

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2025
8:00 AM

WELCOME!

YOU are welcome here, regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, sex, national origin, marital status, family makeup, socioeconomic status, or political persuasion. St. John's Episcopal Church is a community of people who gather to acknowledge our need for divine and human love, and to respect our common humanity. At St. John's, ALL ARE WELCOME.

It is our pleasure to have you join us for worship today. If this is your first visit, or even if you've been attending for a little while, and you'd like to learn more about us, please take a 'Welcome' card from our pews, complete and place the 'Connect' side in the offering plate or hand it to one of our greeters or clergy so that we may follow up with you. Or, feel welcome to contact us using the information on the back of this bulletin.

Our mission

LINKING LIVES IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST



Sundial of the rectory of the Assumption church of Samoëns

Text translation – “It will be at the hour you don’t think...”
 from *Art in the Christian Tradition*

Our vision

*WE JOYFULLY GATHER TO PRAY, WORSHIP, LEARN AND SERVE
 AS WE SEEK TO FOLLOW JESUS, AND INVITE ALL TO JOIN US
 ON A SACRED JOURNEY OF HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION*

Following the pattern of **THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER – RITE II**

Please stand as you are able

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Please read in unison

Gloria

p. 356 in **The BCP**

**Glory to God in the highest,
 and peace to his people on earth.
 Lord God, heavenly King,
 almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
 Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.
 For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

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

Celebrant Let us pray.
 Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

First Lesson - Isaiah 2:1-5

Carol Sullivan

Reader A reading from Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please read in unison

Psalm 122 - *Laetatus sum*

1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the Lord.

5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.

7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

Second Lesson - Romans 13:11-14

Carol Sullivan

Reader A reading from Romans

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel

Gospel Reading - Matthew 24:36-44

The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon

The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson

Please stand to say together

Nicene Creed

p. 358 in **The BCP**

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.

Prayers of the People

Alicia Watt

Leader	In this season of preparation and presence, let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying: God of awakening, Hear our prayer. Loving God, wake your Church to your presence. Make us a people of attention and intention, grounded in prayer and moved by compassion. Open our eyes to the sacred in our neighbors, in our communities, and in the world around us.
People	God of awakening, Hear our prayer.
Leader	Mighty God, stir the hearts of those who guide and govern. Give wisdom to leaders at every level, and shape all power with justice and mercy. Soften what has grown hard. Strengthen what is gentle and good. Guide us into paths of peace.
People	God of awakening, Hear our prayer.
Leader	God of wonder, call us to care for your creation. Open us to the wonder of the world around us, and the responsibilities that come with it. May we live as part of the whole, cherishing what sustains us and tending what is fragile.
People	God of awakening, Hear our prayer.
Leader	God of compassion, be near to those who are weary, grieving, isolated, or afraid. Hold all who struggle with illness, loss, or fear. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list: Cathy & Juan, Susan & Bob, Char, Ronnie,

Henry, Chris, Yvonne, Charlene & John, Lynn, Rebecca & the Roberts family, Linda, Aubrey, Andrew, Julie, Phillip, Tellie & the Wright family, and the Gwaltney family, and those we name, silently or aloud... May your presence bring comfort and your Spirit bring strength.,

People **God of awakening, Hear our prayer.**

Leader God of the ages, gather all who have died into your eternal care, remembering especially. We remember those we love but see no longer, especially those we name now, silently or aloud... Keep us united in love and hope until we meet again in your presence.

People **God of awakening, Hear our prayer.**

Concluding Collect

Gracious and present God, who stirs the world with holy possibility and meets us even in our waiting, awaken us to your movement in our lives and in the world you love, that with hearts made ready we may receive your Christ with joy; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

p. 359 in **The BCP**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence

Together **Most merciful God,**
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

Celebrant 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.**

Offertory

Please stand as you are able

Together **All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.**

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 our 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.
 Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.
 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:
**Together Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest .**

Please stand or kneel as you are able

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,
**Together 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John, 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. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

p. 364 in The BCP

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

Fraction Anthem

p. 364 in The BCP

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
 People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**
 Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please be seated

Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive communion. St. John's uses gluten-free bread, and wine. You may eat your bread/wafer and return to your seat, or hand it to a chalice-bearer who will intinct (dip) the bread and hand it back to you. Individually sealed cups with gluten-free, allergen-friendly hosts, and grape juice are available by request. Please follow the directions of our ushers.

Together Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

The priest blesses the people

People Amen.

Please stand as you are able

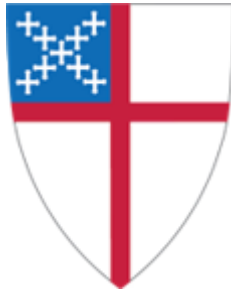
Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

*The flowers on the Altar are given to the glory of God and
in thanksgiving for our St. John's family.*





HEAD OF THE CHURCH – JESUS CHRIST
MINISTERS – ALL OUR MEMBERS

Clergy

The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson*Rector*

Staff

Dr. Amon Eady *Director of Music*
Travis Fader *Organist*
Linda Germain.....*Children & Youth Director*
Colleen O'Dell*Bookkeeper*
Ellen Woodard..... *Administrative Assistant*
Nick Lowthian.....*Sexton*
Vickie Densmore*Janitor*

SERVING

Presiding The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson
Preaching..... The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson
Greeter/Usher.....Jim Bakeman
Lector.....Carol Sullivan
Intercessor.....Carol Sullivan
Eucharistic MinisterCarol Sullivan
Altar GuildJenny Estabrook, Andrea Burditt
Coffee Hour Host
(signup sheet posted on the bulletin board outside Williams Hall)

OUR VESTRY – OUR ELECTED LEADERS

Class of 2026

Deb Blackhurst
Angela Garcia, *Co-Warden*
Gail Hoffman

Class of 2028

John Adams
Doug Germain
Ann Wright

Class of 2027

Eric Heglin, Clerk
Susan Rye
Fred Schuster, *Co-Warden*

To get in touch with any Clergy, Staff Member or Member of the Vestry, call
or email the parish office:
(989) 631-2260
office@sjec-midland.org

Contact Us

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