

December 28, 2025
Christmas Lessons and Carols
10 AM
The Holy Eucharist, Rite II



God from God, Light from Light

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
15575 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874
www.saintnicks.com – sign up for the weekly e-news
240-631-2800

Welcome to St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion, and a member of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Washington, which includes Episcopal Churches in the District of Columbia, as well as Prince George's, Charles, St. Mary's and Montgomery Counties. St. Nicholas was initially organized in 1991 as a mission to serve Darnestown – North Potomac, MD. After a time of closure and reorganization, St. Nicholas once again opened on Easter Day 1995, and was reestablished the following September with the Rev. Ken Howard as the Vicar. The Church received Parish Status in 2003 and moved to the present building which was then consecrated in 2009 by the Rt. Rev. John Chane, Bishop of Washington. After the Rev. Ken Howard retired, the Rev. Beth O'Callaghan was called as the Rector. Beth retired in the spring of 2025 and the church is currently in transition, searching for the next Rector. The Rev. Anne O. Weatherholt, a retired Episcopal Priest from the Diocese of Maryland, serves as the current Supply Priest; and the Rev. Dawn Booth, Deacon, has been affiliated with the congregation since September 2023. St. Nicholas presents a welcoming environment and a community of faith dedicated to becoming a beloved community of God's grace where all belong.

We Gather in the Name of God

PRELUDE

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN H-102 | Once in Royal David's City

OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant Behold, I bring you Good News of great joy, which shall come to all people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

All ***Peace on earth and glory in the highest!***

SONG OF PRAISE H-497 How Bright Appears the Morning Star

LESSONS AND CAROLS

A BIDDING PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he

particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant In Christ God's Word has become flesh dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. Let us pray to the true light which enlightens the world, that from the fullness of God all creation may receive grace upon grace, saying: What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Clothe your Church with the garments of salvation and cover her with robes of righteousness, O Gracious One, that we may be your witnesses to testify to the light.
What has come into being in Christ was life, ***and the life was the light of all people.***

Inspire the leaders of our nation and all in authority in the ways of grace and truth, that we may no longer be a people enslaved under the law but may know ourselves to be heirs, adopted as God's children.
What has come into being in Christ was life, ***and the life was the light of all people.***

Be our light in the darkness for all the world, that the fullness of your heart may be made known for the healing of the earth, especially those we now name:
What has come into being in Christ was life, ***and the life was the light of all people.***

Live among us, O Word made flesh, and reconcile this community to your light.
What has come into being in Christ was life, ***and the life was the light of all people.***

May your people be a crown of beauty and a royal diadem in your hand, as we pray in faith for those on our prayer list and those we now name: Receive those who have died as heirs of eternal life,
What has come into being in Christ was life, ***and the life was the light of all people.***

Priest: Loving and gracious Creator, from the beginning you have brightened our darkness with the light of your life: Let your vindication shine out like the dawn, and your salvation like a burning torch, that your Word made flesh may bring grace upon grace to all the earth, in the power of your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Please be seated and remain seated for the service of Lessons and Carols.

We Hear the Word of God

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:1–15

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loin cloths for themselves. 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 Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Reader *The Word of the Lord.*

People *Thanks be to God.*

CAROL

H 60 - Creator of the Stars of Night (vs. 1-3)

COLLECT

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 40:1–11

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

CAROL

H 105 vs. 1 & 4- God rest ye merry, Gentlemen

COLLECT

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. *Amen.*

THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 7:10–15

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us"

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

CAROL

H-81

Lo, How a Rose

COLLECT

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE FOURTH LESSON: Luke 1:26–38

*The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High
A reading from the Gospel of Luke*

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

CAROL

H 82 - (vs. 1-2) Of the Father's Love Begotten

COLLECT

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:4-7, 21

The Holy Name of Jesus

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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. ²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

CAROL

H-99 – (vs. 1 & 3) Go Tell is on the Mountain

COLLECT

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

THE SIXTH LESSON: Matthew 2:13-18

The Martyrdom of the Holy Innocents

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

¹³Now after the Magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

CAROL

H-247 Lully Lullay

COLLECT

We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE SEVENTH LESSON: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Seasons and Times

A reading from Ecclesiastes

¹For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

²a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. ¹⁴I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. ¹⁵That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

CAROL

H 381 vs. 1 & 4 Thy Strong word did cleave the darkness

COLLECT

In your wisdom, O Lord our God, you have made all things, and have allotted to each of us the days of our life: Grant that we may live in your presence, be guided by your Holy Spirit, and offer all our works to your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EIGHTH LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:17—6:2

The Acceptable Time

A Reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

CAROL

H 89 - It Came upon a Midnight Clear

COLLECT

Most gracious and merciful God, you have reconciled us to yourself through Jesus Christ your Son, and called us to new life in him: Grant that we, who begin this year in his Name, may complete it to his honor and glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

THE NINTH LESSON: John 1:1–18

The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.

Celebrant

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John

All

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(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.’”) ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, Lord Christ!**

CAROL

H-91 Break forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant **The Lord be with you.**

All *And also with you.*

Celebrant **Let us pray together.**

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 PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

You are invited to offer each other a sign of peace as each is comfortable.

We Give Thanks to God

You may use the QR code on Page 12 for your gifts or place your offering in the offering plate.

Thank you for your generosity to support the community of faith in mission and ministry.

THE OFFERTORY

O Promised one, who made the heavens and the earth and holds all things together: receive these gifts which we offer from our life and labor.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

THE PRESENTATION HYMN In the Bleak Mid-Winter vs. 1 & 4

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER “D”

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing

THE SANCTUS S-125 | *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

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.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures.

When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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." Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

***We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all those who are in fear or need; help us see your face in those we meet in the coming days.

Remember this Church as the search for a new Rector continues into the new season. And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. Nicholas and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

All ***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.***

We Break the Bread of Life

A moment of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is Sacrificed for us!

All ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!***

THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Prayed on behalf of those viewing this service online.
From the Episcopal Prayer Book for the Armed Forces,*

All ***In Union, O Lord with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.***

We Share the Gifts of God

Directions for receiving Communion

Approach the altar by the center aisle. Take a paper cup if you do not want to use the common cup and make a semi-circle. Receive a piece of bread to eat and offer your cup for the wine - OR- drink from the common cup. If you want only a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. If you desire a gluten free wafer hold up 2 fingers. Wait until the Celebrant says, "Go in peace." to return to your seats.

COMMUNION HYMN: Arise and Shine

1 A - rise and shine, the pro - phet sang;
 2 God's ris - ing sun will light the way,
 3 You will not need the sun by day

your light has come, the mes - sage rang.
 as peo - ple stream to dawn - ing's ray.
 nor moon by night, to light your way;

The shroud of dark - ness stripped a - way,
 Your o - pen gates will nev - er close,
 God's glo - ry and e - ter - nal might

God's glo - ry brings a bright new day.
 in bus' - ling day or night's re - pose.
 will be your ev - er - last - ing light.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN: H-534 | God is working his purpose out

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth to become a beloved community of God's grace where all belong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: *Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to all who have made the Christmastide services so meaningful.

Thank you to Bill Stief, our guest musician. We are so grateful for his gift to St. Nicholas of the Grand Piano, played so beautifully for our worship.

Next Sunday, January 4, we will observe the Feast of the Epiphany. Deacon Dawn will be our preacher, and our "wise travelers" will arrive at the place of Christ's birth.

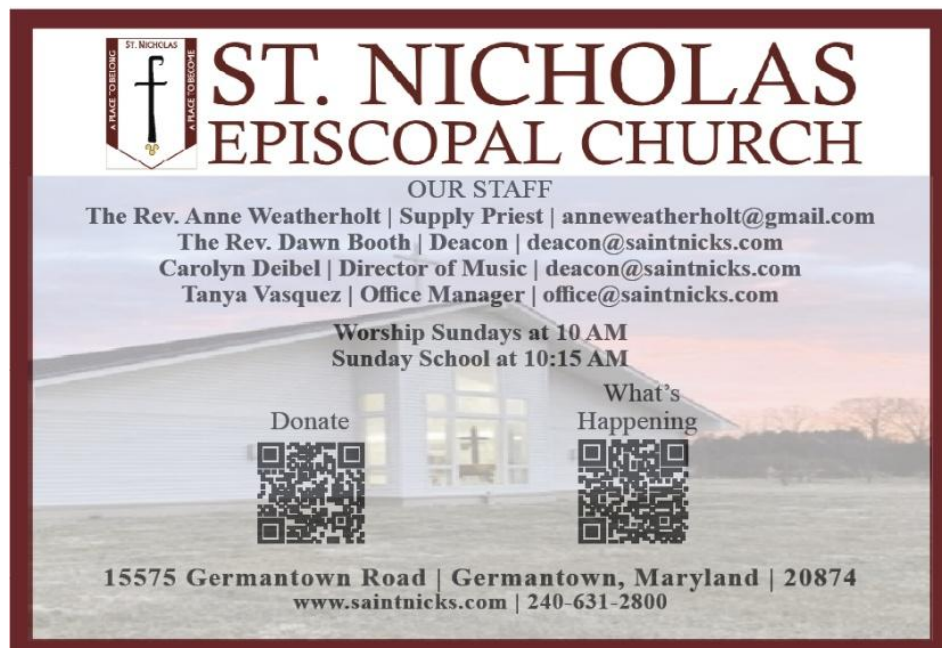
Sunday, January 11, we will observe the Baptism of Christ. If there is someone in your household who has not yet been baptized, this is a wonderful time to consider celebrating this special Sacrament. Please contact Rev'd Anne+ 301-49-15792, if you are interested.

Claggett Men's Retreat 2026

Step away from your daily routine and into a supportive space where men of all ages explore faith, purpose, and community together. Claggett's annual Men's Retreat is a time for men to gather and connect, and to form new friendships and nurture old ones. In 2026, we will gather around the theme Authentic Connection in a Time of Male Loneliness. Participants will learn and wonder together things like *"What does it mean to be a Man in 2026? How can men find and make community now?"* With Keynote Speaker Rev. Peter Mayer, and Canon Travis Smith serving as Chaplain, participants are sure to leave this year's Men's Retreat feeling connected, cared for, and inspired. The Claggett Center, 3035 Buckeystown Pike Adamstown, MD 21710 | [301-874-5147](tel:301-874-5147)

Claggett 2026 Women's Weekend


Step into a weekend of rest, renewal, and reconnection. The Claggett Women's Retreat is 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. In 2026, we will gather around the theme *Who Is My Neighbor? Loving All in Divided Times*. We will begin with exploring the Episcopal identity as women, and then wonder together about what that means for how we interact with people who are different than us and who hold different views. With plenary speakers from the College for Congregational Development and the One America Movement, participants are sure to learn new things and leave with fresh insights on the world we live in today. The Claggett Center, 3035 Buckeystown Pike Adamstown, MD 21710 | [301-874-5147](tel:301-874-5147)




**ST. NICHOLAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

OUR STAFF
The Rev. Anne Weatherholt | Supply Priest | anneweatherholt@gmail.com
The Rev. Dawn Booth | Deacon | deacon@saintnicks.com
Carolyn Deibel | Director of Music | deacon@saintnicks.com
Tanya Vasquez | Office Manager | office@saintnicks.com

Worship Sundays at 10 AM
Sunday School at 10:15 AM

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What's Happening 

15575 Germantown Road | Germantown, Maryland | 20874
www.saintnicks.com | 240-631-2800