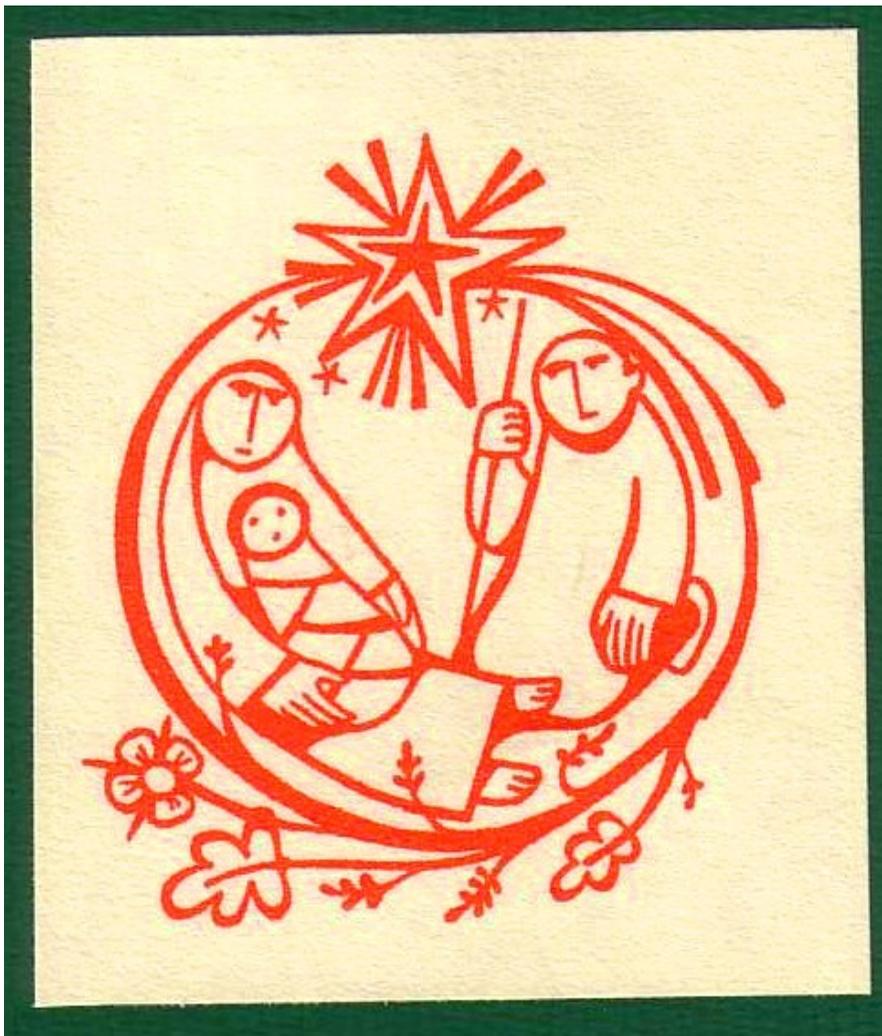


Saint John's Episcopal Church—Gloucester, Massachusetts

9 am December 26, 2019

Lessons & Carols for Christmastide



To participate fully in our worship you will need this booklet and, for the hymns, *The Hymnal 1982* (blue and in the pew racks in front of you.)

There is welcome information on page 2.

WELCOME!

Whether you are a regular worshiper, first-timer, or occasional visitor, we hope you will enjoy our fellowship! Come and check us out! Children are always welcome at worship in St. John's Church!

First time in our Church? Our worship here may seem very familiar, or it may seem bewildering! If the second is true for you, RELAX, there is nothing that you can do by accident that will cause offense! Ask an usher, watch your neighbors, go with the flow. Please fill out a card in the pew to let us know who you are.

Restrooms are at the far end of the building from our worship space on three levels. Exit the door opposite the organ and follow the signs.

Children of all ages are welcome in church. We want children and parents to enjoy church and we support you in doing what you need to do toward that goal. It's OK for children to sound like children; we won't be offended.

Access Needs: If you would find it easier to receive Holy Communion in your pew, please speak to an usher. We have gluten-free wafers available, let the priest know.

Covid Update: St. John's has taken steps to keep all worshipers safe from Covid. We have installed air purifiers and are keeping people spaced in the pews. We have suspended coffee hour for the near future. Please do you part to keep yourself and others healthy: Keep masked (over mouth and nose) and distanced while inside the building at all times. If you'd like to chat with others, do so in the sanctuary or outside before or following worship. If you should test positive for Covid in the days after attending church, please report this confidentially to Pastor Lise or the church office. Let us continue to be good neighbors and a supportive community.

Our celebration, our community, and the work we do all year for the community only happen because our members and friends support St. John's. If you want to express your hope, joy, and peace, your gratitude and faith; if you want to be a part of all the good work we do, please make a generous one time gift or sustaining pledge to St. John's. Give online at StJohnsGloucester.org or call the office at 978-283-1708 to make a pledge, send an e-mail to marge@stjohnsgloucester.org.

Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

Please silence pagers and cell phones.

Voluntary Partita on "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" James Woodman (born 1957)
At the Procession: **Hymn 81** Es ist ein Rös

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever!**

At the Hymn of Praise: **Hymn 93** Regent Square

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant 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. Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings and stand for the hymns and carols.

First Reading Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

response after the reading: Thanks be to God.

Hymn 97 Dost Thou in a Manger Lie Dies est laetitiae

Second Reading This Little Babe Robert Southwell (c.1561-95)

This little Babe so few days old is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake though he himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmèd wise the gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field, his naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shot are babish cries, his arrows looks of weeping eyes,
His martial ensigns Cold and Need and feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitchèd in a stall, his bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, haystacks his stakes; of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound, the angels' trump alarum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight, stick to the tents that he hath pight.
Within his crib is surest ward, this little Babe will be thy guard.
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy, then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

Hymn 115

What Child is This?

Greensleeves

Third Reading

The God We Hardly Knew St. Óscar Romero (1917-1980)

No one can celebrate
a genuine Christmas
without being truly poor.
The self-sufficient, the proud,
those who, because they have
everything, look down on others,
those who have no need
even of God- for them there
will be no Christmas.
Only the poor, the hungry,
those who need someone
to come on their behalf,
will have that someone.
That someone is God.
Emmanuel. God-with-us.
Without poverty of spirit
there can be no abundance of God.

Salvadoran Archbishop [Óscar Romero](#), as quoted in [Dionne, E J](#) (Dec. 24, 2004). *Washington Post*.

Hymn 114

'Twas in the moon of wintertime

Une jeune pucelle

Fourth Reading

Christmas Eve

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Christmas hath a darkness Brighter than the blazing noon, Christmas hath a chillness Warmer than the heat of June, Christmas hath a beauty Lovelier than the world can show: For Christmas bringeth Jesus, Brought for us so low.	Earth, strike up your music, Birds that sing and bells that ring; Heaven hath answering music For all Angels soon to sing: Earth, put on your whitest Bridal robe of spotless snow: For Christmas bringeth Jesus, Brought for us so low.
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Hymn 112

In the bleak midwinter

Cranham

Family minus one, we pick, cut, and haul the tree
in short order to the car
Bumbling, we fix it to the old Buick's rumped roof
with string and laughter
Once home, we set it up
using motions familiar and yet strange.

"Where shall I set up the nativity?" asks Becca.
"Anywhere," I answer. And she does.
The stable sits carefully on a green lawn of napkins
atop the bare computer cabinet
Townspople attend to daily chores in
the empty bookcase shelves
Kings and camels travel between Christmas cactus and
books Yet to Be Divided
Mary and Joseph—leaving home and starting toward
the unknown—hang on the window frame
Baby Jesus, nestled in pine branches on the mantel,
waits to bring his new life here
The angel hides between stacks of music on the piano,
her "Glory to Gods" not yet voiced

Into cleared and open spaces,
into the void and chaos of change,
wanted and unwanted,
birth of the One is poised,
ready to arrive.

Please stand for the Carol (overleaf) & the Gospel Reading

Carol Our Christmas

141

Shirley Erena Murray, 1986

Unison

1 Car - ol our Christ-mas, an up - side-down Christ-mas: snow is not
 2 Sing of the gold and the green and the spar - kle, wa - ter and
 3 Shep-herds and mus - ter - ers move o - ver hill - side, find - ing, not
 4 Right - side - up Christ-mas be - longs to the u - ni - verse, made in the

fall - ing and trees are not bare. Car - ol the sum - mer, and
 riv - er and lure of the beach. Sing in the hap - pi - ness
 an - gels, but sheep to be shorn; Wise ones make jour - neys, what -
 mo - ment a wom - an gives birth; Hope is the Je - sus gift,

wel-come the Christ Child, warm in our sun-shine and sweet-ness of air.
 of o - pen spac - es, sing a na - tiv - i - ty sum - mer can reach!
 ev - er the sea - son, search-ing for signs of the truth to be born.
 love is the of - fering, ev - ery-where, an - y - where, here on the earth.

Shirley Erena Murray, who lives in New Zealand, paints a picture of Christmas as it is experienced in the midst of summer in the southern hemisphere. Composer Colin Gibson has collaborated frequently with Murray. A "musterer" is a rancher.

Tune: REVERSI 11.10.11.10.
 Colin Gibson, 1986

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*Acclamation before the Gospel: **Glory to you, Lord Christ***

Holy Gospel

Please turn and face the Book of the Gospels

John 1:1-18

*Acclamation after the Gospel: **Praise to you, Lord Christ***

Prayers of the People

Celebrant: In the stillness of this holy season of Christmas, let us pray to God, saying, "God of love, hear our prayer."

Intercessor: Christians around the world are celebrating the birth of your son, Jesus. Unite us in faith, that we may shine with one light, and scatter all darkness.

People: God of love, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: You pierced the cosmic silence with the utterance of your Word made flesh. Inspire leaders everywhere with your message of compassion and reconciliation.

People: God of love, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: By joining heaven and earth in your son, you affirmed the holiness of our earthly habitation. Encourage all people to bless it, and to keep it a hallowed home for all its occupants. God of love, hear our prayer.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: The Messiah is born, and promise is born anew. Renew our hope, individually and as a community, and strengthen the bonds we share with others, both within and beyond these walls.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Shepherds heard and conveyed your angel's good news of great joy. Give us grace to understand and share your gospel of love.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Multitudes of heavenly host proclaimed glory to you and peace on earth. Kindle in our hearts the courage and strength to work for justice and liberation.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Jesus came to us as a baby cradled in a borrowed bed of straw, because there was no room at the inn. Open our eyes and hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: You sent Jesus to illuminate all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Tend the embers of comfort and healing for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: By making Jesus incarnate in the world, you offered to all people the blessing of holiness. Lend your glory to those who have died, and at the last day gather us all in your eternal life.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Hear the concerns and gratitude of your people here gathered, offered silently or aloud.

Celebrant: God of love, the feast of Christmas reminds us that you are with us at all times and in all places; hear our prayer, and send your Holy Spirit to guide us more certainly upon the way of your Holy Child, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

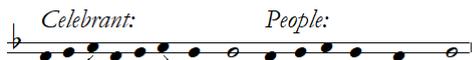
People **And also with you.**

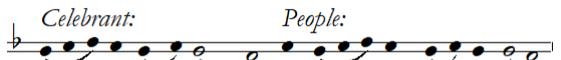
Announcements & Offertory sentence

At the Offertory — **Hymn 102**

Irby

The Great Thanksgiving: "Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas" The Rev. Jennifer Phillips

Celebrant: *People:*

 God be with you. And al-so with you.

Celebrant: *People:*

 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant:

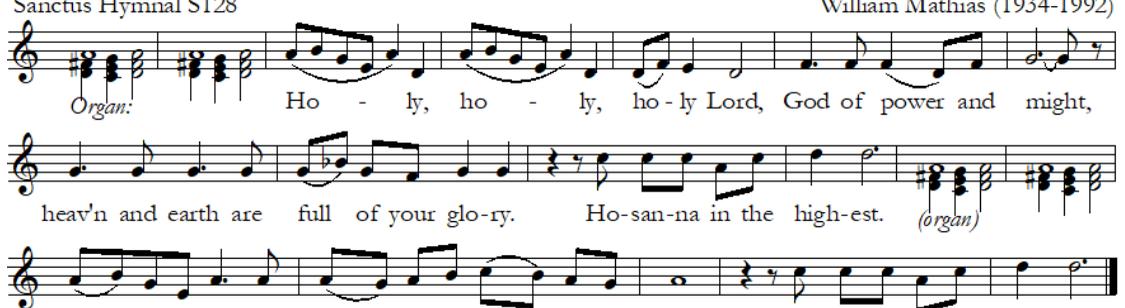
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People:

 It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, our Source and Ending,
 Alpha and Omega, we give thanks to
 you! You have called all creation into
 being! You set the earth on its
 foundations, spread out the heavens
 like a tent, set a boundary to the seas,
 filled the world with your creatures,
 and then called all things good. The
 heavenly beings are your messengers
 night and day, and with them we give
 glory to you and sing:

Sanctus Hymnal S128 William Mathias (1934-1992)



Organ: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. (*organ*)
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

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In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved. Born of our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, cared for by our brother Joseph, Jesus came among us as a baby, human as we are, in need of human love. Though humbly born, kings honored him, and emperors feared him.

The Word of God made flesh and full of grace, a child in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, was sent to deliver us from sin, from the power of evil, and from the fear of death. As a man, Jesus surrendered his might upon the cross. As the risen Anointed One, he is enthroned at God's right hand. At the end of days, he will bring mercy and justice to all the earth.

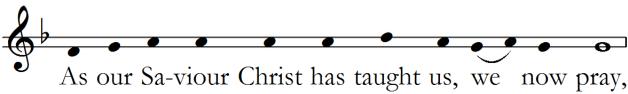
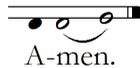
And so, rejoicing in all God has done for us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again!**

We remember that Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat, This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

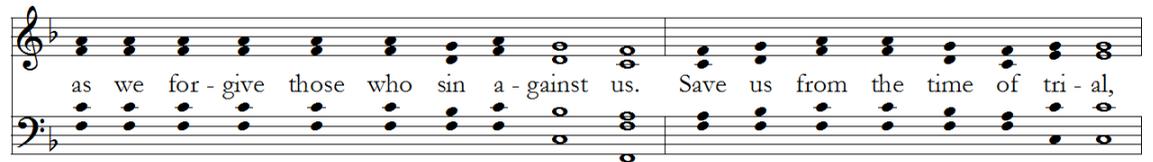
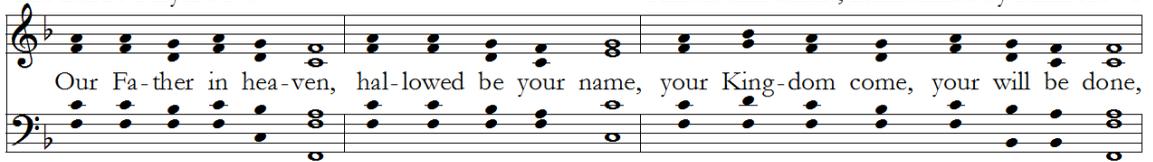
After supper, Jesus took a cup of wine, blessed it, and gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me."

Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in this bread and wine. Make them for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth. Shed your grace brighter than starlight upon us, that we may bear your good tidings to all, and renew the weary world in your name: the name of Emmanuel, God-With-Us, to whom in joy we give honor and glory, now and for ever.



The Lord's Prayer S148

Ambrosian Chant, harmonized by Mark Howe



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

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The Breaking of the Bread

Agnus Dei Hymnal S165

William Mathias

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 of the world: give us your peace.

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

All people are welcome to share in communion! Here's how: After the assistants and choir have received, the ushers will indicate when it is time for people to move forward. Come up to the front of the altar, put out your hands, and receive the wafer. Please step aside before consuming it. Due to Covid protocols, we are currently not sharing the cup; the Chalice is presented to be a blessing. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please indicate to the priest; if you are unable to come forward, please signal to an usher and communion will be brought to you.

When all have received, there is a period of silent reflection. Then all stand for the Postcommunion Prayer

**Infinite, intimate God,
 in our worship we have celebrated your presence with us.
 May we grow in the divine life of Christ
 who humbly shared our human life.
 Fill us with joy
 and send us out to share this good news with others.
 We ask this through Jesus Christ,
 our Emmanuel. Amen.**

*"An example of a Christmas Prayer after Communion,"
 The Rev. Bosco Peters, online at <http://www.liturgy.co.nz/churchyear/christmas.html,alt>.*

Christmas Blessing

Common Worship (Church of England)

May God, whose Eternal Word took our human nature, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness from before your path, and brighten your heart with the light of God's holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent angelic witnesses to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word-made-flesh joined thinks earthly and heavenly, give you every blessing of God's inward peace and goodwill. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you this holy Christmastide and always. **Amen.**

At the Procession — **Hymn 107**

In dulci jubilo

The Dismissal

Celebrant

Let us go forth in the power of Christ's love. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Voluntary

In dulci jubilo

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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Please join us for more Christmas here at St. John's:

Sunday, January 2—Second Sunday of Christmas, 8 & 10:30

Thursday, January 6—6 pm Epiphany "Chalking the Door" and Eucharist

St. John's Intercession List: Cecily Merrell, Rosemary Sullivan, Ernie Runnells, the Barker family, the Baxter family, Marjorie Fergusson, Sarah Hackett, Jack Ketchopoulos, Jacqueline Vannah, Laurie Brown, the Featherstone family, Audrey Gordon Goldman, Mr. and Mrs. LS St. Cloud, DeeDee Bedford, Katie Perry, Pat Earle, Michael Rocha, Liana and Joe Webb, Lynn Runnells, Laura, Becki Pedersen, Gene Cadman, Anne Sullivan, Linda, Malcolm Henderson, Sheila Jones, Sereda Feener, Emelia Currier, Danny, Patricia Anders, Meghan, David Arnold, Connor Macauley, Mary McIntyre, Patti Kelleher, Margie Sonthemier, John Fleming.

Contact prayer list manager: Joan Gorga 978-283-5926 or jmgorga@yahoo.com

Christmas Flower Memorials 2021

Jane Walsh	Ann V. Sanborn	Mark Currier
Irene Zager	Billy Baxter	Phil Sassone
Adele Q. Ervin	Dom & Mary Lupo	Giacomo Rallo
Blair McElroy	Doris & Ernest Nelson	Clayton Dyett, Sr.
Arlene Wilson	H. Thomas Baugh III	Jennie Nelson Gillis
Janie Brown	Capt. & Mrs. Cecil Moulton	Dorothy Banfield Dyett
Pietro Cesare Mola	Mr. & Mrs. Russell Moulton	Jennie & Carl Nelson
Edward G. McIntyre	Nancy Reed Moulton	Margaret & Dan Gillis
Arnold "Arnie" Ellis, Jr.	John Judson Monroe	Katie & Hugh
Mrs. Betty D. & Mr. James	Frances & William Anderson	McEachern
M. Knott, Sr.	Sally Read	Donald Milton Gillis
Jennifer Harrison McNamara	Bobby Comfort	Don Stacy
Dean W. Harrison, Sr.	Charles Currier	Helen Stacy
David Harrison	Pedro & Josephine	Robert Freda
Lester W Harrison	Maldonado	Richard Earle
Hazel O. Harrison	Edward & Eleanor Currier	John F. Mohr
Howard S. Barrows	Josephine Rallo	Marie R. Mohr
Martha C. Barrows	Cynthia MacLeod	Ulisse Gorga
Raymond H. Barrows	Amy Rocha	Luisa Gorga

The fresh greens are given in memory of Edith Odeneal Wilbon and her three daughters, Alice Wilbon Perdue, Anne Wilbon Babson, Edith Wilbon Sands from all their children.

The Sunday after Christmas—December 26, 2021—9 am

Participating in the Liturgy *The People of God gathered in St. John's Church*

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt, Interim Priest
Lector	Geoff Pope
Acolyte	Sue Lupo
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Bill Melvin
Ushers	Geoff Pope
Musicians	Mark Nelson, Music Director & Organist
Altar Guild	Karen Kasper & Melanie Murray-Brown
Flower Guild	Mark Nelson



Saint John's Episcopal Church—StJohnsGloucester.org

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WiFi password: 48MiddleSt

Alan McIntosh Gates, Bishop of Mass. & Gayle E. Harris, Bishop Suffragan

The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt, Interim Priest
 Mark Edward Nelson, Music Director
 Elizabeth de Veer, Parish Administrator
 Marge Bishop, Church Assistant
 Pandora Gorman, Interim Thrift Shop Manager
 Staff e-mail: first name+@stjohnsgloucester.org

Wardens: Karen Kasper, Ellen Sibley
 Clerk: Joan Gorga
 Treasurer: Sue Lupo, Assistant Treasurer: Geoff Pope
VESTRY
 2022 – Patricia Anders, DeeDee Bedford, Errol Smikle
 2023 – Katharine Newhouse, Jane Ward, Carol Ann Zapustas
 2024 – Doug Parsons, Janet Knott