St John’s Episcopal Church



First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 - Year B

10am

Come hydrate your soul at St John’s:
A community of connections across generations.
Connect to God through worship, service,
real life and tradition.

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14 Lagunitas Road
PO Box 217
Ross, California 94957

(415) 456-1102
info@stjohnsross.org
www.stjohnsross.org

As we worship today, you are invited to pray aloud with us, or join silently; to sing along or enjoy listening. Welcome - we are grateful for your presence!

During the service, please text your prayer request, birthday, anniversary or occasion of thanksgiving to 415.275.0115.

ALTAR FLOWERS GIVEN

To the Glory of God

FAITH-FILLED GATHERINGS

Sunday
8am: Worship
9am: Intergenerational Family Worship
10am:
Worship (in-person & live stream)
Children's Sunday School
Morning Youth Group

Monday
7:30pm: Women's Bible Discussion (Zoom)

Tuesday *(once a month)*
7:30am: Christian meditation (12/8)
6pm: Dinner Church

Wednesday
1pm: Bible Study

Thursday
11am: Christian Classics Lite
6:30pm: Bible Study

Saturday *(once a month)*
8am: Men's Group



cover image
Title: Advent Candle
Notes: Hand-printed linocut in black and gold ink.
Date: 2018
Artist: Plummer, Lauren
Object/Function: Print
Location: Nashville, TN

Prelude Veni Emmanuel Carl Schwartz (b. 1954)

Welcome

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The people enter a darkened, silent church and take their seats.
The acolytes, choir, Eucharistic ministers, and clergy enter in a silent procession.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant The Spirit and the Church cry out:
People **Come, Lord Jesus.**
Celebrant All who await his appearance pray:
People **Come, Lord Jesus.**
Celebrant The whole creation pleads:
People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Hymn 56, O come, O come, Emmanuel (vs. 1)
As the congregation sings, the first candle of the Advent wreath and the altar candles are lit.

> O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
> that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
> Rejoice! Rejoice!
> Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Celebrant Let us give thanks to our gracious God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness. In this holy season, when the sun's light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of night, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendor of your glory, enfleshed among us in Jesus. Through the prophets you teach us to hope for Christ's reign of peace.

Through the out-pouring of Christ's Spirit, you open our blindness to the glory of Christ's presence. Strengthen us in our weakness; support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will; and loosen our tongues to sing your praise. For to you all honor and blessing are due, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for Purity

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Presider and People

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 60, sts 1-4 Creator of the stars of night *Conditor alme siderum*
Sung by all, standing.

1 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.

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

3 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.

4 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.

— Latin, 9th C.

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Please be seated. **Isaiah 64:1-9**

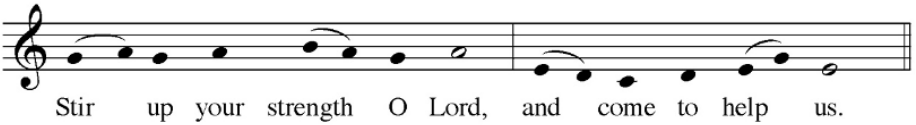
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80:1-7 Plainsong

Repeat refrain after the cantor the first time



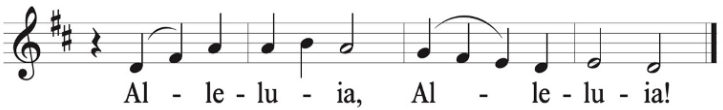
1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us. *—Refrain*

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people? *—Refrain*

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. *—Refrain*

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand* Ross Alleluia No. 1 John Karl Hirten

Refrain is sung twice each time.



Choir will sing a verse, after which all sing the Alleluia.

Holy Gospel **Mark 13:24-37**

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place,

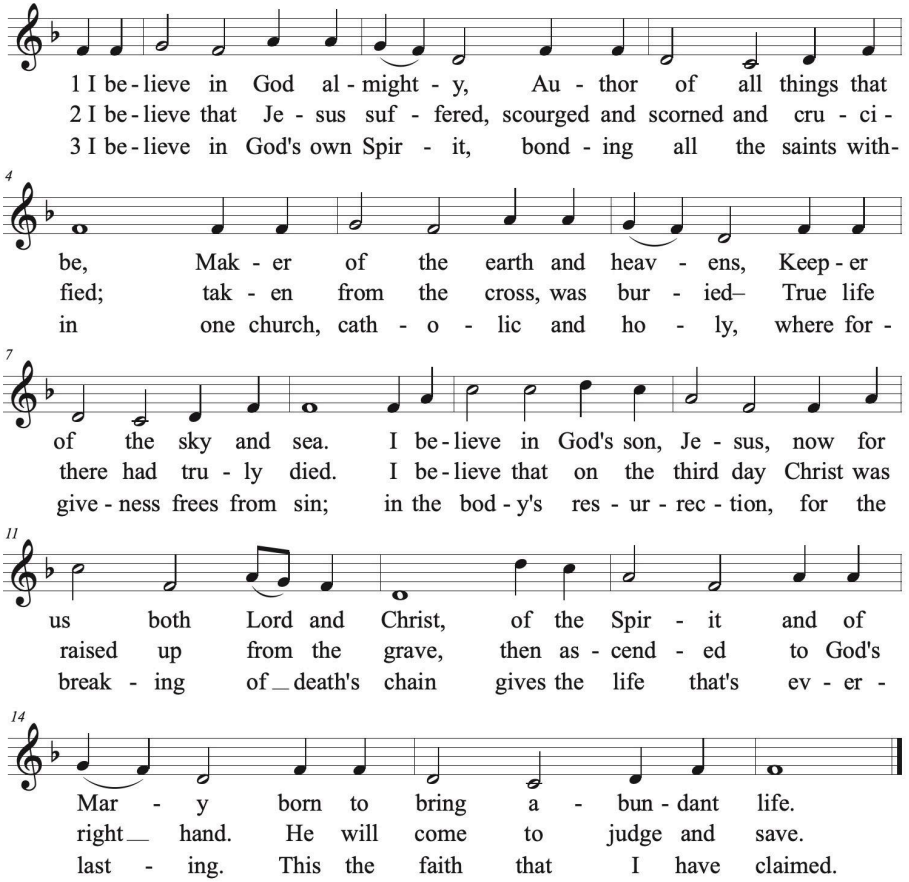
you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon The Rev. Heather Erickson
Please be seated.
A moment of silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Creed *Sung by all, standing.* *Beach Spring*



Words by Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993)
Music: *Beach Spring,* Traditional American
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Prayers of the People

The Mighty One has done great things for us. And so we appeal to God once again, praying, "Stir up your strength, O Lord; and come to help us."Prepare in us a mansion for yourself, O Christ. Stir up your strength, O Lord; **And come to help us.**

Restore us, O God of hosts. May we know security. May we know peace. May we know the benefits of the reign of your Christ. Stir up your strength, O Lord; **And come to help us.**

Show the strength of your arm, O God: lift up the lowly. Fill the hungry with good things. Look on your children with favor. Stir up your strength, O Lord; **And come to help us.**

Have mercy on all captives and prisoners, O God. Remember them and come to their aid. Fill our hearts with mercy. May we learn to forgive even as you forgive us. Stir up your strength, O Lord; **And come to help us.**

Hear the prayers of your people, O God of hosts. May those who have fed on the bread of tears, feed instead on your strength, O Lord. Show them the light of your countenance and be their salvation, especially…and those prayers sent in by text…Stir up your strength, O Lord; **And come to help us.**

Great Shepherd, gather your flock into your eternal kingdom. Bless the dying, embrace the dead…comfort those who mourn. Stir up your strength, O Lord; **And come to help us.**

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Peace
You are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements
Please be seated.

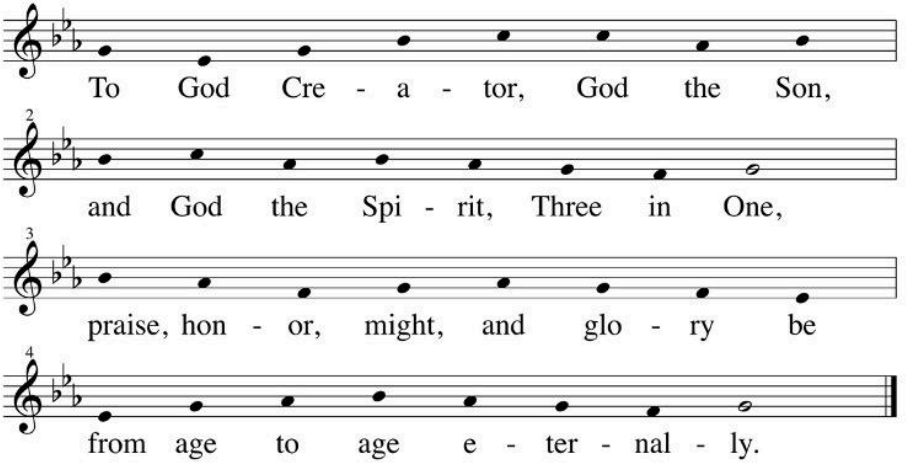
HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory & Collection
The ushers take a collection during the offertory anthem. We rely on the financial contributions of members and visitors and ask for your generous support. Ways of giving to St. John's are listed on page 2 of the bulletin.

Offertory Music	Sleepers, wake!	Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
Sung by the choir	*from* St. Paul	(1809-1847)

Sleepers, wake! A voice is calling. It is the watchman on the walls,
thou city of Jerusalem! For lo! the Bridegroom comes!
Arise and take your lamps! Hallelujah!
Awake! God's kingdom is at hand!
Go forth to meet our Lord!

The Doxology *Sung by all, standing.* *Conditor alme siderum*



Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

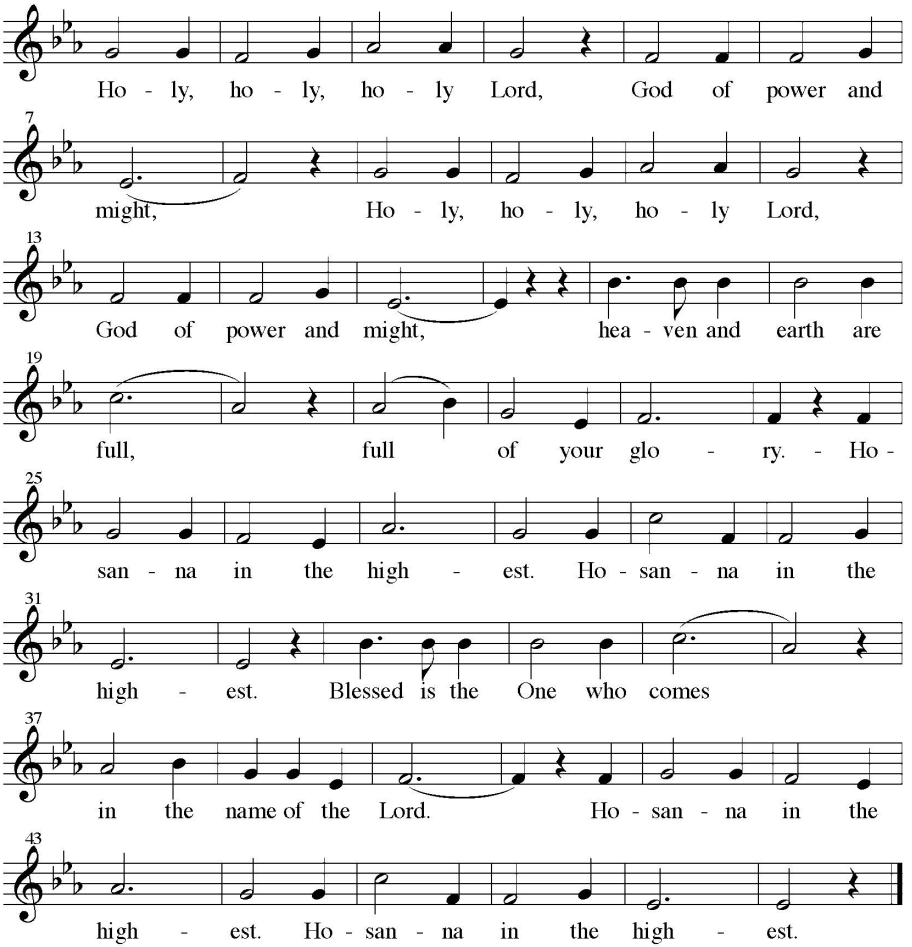
Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus Deutsche Messe Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Sung by all. *arr.* Richard Proulx (1937-2010)



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Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body,

which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

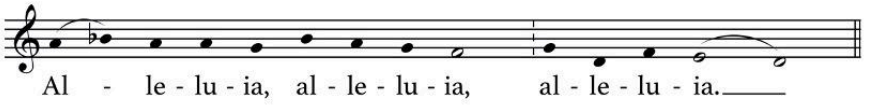
In the fullness of time bring us, with Most Holy Mary, Blessed John and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN*.

Lord's Prayer
And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

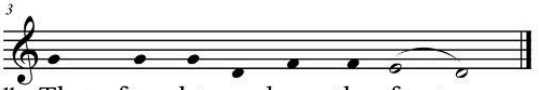
Presider and People
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread Plainsong *(Tonus Peregrinus)*

Please repeat refrain the first time after the cantor.



Choir: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.



—All sing Refrain

Presider Holy things for holy people.

Administration of Communion

To receive communion please come forward and receive a piece of the consecrated bread from the priest. If you need a gluten free wafer please indicate that to the minister. If you would like to receive the common cup, please help guide the chalice so you may drink from it. If you prefer not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing, indicating your preference by crossing your arms over your chest.

Communion Advent Sounds John Karl Hirten

Postcommunion Prayer

Please stand.

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

The presider offers God's blessing.

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Occasions of Thanksgiving

All those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and occasions of thanksgiving are invited to come forward.

Today, tomorrow and always we rejoice in the hands of God.
May God's powerful hands support you.
May God's guiding hands lead you.
May God's loving hands enfold you.
We rejoice in the hands of God. Amen.

Hymn 59 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding *Merton*
Sung by all

1. Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day."

2. Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

3. Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

4. so when next he comes in glory,
and the world be wrapped in fear,
may he with his mercy shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

5. Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run.

—Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

Dismissal Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
People **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude Improvisation on *Veni Emmanuel*

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in our parish hall following the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Wreath Making: Today All are invited to create an Advent Wreath in the Parish Hall. We suggest a donation of $40 to help cover the cost of the materials.

Christmas Altar Flowers If you wish to make a donation towards the Christmas altar flowers in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special event, please got www.stjohnsross.org to submit online by December 21 for inclusion in the Christmas bulletin.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: Rehearsals December 5 and 12 All children (5th grade and younger) are invited to participate in our Christmas Pageant! Every child will have a special role. The first rehearsal is Saturday, December 5 at 10:30am in the church. To sign up and receive more information, please email the Children's Ministry Director, Sandra Pathik. The Christmas Pageant is on Sunday, December 13 at 10am.

Advent Quiet Day: December 5 Take a spiritual break from the hectic holidays at our Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, December 5 from 9am-2pm (or any portion of) at

beautiful St. Columba's in Inverness. Our retreat time will will offer reflections on peace within us, peace in our families and community, and peace in our world. Following each reflection, we'll enjoy a period of quiet contemplation. We'll close our time of quiet and community by sharing Eucharist and enjoying our Brown Bag lunches together. St. Columba's offers many cozy nooks for journaling, meditating, reading, or just relaxing, and there are beautiful grounds to hike if the outdoors calls you. Please let Anne Doyle know if you plan to come! AberlourAnnie@outlook.com, 415-601-3040. The cost is $20 to cover the cost of the retreat space.

Vestry 101: December 6 What is the Vestry? Who serves on it? Can I be a member of the Vestry? What is the time commitment? If you want to know the answer to these questions and more, please join us in the Fireside Room after the 10am service on Sunday, December 6. Current Vestry members will be present to explain what we do, why we do it, and why you might be a perfect candidate to join in this important and rewarding ministry. In January, the Vestry will propose a slate of 4 people for 3 year terms, and 1 person to complete an open 1 year Vestry position. At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 24, the congregation will elect our 5 new Vestry members as well as Diocesan Convention and Deanery Delegates.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: December 6 Join the St. John's choirs NEXT Sunday, December 6 at 4pm in the church for a traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols to celebrate the season of Advent. In between traditional readings from scripture, the St. John's Choristers and Choir will perform such pieces as "Adam lay ybounden" by Boris Ord, the medieval carol "Gaudete," "The King shall come when morning dawns" by John Karl Hirten and "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Harold Darke, among others, plus traditional Christmas carols sung by all. A light reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

Christian Meditation: December 8 All are invited to gather in the chapel on Tuesday, December 8 at 7:30am for prayer and Christian meditation. Also known as contemplative prayer, meditation seeks God in the stillness and silence, beyond word and thought. The group meets in-person and via Zoom. For more information, please email parishioner Melinda Ching.

Dinner Church: December 8 All are invited on Tuesday, December 8 at 6pm to the Parish Hall for a supper and a discussion of the final session of our fall series, Spiritual Fitness Training 2.0. Have you ever asked yourself, "What's the meaning of life?" Well, maybe that's not the right question. Dave Evans, co-founder of Stanford's Life Design Lab, says a better question is: "How can I design more meaning in the life that I'm in now?" Join us to learn how to prime ourselves to experience deeper meaning with others and God. We gather in the parish hall, 6-8pm. Suggested $10 donation per person to cover the cost of groceries. Go to www.stjohnsross.org to sign up.

Food Drive: SF Marin Foodbank During the next few weeks we are collecting shelf-stable food to support the SF-Marin Foodbank. Tuna, canned meat, peanut butter,

soup, beans, cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, rice, pasta, and oats are particularly helpful. (No glass, please.) The donation bin will be in the office lobby.

Giving Tree: December 17 One of St. John's community engagement programs supports the residents of Pine Ridge Care Center (a skilled nursing home in San Raphael) and Gilead House (a home in Novato that supports mothers and children affected by domestic violence, helping them to rebuild). There are gift tags on the tree in the Parish Hall with specific requests from the residents of Pine Ridge and Gilead House. If you would like me to email or text you some gift requests, please contact Rev. Heather. Please return wrapped gifts with gift tag attached (for Pine Ridge) by Thursday, December 17.

End of Year Giving for the Annual Fund 2026 Thanks to all who have made a gift to our Annual Fund '26. If you have not completed your pledge payment, please do so on or before December 31, 2026. If you have not yet made a pledge or gift, you can email our Director of Stewardship, Lee Steward, stewardship@stjohnsross.org or make a gift online. We are so grateful for your support and pray you enjoy a blessed holiday season at St. John's!

Music Notes Welcome to Advent! The Church considers this first Sunday as the beginning of the liturgical year. The word "advent" is of pagan origin. In ancient Rome, the *Adventus* was a ceremony celebrating the arrival of the emperor into the city (an event which could be celebrated in other places as well as Rome). Pagans would also observe the "adventus" of a god associated with a particular season in that god's particular temple. The word would later be conveniently carried over to use in the Christian context, as in the coming of the Son of God inhabiting the bodily "temple" of a human being for his time on earth. The word would eventually become associated simply as the coming of God.

The season of Advent did not become established in the church calendar until the middle of the sixth century (as opposed to the penitential season of Lent, which was already well established). At first, the Advent Season consisted of the six Sundays leading up to Christmas, but Pope Gregory I (591-604) changed it to four, possibly in order to highlight the difference between Advent and Lent. For many centuries, Christmas was not considered an important feast, but would come to take on more importance over the years. Concurrently, Advent also would become more solemn and take on its own special character.

Advent calls upon us as Christians to exhibit a hopeful expectancy rather than pure penitence. The tone of the liturgy and the music during Advent is somewhat (but not too much) subdued. In a sense, it's like waiting for the honored guest to arrive. The house needs cleaning, the food needs to be prepared, and the table needs setting. The doorbell rings on Christmas Eve. So, happy new year!

The word *antiphon* basically means "sounding opposite" and, in the case of church music, the term applies to a type of refrain sung at the beginning and end of a text. A set of antiphons from the eighth century (at the latest) became attached to the singing of the Magnificat during the office of Vespers from December 17 through 23,

one antiphon to be sung each day. Each antiphon begins with the word "O" followed by an attribute of Christ: *O Sapientia, O Adonai, O radix Jesse, O clavis David, O Oriens, O Rex gentium, O Emmanuel.* These have come to be known as the "O Antiphons." The translation in our hymnal was done by John Mason Neale and originally began "Draw nigh, draw nigh, Emmanuel." The tune dates back to at least the 15th C. and is thought to be French in origin.

Born into a privileged, upper middle-class family, Felix Mendelssohn was the grandson of the philosopher Moses Mendelssohn and son of an influential German banker. He and his sister, Fanny, were encouraged to study the piano, and both were considered to be prodigious performers. His family's wealth allowed their home in Berlin to become a refuge for scholars, artists, writers and musicians. The philosopher Hegel and scientist Humboldt were among regular visitors, and members of the Court Orchestra and eminent soloists were available to perform the latest works by the Mendelssohn children. Raised early on without religion, Felix would later be baptized as a Reformed Christian. It's hard to know whether or not social pressures necessitated this, but Mendelssohn nevertheless had an affinity for music in his adopted religion. "Sleepers, Wake" is from his oratorio *St. Paul.*

"Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding" was translated by Edward Caswell from a tenth century text found in the Breviary, "Vox clara ecce intonat." Every stanza of the Latin hymn can be traced directly to scriptural passages, mostly from the New Testament but some from Isaiah as well as the Psalms. Lest anyone think that changing words in hymns is taboo, it bears considering that Caswall's original translation of the first line was "Hark! an awful voice is sounding." In later versions, "awful" would be changed to "herald" and then to "thrilling." In fact, altering words in hymns to follow changing tastes and word meanings happens regularly.



SERVING TODAY

Sun, Nov 29 (Worship Prep)

Jo Burnett	Altar Guild
Susan Edwards	Altar Guild
Patty Griffith*	Altar Guild
Leslie Ross	Altar Guild
Kegan Donlan	Communion Bread Baker
open	Flower Angel

Sun, Nov 29, 8:00 AM (Worship)

The Rev. Heather Erickson	Clergy - Presider
The Rev. Heather Erickson	Clergy - Preacher
Leslie Limpert	Usher

Sun, Nov 29, 9:00 AM (Family Worship)

The Rev. Heather Erickson	Clergy - Presider
The Rev. Heather Erickson	Clergy - Preacher

Sun, Nov 29, 10:00 AM (Sunday School)

Sandra Pathik	Sunday School - Teacher

Sun, Nov 29, 10:00 AM (Worship w/Choir)

Brian Wittenkeller	A/V - Audio
Bill Posner	A/V - Video
The Rev. Jim Ward	Clergy - Presider
The Rev. Heather Erickson	Clergy - Preacher
Anne Doyle	Eucharistic Minister
Connie Granger	Eucharistic Minister
Mary Kay Dolejsi	Lector
Virginia Cunningham	Usher
Chris Russell	Usher

Sun, Nov 29, 11:00 AM (Coffee Hour)

Deborah Summerlin	Goodies Supplier
open	Goodies Supplier

PRAYER LIST

Members

Jeanette Anspacher
Melinda Booth
Cheryl Ziedrich
Susan MacKenzie
George Harris
Travis Wright
JT Sweet
Carol Hughes
Signe Lando

Friends & Family

Carolyn Scripps	(Melinda Booth's friend, Bill Richardson's friend
Ian Gray	(Lynn Taylor's neighbor)
Virginia Wells	(Jamie Behrendt's mother)
Nathan Vale	(Rosemary Morgan's cousin)
Diana Sandeman	(Helen Sandeman's mom)
Maggie Bock	(friend of Anne Doyle)
Marlene Anderson	(friend of LaTonya Sumners)
Kathy Behrendt	(daughter-in-law of Jamie and Joe Behrendt)
Vera Grigorian	(former parishioner)
Leslie Gay	(friend of Lauren Lamm)
Marcia Summers	(former parishioner)
Martin Ash	(friend of Alisa Quint)
Kayley Jones	(goddaughter of Rick and Marilyn Riede)

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Religious Orders in this diocese - The sisters at the Community of St. Francis, the brothers at the Society of St. Francis, San Damiano Friary, and those who belong to the Brotherhood of St. Gregory

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2026

1st Sunday in Advent: November 29
8am: Worship Service
9am: Intergenerational Family Service
10am: Worship Service
11:15am: Advent Wreath making

Advent Quiet Day: December 5
9am-2pm: Held at St. Columba's Inverness

2nd Sunday in Advent: December 6
8am: Worship Service
9am: Intergenerational Family Service
10am: Worship Service
4pm: Advent Lessons & Carols w/Choir

3rd Sunday in Advent: December 13*
8am: Worship Service
10am: Christmas Pageant
**No 9am Service*

4th Sunday in Advent: December 20
8am: Worship Service
9am: Intergenerational Family Service
10am: Worship Service

Christmas Eve: December 24
3pm Intergenerational Family Service: This all-ages service is designed so that everyone can fully participate, and includes congregational singing for young and old, prayers, the story of Jesus' birth, and the sharing of Holy Communion.
5pm Festival Eucharist with members of Adult and Children's Choir: All ages are welcome at this traditional Christmas liturgy, which includes familiar hymns and carols, readings and a sermon, and the sharing of Holy Communion.
8:30pm Festival Eucharist with Choral Prelude: This traditional service begins with a short Choral prelude featuring the St. John's Choir. The liturgy continues with hymns and carols for the congregation, anthems for the choir, readings and a sermon, and the sharing of Holy Communion.

Christmas Day: December 25
10am: This traditional service includes hymns and carols sung by the congregation, readings and a sermon, and Holy Communion.

1st Sunday after Christmas: December 27
10am: Christmas Lessons & Carols w/Eucharist