

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN GARRETT COUNTY
WORSHIPPING AT ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
the episcopal diocese of maryland
10 A.M. ♦ DECEMBER 7, 2025

**St. Matthew's and St. John's
Episcopal Church
Christmas Poinsettia
Memorial Flowers**

**Please indicate below the number of plants you
would like to order and the names of those family
members and loved ones in whose memory they
will be placed and return it to the church
(P.O. Box 303 or P.O. Box 414, Oakland, MD
21550) with your check by
Monday, December 15th.**

Ordering _____ Plants @ \$20.00 each.

In Memory Of:

**Given By:
(as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Be thankful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the House of God.

Before the service, speak to the Lord.

During the service, let the Lord speak to you.

After the service, speak to one another.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THE READING:

ISAIAH 9:1-2, 5-6

Celebrant But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN 65

Prepare the way, O Zion



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Refrain
 Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

Celebrant I see you.

People **We are here.**


Celebrant Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

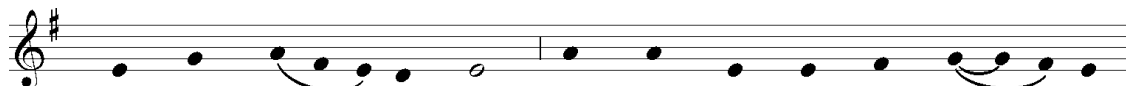
Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**


HYMN OF PRAISE 56 (vs 1 & 2) *O come, O come, Emmanuel*



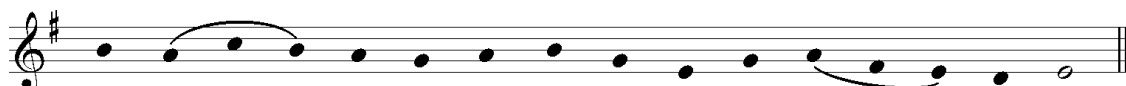
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 → (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 → (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 → 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 → 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 → 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 → 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
 Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890);
 acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Copyright: Words: © The Church Pension Fund

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 *Deus, judicium*

Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.

That the mountains may bring prosperity to
the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the
moon shall be no more.

He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the
oppressor.

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!

And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Advent- Gospel Acclamation

L. DeLauder

Al - le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Pre-prepare the way of the Lord!

Al - le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Pre - pare the way of the Lord!

Keep a-wake, oh chil-dren of God, keep watch - ful through the

night. The val - leys be filled, the moun-tains laid low, pre -

par-ing the way of the Lord! Al - le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu-ia!

Pre-prepare the way of the Lord! Al - le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Pre -

pare the way of the Lord!

Celebrant
People

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'"

Celebrant
People

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

THE SERMON

THE REV. DR. CHIP LEE

All stand for

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Leader For all people in their daily life and work;

People **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Leader For this community, the nation, and the world;

People **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader For the just and proper use of your creation;

People **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Leader In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for St. Matthias and Messiah, Baltimore; Redeemer, Baltimore; St. Bartholomew's, Baltimore.

We also pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Carrie our Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Church of Bangladesh.

People **For all who serve God in his church.**

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation especially for Chip Lee; Nancy Ihloff; Liam Wallace; Madalyn Hoffeditz; Megan Morin; Marshall Stacy; Sharon Pyle; Butch Virts; Roberta Seward; the Hodge-Williams Family; Don Loomis; John & Brenda Rathgeb; Frances Sharpless; Laura Tasker; Walt Tasker; Ron Peterson; Michael Marine; David Klueter; Jeff Felker; Bonnie Winters; Kathy & Elon O'Connor; Mary Ely; Karen Wooddell; Smith Lantz; Barb Riley; John Jorgensen; Hugh & Dolores Andrew; Jessie Harris; Dave Arnold; Mary Ann Crawford; John Amato; Michael Null; Bernie Ferguson; Regina Ray; Liam Wallace; and for all whom we hold in our hearts this day.

This week's family prayers are for Derrick and Tiffani Noble, Raelynn, Grayson, and Krew; Charles & Sara Buffington; Arwana Schoemer; Roger & Barbara Levin; Klaus Schmidt, Lynda Dougherty, and Marcus & Aleksandra; and Joan Downey.

Leader Hear us, Lord;

People **For your mercy is great.**

Leader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;

People **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Leader We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Leader Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
People **Who put their trust in you.**
Leader We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.
Silence may be kept.
Leader and People **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**
Leader Hear us, Lord;
People **For your mercy is great.**
Leader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence
The People may add their own thanksgivings
Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;
People **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**
Leader We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence
The People may add their own petitions
Leader Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
People **Who put their trust in you.**
Leader We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.
Silence may be kept.
Leader and People **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

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

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Please warmly greet one another with the peace of Christ

PARISH LIFE

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) N. as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

Please stand as the Offering is brought to the Altar

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **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.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, for you are the source of all light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

HYMN S-124

Holy, holy, holy Lord

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

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The People stand or kneel

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and
People*

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*Celebrant and
People*

AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD S-154 *Christ our Passover*

This setting is not used in Lent.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: From *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950)
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All here are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Our tradition is to receive both bread and wine, sharing the common cup. Please assist the chalice bearer by guiding the cup to your lips. You may receive the bread only, if you prefer. After consuming the bread, simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you do not wish to receive the wine. You may also "intinct" by dipping the bread into the chalice. If you desire only a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest when you come to the rail.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN 654

Day by day

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:
to see thee more clear - ly, love thee more dear - ly,
fol - low thee more near - ly, day by day.

Words: Att. Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

Musical: *Sumner*; Arthur Henry Biggs (1906-1954) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

*Celebrant and
People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Descant

2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day."
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant
People

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!
 Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

st. john's episcopal church

announcements

christmas decorating

We will be decorating for Christmas at **St. John's today after church** and at **St. Matthew's next Sunday, December 14th**, immediately following the service. Please bring finger foods or cookies to share!

the annual, occasionally annual, christmas party at the rectory

Please join us on **Sunday, December 14th**, from **6-9PM** for a light buffet, wine and beer, fellowship and holiday cheer at 217 G Street, Mountain Lake Park. No RSVP necessary. Directions and additional details can be found in the enews.

stephen's table

Our next meal will be a Christmas ham dinner and will be served on **Thursday, December 18th from 5-6:30 pm**. We expect another large turnout for that meal, so please consider lending a hand if you are able. If you can help in any way, contact **Kip Senholzi** at kwsenholzi@comcast.net, or simply show up and have some fun with us! The **Nearly New** will be open during this time, also.

longest night

A Longest Night Service will be held on **Sunday, December 21st at 7 pm**. Please join us for a time of reflection, music, and healing prayer.

lessons & carols

A Festival of Lessons & Carols will be held at Emmanuel, Cumberland on **Sunday, December 21st at 5 pm**.

christmas eve services

The early Christmas Eve service will be held at **St. John's** this year at **7 PM**. The late service will be held at **St. Matthew's** at **10:30 PM**.

seekers

The Seekers are still collecting **non-perishable food** to replenish the food pantry at the Oakland Town Hall. They fill the pantry at least twice per month. If you are able to help, please bring your donations to the church.

women's retreat

The Diocese of Maryland is hosting a Women's Retreat from **February 20th - 22nd**. This retreat will be a sacred pause in the middle of winter—a time to gather with women of all ages for meaningful conversation, inspiring worship, creative workshops, and joyful community. Whether you're seeking spiritual refreshment, new friendships, or simply some quiet time away, this retreat offers space to breathe deeply and be fully yourself. If you are interested in joining, please contact **Kendall** or **Krysta** for more information. They hope to have a bigger group of women from ECGC than last year!

food pantry

We still need one or two more people who can be available for an hour or two on a rotating schedule at the St. John's food pantry. The need for food is still great, even with SNAP benefits being restored and we need a few more volunteers to be able to handle this increase. For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, please contact **Cindy Stacy** at **443-756-4792**.

nearly new

The Nearly New is in need of gloves donations. They are also in need of cashiers. When we do not have cashiers, we have to close the store. If you are interested in lending a hand, even only to be a substitute to keep the store open, please let us know in one of the following ways:

Send an email to nearlynewcrew@gmail.com

Contact **Kathy Zimmer** by cell at **412-287-7483** or by email at kathyzimmer24@gmail.com

Contact **Maryn Fisher** by cell at **240-409-6845** or by email at mhffisher@comcast.net

Contact **Julie Hartman** in her office at **301-334-2510 ext. 3** or by email at: episcopalchurchingarrettcountry@gmail.com

ministers of today's service

Celebrant:	The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee
Reader:	Mike Voelkel
Chalicer:	Carol Voelkel

prayer list

We pray each Sunday and Thursday for members, relatives and friends of this faith community who have asked for our prayers. You may call Julie in the Church Office at 301-334-2510 ext. 3 or email your request to:

episcopalchurchingarrettcountry@gmail.com

Let us pray to the Lord and for each other, especially for Chip Lee; Nancy Ihloff; Madalyn Hoffeditz; Megan Morin; Marshall Stacy; Sharon Pyle; Butch Virts; Roberta Seward; the Hodge-Williams Family; Don Loomis; John & Brenda Rathgeb; Frances Sharpless; Laura Tasker; Walt Tasker; Ron Peterson; Michael Marine; David Klueter; Jeff Felker; Bonnie Winters; Kathy & Elon O'Connor; Mary Ely; Karen Wooddell; Smith Lantz; Barb Riley; John Jorgensen; Hugh & Dolores Andrew; Jessie Harris; Dave Arnold; Mary Ann Crawford; John Amato; Michael Null; Bernie Ferguson; Regina Ray; Liam Wallace; and for all whom we hold in our hearts this day.

(Silence)

In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for St. Matthias and Messiah, Baltimore; Redeemer, Baltimore; St. Bartholomew's, Baltimore.

We also pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Carrie our Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers.

In the Anglican communion we pray for the Church of Bangladesh.

For relatives and friends of this faith community serving the victims of disasters and political unrest around the world, for those who are in harm's way in war zones, and for those who are working for peace everywhere.

For all victims of natural disaster, terrorism, war, economic and environmental injustice and addiction.

Members of our Faith Community for whom we are praying

Jeff Arnold, Linda Ludwig Baker; Lexie Byrne; Joseph R. Clark, Sr., Dave Culler, Susie Culler, Carolyn Germain, Kathleen Gibbs, Larry Glatt, Amy Harmon, Stephanie Hawtof & Kevin Rissell; Kolby Hefner, Samantha Hodge-Williams; Dan Jonson, Smith Lantz, Kim Lovett & Family, Madeline Meister, Brenda Rathgeb, Kat & Matt Rayner, Kip Senholzi, and Gavin Tasker.

also

Little ones have a place at St. John's!

Our Sunday school is downstairs. Ask anyone for directions.

Stay in touch with us digitally!

To receive the Parish E-news, please add your name, address, phone number, and email address to the guest register just inside the door of the narthex, or use the form on our website home page at www.episcopalchurchingarrettcountry.org. When you are not able to be with us on Sunday, you can watch the livestream at 10 a.m. on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays of the month.

In case of rare snow closures or sudden changes in our worship schedule, we will send an email to our address list announcing the change.

Please note that we delete addresses that report as nonexistent and cause our emails to bounce back. Make sure you add **episcopalchurchingarrettcountry@gmail.com** to your computer's address book to ensure that our email does not end up in your spam folder.

upcoming church schedule

December 14th (Christmas Decorating)	St. Matthew's
December 21st - 10 AM	St. John's
December 21st - 7 PM - Longest Night	St. Matthew's
December 24th - 7 PM	St. John's
December 24th - 10:30 PM	St. Matthew's
December 28th	St. Matthew's
January 4th	St. John's
January 11th	St. Matthew's
January 18th	St. John's
January 25th	St. Matthew's

Sunday, December 7th at St. John's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
10 am Sunday School downstairs
Coffee hour in the fellowship room and
Christmas decorating following the service

Thursday, December 11th at St. Matthew's

7:30 am Morning Prayer with reserved sacrament
- Leslie Roper, LEM

Sunday, December 14th at St. John's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
10 am Sunday School upstairs in the parish hall
Coffee hour in the chancel and **Christmas
decorating** immediately following the service
6 pm - 9 pm **Christmas party** at the rectory

sunday schedule

December 14th	St. Matthew's
December 21st	St. John's
December 28th	St. Matthew's
January 4th	St. John's

weekly

1st and 3rd Sunday at St. John's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
10 am Sunday School downstairs

2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday at St. Matthew's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
10 am Sunday School in the Parish Hall

Monday

11:30 am - 1 pm Brown Bag Blessings in the parish hall

Wednesday

10 am - 2 pm Nearly New Open
11 am It's in the Bag Packing at St. John's

Thursday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Friday & Saturday

10 am - 2 pm Nearly New Open

monthly

third Sunday

6 pm EpiscoPals (none scheduled at this time)

monthly

12 noon Seekers- parish hall- no meetings at this time

next-to-the-last Thursday

5 - 6:30 pm Stephen's Table (December 18th)

The Episcopal Church in Garrett County

the episcopal diocese of maryland

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
126 East Liberty Street
Oakland, Maryland 21550

St. John's Episcopal Church
5234 Maryland Highway
Oakland, Maryland 21550

Office phone: 301-334-2510 ext. 3
Website: www.episcopalchurchingarrettcountry.org
E-mail: episcopalchurchingarrettcountry@gmail.com
Parish office hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

clergy

The Rt. Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent
Bishop of Maryland

The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee
Rector, St. Matthew's; Vicar, St. John's

The Rev. Anne Byrne-Deitch
Assistant Priest for Christian Formation, St. Matthew's

staff

Julie Hartman
Parish Administrator

Krysta Huxford
Senior Warden, St. Matthew's

Mark Ludwig
Junior Warden, St. Matthew's

Mike Voelkel
Senior Warden, St. John's

Gladys Virts
Junior Warden, St. John's

Leah DeLauder
Music Director

vestry/advisory board members

St. Matthew's Vestry St. John's Advisory Board

Rev. Anne Byrne-Deitch ~ Assistant Priest
Mary Jane Fike ~ St. Matthew's
Julie Hartman ~ Parish Administrator
Dane Huxford ~ St. Matthew's
Krysta Huxford ~ Senior Warden, St. Matthew's
Rev. Dr. Chip Lee ~ Vicar, St. John's/Rector, St. Matthew's
Mark Ludwig ~ Junior Warden, St. Matthew's
Liz Morin ~ St. Matthew's
Leslie Roper ~ St. Matthew's
Larry Shipe ~ St. John's
Mike Shirey ~ Treasurer, St. John's
Gladys Virts ~ Junior Warden, St. John's
Mikey Virts ~ St. Matthew's
Mike Voelkel ~ Senior Warden, St. John's
Bonnie Winters ~ Treasurer, St. Matthew's

Good news to share with our supporters of the Garrett County NAACP Scott Robinson Memorial Scholarship!

- Since its inception in 2021, the scholarship has provided support to 11 students, and last year two recipients transferred to 4-year colleges.
- Each awardee now receives \$2,000 per academic year, renewable for up to three years, with a \$500 incentive for returning students.
- The Garrett College program was expanded last year to include students at Allegany College of Maryland. For 2025-2026 there are four awardees, two at each college, and one of the ACM students is renewing for the 2nd year and will receive \$2,500.

Thank you, and we hope you will continue to provide donations to this important cause



To donate online, scan the QR code or go to

<http://www.gcnaacp.org/scholarship>.

Checks with GCNAACP Scott Robinson Memorial Scholarship on the memo line can be made to the CollegeBound Foundation and mailed to:

CollegeBound Foundation
2507 N. Howard St. Suite 200
Baltimore, MD 21218

Contributors have made available a matching fund of \$6,000 so that your November and December donations will be doubled!



The Episcopal Church in Garrett County

A Believing Community Diverse in its Faith;
Unified in its Purpose

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