of the People & Greeter
12/29	Joe C.	Michele H.	Tom F.
1/5	Theresa H.	Steve F.	Sharon K.
1/12	Mike F.	Nancy W.	Terri C.
1/19	Deb S.	Joe C.	Michele H.
1/26	Tom F.	Theresa H.	Steve F.
2/2	Sharon K.	Mike F.	Mary E.
2/9	Michele H.	Deb S.	Heather G.
2/16	Terri C.	Mary E.	Joe C.
2/23	Nancy W.	Tom F.	Theresa H.

Eucharistic Ministers - December-February

Date	Common Cup	Single Cup Tray	Collect Cups
12/29	Deb S.	Terri C.	Heather G.
1/5	Bob C.	Dave E.	Mary E.
1/12	Mary E.	Mike F.	Sharon K.
1/19	Theresa H.	Tom F.	Michele H.
1/26	Joe C.	Deb S.	Terri C.
2/2	Heather G.	Bob C.	Dave E.
2/9	Dave E.	Nancy W.	Mike F.
2/16	Sharon K.	Theresa H.	Tom F.
2/23	Michele H.	Joe C.	Deb S.

Announcements

We extend our **deepest gratitude** to our incredible Food Shelf volunteers who made a significant impact in 2024. Your dedication to growing, harvesting, packing, and distributing food was instrumental in feeding 2,392 Rochester families. Your warmth and kindness, evident in every interaction with our guests, truly shine as a reflection of Christ's love. Food Shelf will resume on Wednesday, January 8th. Go to stmarksandstjohns.org/volunteer to help us kick-off the new year.

The Church Office will be closed through January 6. Church email accounts will be checked once daily and Pastor Cindy and Maria will both be available for pastoral emergencies during this time.

Beginning **January 5th** - join us after Worship **every week** for the first read of our 2025 "Connection Book Club," **Brené Brown's *The Gifts of Imperfection***. The book is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and local libraries (including on Audible). On the 5th we'll look at the Introduction and first Chapter "Courage, Compassion, and Connection."

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Are we missing your information? Let us know so we can add it and celebrate!

Birthdays	Anniversaries
Julie C. - January 29	Chris & Susie L. - January 6

SMSJ Weekly Calendar

December 30-January 5

Monday, 12/30	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
Tuesday, 12/31	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
Wednesday, 1/1	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
Thursday, 1/2	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
Friday, 1/3	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
Saturday, 1/4	
Sunday, 1/5	9:15 a.m. - Worship with Eucharist 10:30 a.m. - Connections Book Study

Christmas Flowers

Sara Burgess
William & Nellie Burton
Rose & Frank Caruso
Robert & Geraldine Casper
Patricia and Robert Censak
Gary, Terry, Violet Estey
Flood/ Laskey Families
Dr. and Mrs. E.A. Forszt
Joseph Gilfoy
Chuck, Phyllis, and Annie Graham
Michele Holmes
Nancy Pike
Rampsey Nicholson
Gertrude Traugott
William Traugott
Alice and John Travers
Elinor Smith
Elizabeth Zwerger
Alice & John Travers
Freedom Scholars Learning Center

*A special thank you to all who volunteered and
contributed in various ways to grow the mission
and ministry of SMSJ in 2024. It has been a wonderful year.
Pastor Cindy, Maria, Deacon Patti, and the team
wish you and your family a blessed holiday season.*

*Please note that the Church Office will be closed Dec. 25-Jan. 3 for Christmas Break.
For urgent matters requiring pastoral care, please call us at (585) 654-9229.*



St. Mark's & St. John's Staff

Rector

The Rev'd Cynthia Rasmussen, Ph.D.
crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org

Operations and Missions Director

Maria Hartz-Clineburg, M.Div.
mhartz@stmarksandstjohns.org

Deacon

The Rev'd Patti Blaine, M.A., BCC
pblaine@stmarksandstjohns.org

Interim Musician

JT Ngiaaw Triano
Amelia Yousey (*vocalist*)

Audio and Video Producer

Robert Thornton

Deacon Emeritus

The Rev'd Mike Finn

St. Mark's & St. John's Vestry

Co-Wardens

Walt Snyder &
Sharon Kowalski

Treasurer

Michele Holmes

Vestry Members

Bob Caruso (Clerk)

Class of 2025

Nancy Ramsay
Ginnie Schindler

Class of 2026

Theresa Harte
Ella Gruel

Class of 2027

Heather Gilfoy
Nancy Willer

Diocesan Delegates

Ella Gruel
Nancy Ramsay
Deb Snyder

Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition Representative

Terri Censak