



Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 14, 2024

St. John's Church, Gloucester, MA
(978) 283-1708 marge@stjohnsgloucester.org
<http://www.stjohnsgloucester.org>



A Warm Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church, Gloucester

We know that Christ is present in each person here and we celebrate the diversity of the body of Christ. If this is your first visit, please introduce yourself today and visit again sometime. If you've been away, welcome back. If you are here every week, it's always great to see you! We worship in the Anglican tradition, and are a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, which is part of the Episcopal Church USA. We honor individuals of every age, gender, ethnic heritage, sexual orientation and religious background. We respect the dignity of every human being.

Newcomers' Welcome

If you're new to St. John's, or just visiting, and we missed you at the door, please accept our warmest welcome. We hope you will experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship together. Please greet the Priest as you leave and complete a visitor's card found in each pew and place it in the offertory plate, give it to an usher, or give it to the Priest. We hope to see you again!

Land Acknowledgement

For thousands of years, First Nations people walked on this land in Gloucester; their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives and spirituality. St. Johns is gathered on the traditional territory of the Pawtucket, and we give thanks to them, and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. They followed the seasons, hunted, fished, raised families, grieved for their dead, nourished their living, shared the stories of their ancestors, and considered themselves the caretakers of this place.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Prelude: Variations on “*Fairest Lord Jesus*”

James Woodman

Processional Hymn: #7 (Blue 1982 Hymnal) “*Christ, whose glory fills the sky*”

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever!**

Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

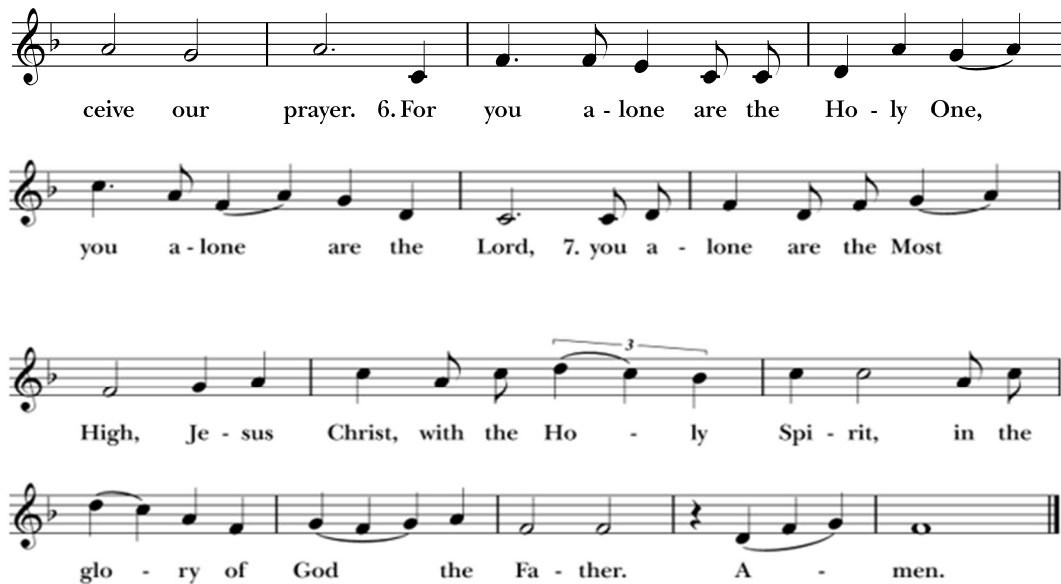
People: **Amen.**

Gloria

Robert Powell



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Insistent God, by night and day you summon your slumbering people. Stir us with your voice and enlighten our lives with your grace that we give ourselves fully to Christ's call to mission and ministry. Amen. —*Thematic, Intercessory and Scripture Prayers for the RCL, Vanderbilt Divinity Library.*

<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Hebrew Bible

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." **Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *

you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I will thank you because I am marvelously
made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

14 My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished
in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; *
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!

17 If I were to count them, they would be
more in number than the sand; *
to count them all, my life span would
need to be like yours.

Greek Bible

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

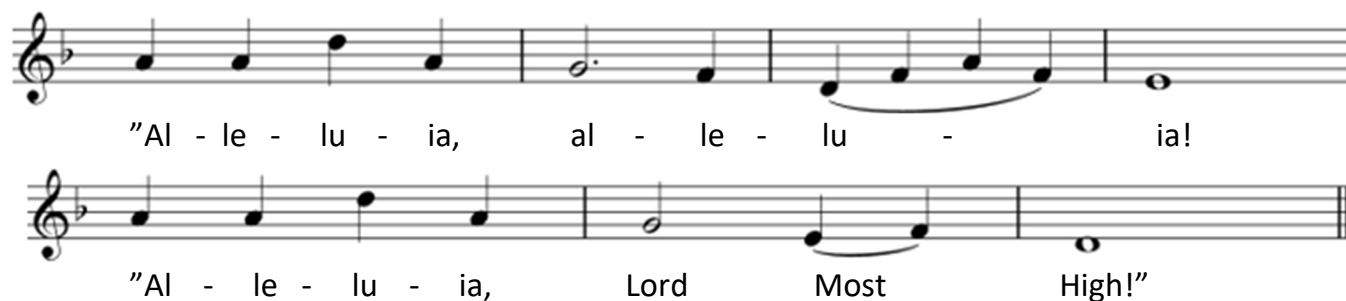
"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Reader: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pause to reflect on reading.

Verse: Last two lines of stanza 4 of Hymn #324 (Blue 1982 Hymnal)



The Gospel of John 1:43-51

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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

Pause to reflect on reading.

Verse: Last two lines of stanza 4 of Hymn #324 **ABOVE** (Blue 1982 Hymnal)

Homily

Jason Kinchen

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God,
the creator of all things,
the giver of life and breath.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
born Emmanuel, God with us,
baptized and revealed the most beloved Son of God;
he sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself,
suffering for us, dying for us
and being raised from the dead for our sake
and for the sake of all the world.
We believe that he will come again.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
continually poured out refreshing our lives,
leading us into a new day,
ever-birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world.
This Spirit is our soul companion and counselor of truth
reminding us of the gift of faith,
the ever presence of God
and the promise of eternal life.
Thanks be to God! Amen. — from *umcdiscipliship.org***

Prayers of the People

(During the prayers and confession, we invite you to stand or kneel, as you are able.)

Loving God, we gather as your people seeking your presence, your comfort and your love. In this Epiphany Season of light, shine your light upon us – into the recesses of our spirits, those places where we experience anxiety, depression, fear and despair.

God of connection that binds all your people together, we pray that you would guide and inspire our congregations and leaders to the ways of justice and peace, especially the churches in the Boston Harbor Deanery, especially Emmanuel Church, Boston, St. Augustine's & St. Martin's Church, Boston, Charles River Episcopal Co-Housing Endeavor, and the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization.

Shine your light upon us.

God of power and mercy, bless our nation and its leaders to govern justly and wisely; and especially bless those who are poor, those who struggle with physical and mental illness; those who are forgotten or forsaken.

Shine your light upon us.

God of compassion and peace, who is present where violence and war are found: in Ukraine, Gaza and Jerusalem; in places we cannot name or do not know, bring peace to those who languish in fear, violence and despair.

Shine your light upon us.

God of gentle whisper, we pray for the sick and the distressed, those in the hospital or hospice or the housebound. Today we especially pray for **Rita Fritz, Sarah Clifford, Ace Torrence and Family, Savannah, Hope, Ondine, Jacoby, Pat Earle, Jay Featherstone, Isabelle Higgins, Charles Frontiero, Geoff Pope, Christopher Antonuk, Matteo, Alexis Morris, Miranda Featherstone and Family, Barbara Soreng, Marsha White, Claire Stahler, Jennifer Morris, Carole Secrest, Chris Klosterman, Sereda Feener, Lynn Runnells, Alex Furth, Simeon Teitelbaum, Miriam Teitelbaum, Debra Ketchopulos, Rita Peritore, the Baxter Family, Len Berry, Ellen, Wayne Martin, Ernie Runnells, Jack Ketchopulos, DeeDee Bedford, Michael Rocha, Liana and Joe Webb, Anne Sullivan, Linda, Malcolm Henderson, Emelia Currier, Danny, Connor Macauley, Margie Sonthemier, John Fleming.** *Are there others? (Pause)*

Shine your light upon us.

God of mercy, we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, whether recently or some time ago. Let the knowledge of your resurrection be a comfort to all those who mourn. We remember before God those who have died , especially_____.

Shine your light upon us.

God of goodness, we thank you for the light that shines through this community and its members. We pray our thanksgivings for those who bless our lives, especially _____. Are there others? (Pause)

Shine your light upon us and around us and within us, that we, too, may be a light to the world. —*adapted from worship words.co.uk*

Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors. *Silence may be kept.*

God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, our motivations, our sins. And you love us still. Forgive us when we don't believe such love is true or possible; When we wonder how You could love us just as we are, when we forget our intricate construction, fearfully, wonderfully made, in Your image! Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from you. Break down the walls, push aside the pride, and help us to trust anew. You know our hearts. And you love us still. Amen.—*from All Things New, written by Rev. Susan A. Blain and Rev. Scott Ressman. <http://www.ucc.org/50/pdfs/worship-resources.pdf>*

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

Peace

CELEBRANT: Christ is here right now making peace among us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you

Announcements and Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

Offertory Hymn #439 “What wondrous love is this”

The sanctuary lamp burns this week as a reminder to us all of the pathways of peace and forgiveness, especially in the Holy Land.

THE MINISTRY OF THE TABLE: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Distribution of Communion

St. John's welcomes everyone to come to God's table, for communion, to share in Christ's sustaining life. You may participate by extending your hands and placing one hand over the other for the bread and sipping from the chalice. If you prefer not to receive wine, you may cross your hands over your chest. You may also come to the altar simply for a blessing, while others come for communion. To receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest. The Priest will pray for God's blessing upon you.

Holy Eucharist

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Holy One be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

People **We open our hearts to you, O God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the one who welcomes the stranger.

People **To the One who reaches across every border, we give thanks and praise.**

In wonder of your expansive embrace, we give you praise, O God. You reveal the limitations of our own imaginations and down walls and boundaries we don't even realize we have erected. Like the magi guided by the light of star through foreign territory, you call us all towards you. You lead your people across borders of hate and into lands of curious and different. You strengthen us as we journey, learning and unlearning stories about one another. Gathered in your presence, we come to recognize the gifts of community rich in diversity. Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you,

Sanctus

Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

You move in mysterious way, O God. This journey with you is filled with more questions than answers. Each time we think we have you figured out, you surprise us again, revealing yourself in new ways. In Jesus, we saw your welcome of strangers extended in challenging ways. Ways that disrupt our traditions and unsettle our comfort zones. Jesus broke religious rules in order to include all people. He lifted up the sacredness of the people and places deemed unclean. He cared more about the well-being of the oppressed than his own reputation and taught us to rethink your presence among us; but we couldn't accept it. Resistant to transformation, your people sent him to the cross.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said: "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying: "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant. In remembrance of all you have done to save us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ was birthed among us. Christ was killed among us. Christ rises again among us.

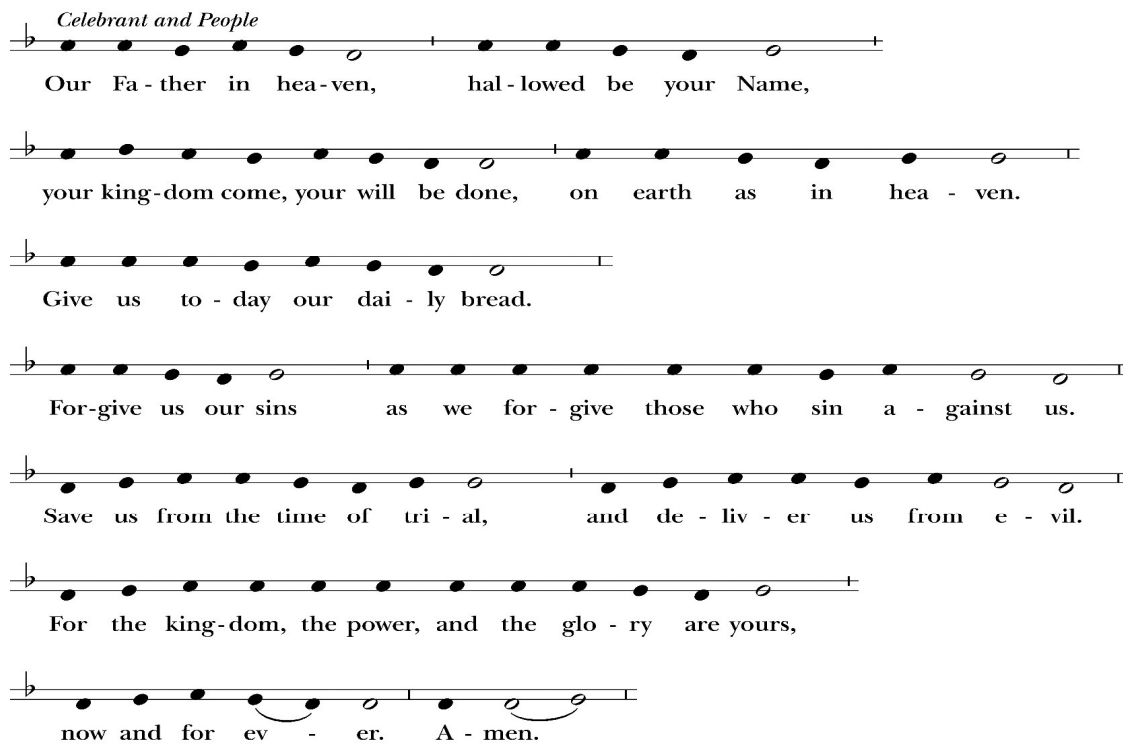
May the same Spirit that lifted Christ from the grave be poured out on these gifts. Make this bread and this cup be an extension of your welcome without bounds. Fill us with the courage and faith to join you in the work of tearing down walls that exclude and pointing to the Sacred in the margins.

Amen—From # Resistharm UMC and enfleshed.com

Celebrant: And now, as Jesus has taught us, we pray

“The Lord’s Prayer” S148 (Blue 1982 Hymnal)

Celebrant and People



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er. A - men.

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Fraction Anthem

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in G major (one sharp). It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.', 'Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.', 'Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:', and 'give us your peace, give us your peace.' The music is in 4/4 time and ends with a double bar line.

Invitation: “The Gifts of God for you, the People of God!”

Communion Hymn : #757 (Green WLP Hymnal) “*Will you come and follow me*”

Post Communion Prayer

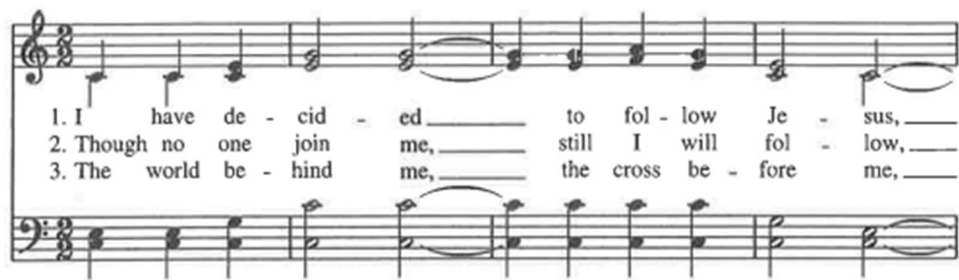
Celebrant: Let us pray together.

God, this meal we shared together is a remembrance of your embrace of the outcast and oppressed. May it strengthen us as we open our minds and hearts to new ways of recognizing your presence among us. AMEN

The Blessing

Celebrant: *Go now as a light to the nations. Honor the Lord; preach what you know of the risen Christ, and fulfil all righteousness. and may God strengthen you and bless you with peace; may Christ Jesus bring forth justice for you and among you; and may the Holy Spirit alight on you and affirm you as God’s beloved ones.*

Recessional: Hymn #136 *"I have decided to follow Jesus"*



1. I have de - cid - ed _____ to fol - low Je - sus, _____
2. Though no one join me, _____ still I will fol - low, _____
3. The world be - hind me, _____ the cross be - fore me, _____



1. _____ I have de - cid - ed _____ to fol - low Je - sus, _____
2. _____ Though no one join me, _____ still I will fol - low, _____
3. _____ The world be - hind me, _____ the cross be - fore me, _____



1. _____ I have de - cid - ed _____ to fol - low Je - sus, _____
2. _____ Though no one join me, _____ still I will fol - low, _____
3. _____ The world be - hind me, _____ the cross be - fore me, _____



_____ No turn - ing back, _____ no turn - ing back! _____
(no turn - ing back,)

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Preludium in A Major

J. S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting coming up! This year, St. John's annual meeting will take place after church services on **Sunday, January 28**. Please submit reports to Elizabeth via email (elizabeth@stjohnsgloucester.org) by Wednesday, January 17. Please mark your calendar to attend this important meeting. Thank you!

Upcoming events: mark your calendars! Mark Murray-Brown's presentation has been rescheduled to **January 21** with a special coffee hour. Potluck Epiphany brunch rescheduled for St. John's Annual Meeting on **January 28**. Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner celebration scheduled for **February 13 from 4 to 6 pm**, with a Bayou swamp swap (on the order of a traditional Yankee swap). People will be asked to bring Christmas gifts that they would like to share with others!

Second Sunday after the Epiphany—January 14, 2024

Participating in the Liturgy

Celebrant
Preacher
Deacon Postulant Intern
Lector
LEM
Acolyte
Ushers
Musicians

Altar Guild
Flower Guild
Property Cleaner
Thrift Shop Assistant

The People of God gathered in St. John's Church
The Rev. Marya DeCarlen, Priest-in-Collaboration
Jason Kinchen
Jason Kinchen
Kim Prentice
Carolyn Stewart
Karen Kasper
Dani Stotzer and Doug Musco
The Congregation, the Choir, Susan Taormina,
guest organist
Karen Kasper, Melanie Murray-Brown
Rosemary Sullivan and Gwen Kopka,
Lucelia Gomes Ventura
Michele Del Vecchio

Potluck Brunch **COFFEE HOUR TODAY** is hosted by Karen Kasper, Geoff Grow, Dani Stotzer and Melanie Murray-Brown.

- CONTACT MARYA (Priest-in-Collaboration) at mdecarlen@comcast.net or 978-590-1642
- CONTACT JASON (Deacon Postulant Intern) at jason.kinchen@gmail.com or (781)-696-5893
- Sign up in the parish hall for future dates for flower and lamp, Action Sandwiches and coffee hour.
- St. John's Intercession List: Contact prayer list manager, Joan Gorga, at 978-283-5926 or jmgorga@yahoo.com



St. John's Episcopal Church

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Parish Office Telephone: 978-283-1708
WiFi Password: 48MiddleSt

The Rt. Rev. Alan McIntosh Gates, Bishop of Mass. & The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol Gallagher, Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen, Priest-in-Collaboration
mdecarlen@comcast.net
Marge Bishop, Church Assistant
marge@stjohnsgloucester.org
Elizabeth de Veer, Parish Administrator

Wardens: Patricia Anders & Katharine Newhouse
Clerk: Joan Gorga
Treasurer: Sue Lupo, Ass't. Treasurer: Geoff Pope
VESTRY: 2024: Rick Britton, Melanie Murray-Brown, Doug Parsons
2025: Steve Jencks, Dori Mottola, Geoff Pope
2026: Dee Dee Bedford, Sarah Larson