

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

The First Sunday after Christmas

Joint Lessons & Carols

29 December 2024

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Richard Purvis (1913-94)

ENTRANCE RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 78 v. 1-2 O little town of Bethlehem

Forest Green

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908).

THE BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p. 364

Deacon And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

<i>All</i>	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.
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Deacon The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated for the readings

THE FIRST LESSON

read by Pamela Hull

Genesis 3:8-13, 20-24

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them. Then the LORD God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

The Lector concludes The Word of the Lord.

The Assembly responds Thanks be to God.

CAROL: HYMN 82 vs. 1-2

Of the Father's love begotten

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,

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that
bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the

are, that have _____ been, and that fu - ture
world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
sa - cred facc, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!



Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (318-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

THE SECO

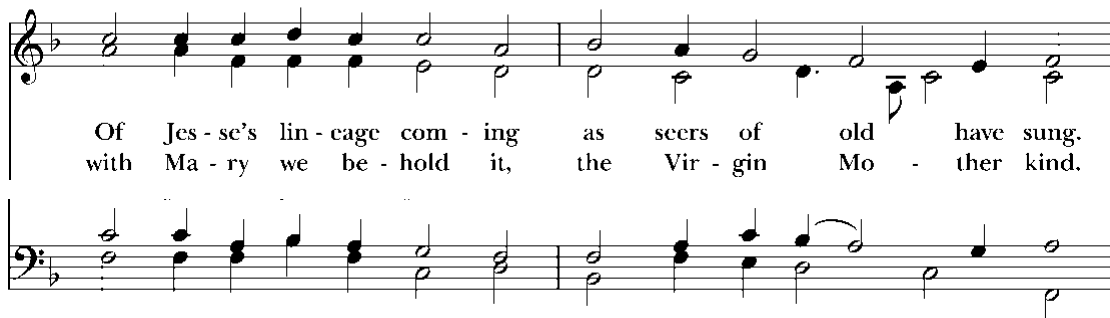
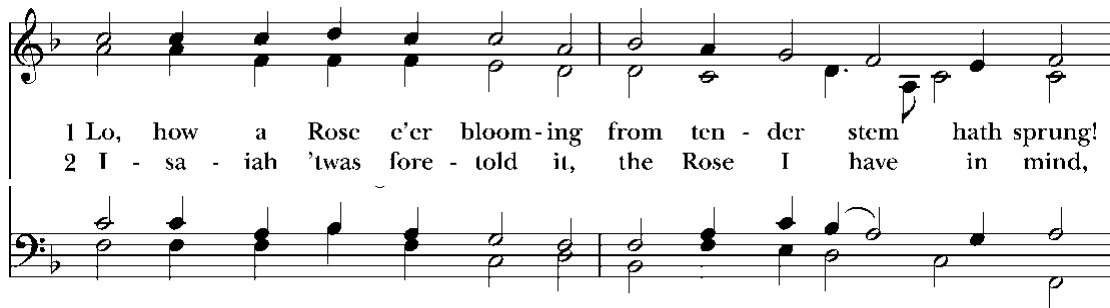
The wilderne cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night. shall blossom
 abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Eccezion shall be given to us, the majesty of Carmel and
 Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm
 the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come
 with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be
 opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless
 sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall
 become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall
 become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not
 travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor
 shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the
 ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they
 shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Lector concludes The Word of the Lord.
 The Assembly responds Thanks be to God.

CAROL: HYMN 81 v. 1-2

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Es ist ein Ros



THE THIRD LESSON

read by Kathy Christie

Luke 1:26-56

In the sixth month
a man whose name
was Zechariah
“Greetings, for you are
blessed among women,
and the fruit of your womb
shall be holy; he shall be
called the Son of the Most
High, and the Lord God will
give to him the throne of his
ancestor David. He will reign
over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will
be no end.” Mary said to the
angel, “How can this be, since
I am a virgin?” The angel said
to her, “The Holy Spirit will
come upon you, and the power
of the Most High will
overshadow you; therefore the
child to be born will be holy;
he will be called Son of God.
And now, your relative
Elizabeth in her old age has
also conceived a son; and this
is the sixth month for her
who was said to be barren.
For nothing will be impossible
with God.” Then Mary said,
“Here am I, the servant of the
Lord; let it be with me
according to your word.” Then
the angel departed from her.
In those days Mary set out
and went with haste to a
Judean town in the hill
country, where she entered the
house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth. When
Elizabeth heard Mary’s
greeting, the child leaped in
her womb. And Elizabeth was
filled with the Holy Spirit
and exclaimed with a loud
cry, “Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the
fruit of your womb. And why
has this happened to me, that
the mother of my Lord comes
to me? For as soon as I heard
the sound of your greeting,
the child in my womb leaped
for joy. And blessed is she
who believed that there would
be a fulfillment of what was
spoken to her by the Lord.”
And Mary said, “My soul
magnifies the Lord, and my
spirit rejoices in God my
Savior, for he has looked with
favor on the lowliness of his
servant. Surely, from now on
all generations will call me
blessed; for the Mighty One
has done great things for me,
and holy is his name. His
mercy is for those who fear
him from generation to
generation. He has shown
strength with his arm; he has
scattered the proud in the
thoughts of their hearts. He
has brought down the
powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly; he
has filled the hungry with
good things, and sent the
rich away empty. He has
helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his
mercy, according to the
promise he made to our
ancestors, to Abraham and
to his descendants forever.”
And Mary remained with her
about three months and then
returned to her home.



engaged to
her and said,
“Greetings, for
you are blessed
among women,
and the fruit of
your womb shall
be holy, and he
shall be called
the Son of the
Most High.”

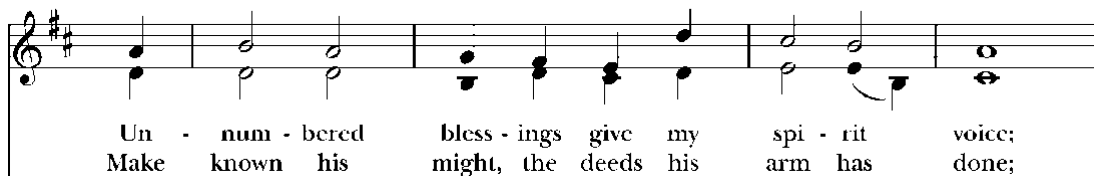
Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

The Lector concludes The Word of the Lord.
The Assembly responds Thanks be to God.

CAROL: HYMN 437 v. 1-2

Tell out, my soul

Birmingham



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
his mer - cy sure. from age to age the same:
in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.
his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*. Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Birmingham*, from *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm. *Songs of Praise*, 1925.

THE FOURTH LESSON

read by Patrick Constantinides

Luke 1:57-80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

The Lector concludes The Word of the Lord.

The Assembly responds **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL: HYMN 109 v. 1-3

The first Nowell

The First Nowell

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
2 They look - ed up and saw a star
3 And by the light of that same star

1 was to cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin-ing in the east be-yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun-try far:

1 in fields as they lay, keep-ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in-tent,

1 on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con-tin-ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol-low the star wher-ev-er it went.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is-ra-el.

Words: English carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 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.

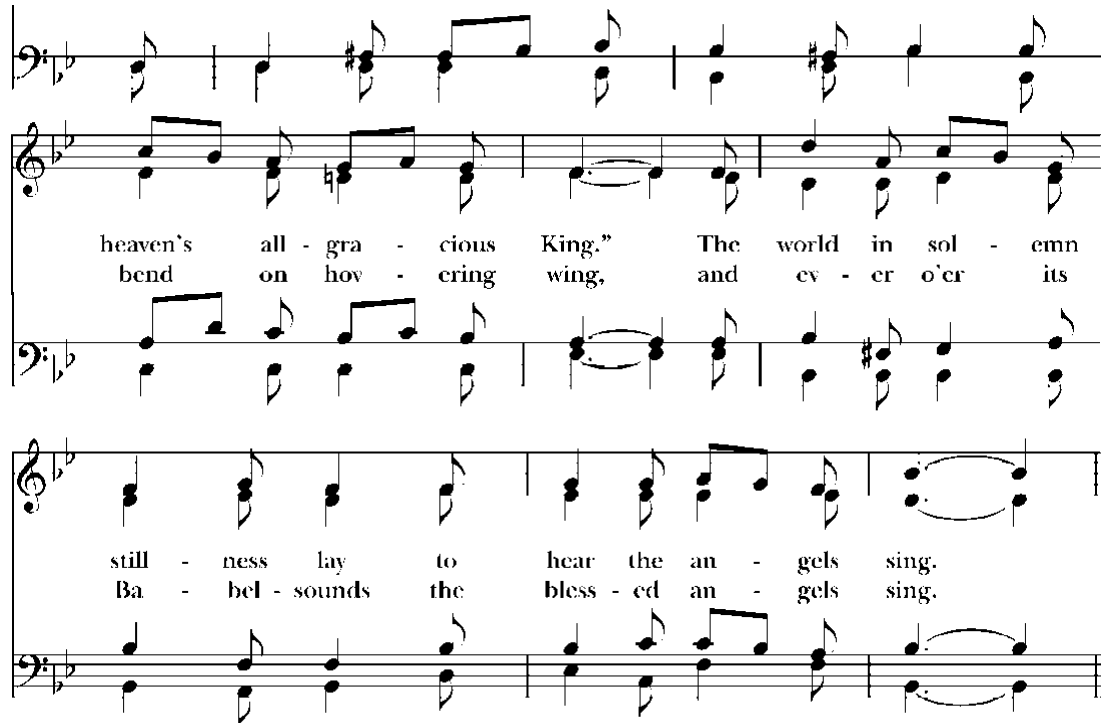
The Lector concludes The Word of the Lord.
 The Assembly responds Thanks be to God.

CAROL: HYMN 89 v. 1 & 2

It came upon a midnight clear

Carol

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 will to men, from
 a - bove its sat 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.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: Carol, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

THE SIXTH LESSON

read by Valerie McEntee

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 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 or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Lector concludes The Word of the Lord.
The Assembly responds Thanks be to God.

CAROL: HYMN 84

Love came down at Christmas

Gartan

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
 2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
 3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine.

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
 wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
 love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt. Music: *Gartan*, melody from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II*, 1902; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

WORDS OF WELCOME

OFFERTORY SOLO

*During the Offertory Solo an offering is collected for God's mission and ministry.
 Thank you for your generosity.*

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

THE COLLECT

Presider The Lord be with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

Presider 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 BLESSING *The Presider invokes God's blessing upon the assembly, to which they respond Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN 107 Good Christian friends rejoice *In dulci jubilo*

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce 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!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

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.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

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

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Filled with joy and peace, let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Wilbur Held (1914 - 2015)

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

JANUARY 5: Return to Sunday Schedule

7:45 & 9 am at St. John on the Mountain, 11 am at St. Bernard's

JANUARY 5: JOY! service for families with young kids with fellowship dinner

St. Bernard's Church, 4:30 pm

On January 5 from at 4:30 pm we will hold our monthly JOY! service for families with young kids (nursery - elementary school) at St. Bernard's Episcopal Church, followed by a fellowship dinner in the Parish Hall. We'll celebrate the Epiphany and arrival of the Magi. All are welcome.

JANUARY 8: Wednesday Evening Prayer Resumes

Zoom, 5:30 PM

Evening Prayer will resume on a biweekly basis on Wednesday, January 8. Please join us on Zoom for 20 minutes of prayer and reflection with the parishes of St. John on the Mountain, St. Bernard's, and St. Paul's, Morris Plains.

JANUARY 25: Annual Meeting Potluck Dinner

St. John on the Mountain, 5 pm, Parish Hall

Please save the date on your calendar for St. John's Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 25, 5 pm in Parish Hall. As we did last year, the Annual Meeting will be held during a potluck dinner, so bring a dish and come hungry! (St. Bernard's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 26, 12 pm over lunch.)

SAVE THE DATE

This summer we hope to host Cross Roads Day Camp the week of June 23 from 9 am- 3 pm for incoming K-6th grade students, at St. John on the Mountain. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

St. John on the Mountain Weekly Calendar

December 29, The First Sunday after Christmas
10:00 am Joint Lessons & Carols, Church

7:45 am Holy Eucharist Rite I, Chapel
9:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II, Church
11:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II, St. Bernard's Church
4:30 pm JOY! service and fellowship dinner, at St. Bernard's Church

January 5, The Epiphany

Remember in Prayer

**JANUARY 5, 2024:
EPIPHANY CELEBRATION &
SUPPER FOR FAMILIES WITH
YOUNG CHILDREN!**

Karen Argent-Belcher, Helena Beinstock, Charley Ann, Heather Chessman, Presiding Bishop Curry, Sue Ely, Luz Feiera, Anne Fiske-Zuniga, Frank, Sherry Harrel, Al Haueis, Jake, Jude, Binx Lee, Kim Madlinger, Rich McGlynn, Joan Millsbaugh, Barbara Mushalko, Joy Omagbemi, David Powell, Joan Powell, Suzanna Rosen, Scott, Suzanne, Tony Villa, Sheila Wise, Bill Young

✠ THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN ✠

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SUE KENNEDY &
MICHELLE RAY

VESTRY
CLASS OF 2025
STEPHANIE HAUEIS, JODY FLEGAL,
LORI MORRIS, BILL YOUNG

CLASS OF 2027
CRAIG JOHNSTON, PETER MERCER
DAN ZIELINSKI

TREASURER
KATHY CHRISTIE

STEERING COMMITTEE
JOY BAIRD, GREG CANOSE,
PETER MERCER, JENNY MOSS,
PAMELA HULL
RECONSTITUTING IN JANUARY

Lectors

Pamela Hull
Julia Somers
Kathy Christie
Patrick Constantinides
Shellie Iossa
Valerie McEntee

Soloist

Devin McGuire

Usher

Altar Guild Team 1

Captain: Jane Mercer
Doris Aufschlager, Kathy Christie,
Barbara Scillia

DECEMBER 29, 2024

WARDENS & VESTRY
WARDENS

10:00 AM