



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 28, 2025
8:00 AM

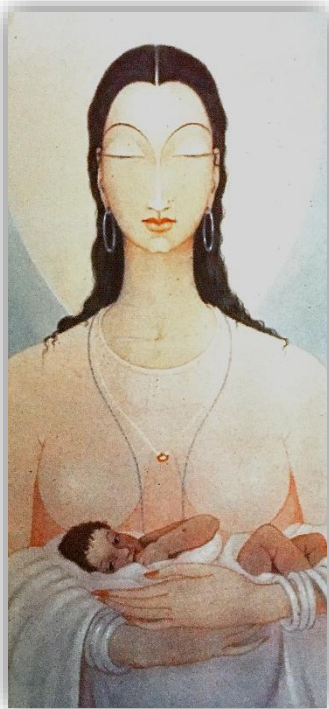
WELCOME!

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



And the Word Became Flesh

Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002

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 God's 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, 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.**

Please be seated

First Lesson - Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Carol Sullivan

Reader A reading from Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
 my whole being shall exult in my God;
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
 so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.
 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
 and her salvation like a burning torch.
 The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the Lord will give.
 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

Please read in unison

Psalm 147:13-21 - Laudate Dominum

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; ***
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; ***
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; ***
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, ***
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; ***
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; ***
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; ***
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, ***
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; ***
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

Second Lesson - Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Carol Sullivan

Reader A reading from Galatians

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel

Gospel Reading - John 1:1-18

The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

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

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

And 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. (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.'")

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

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 came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; suffered death and was buried. the third day he rose again accordance with the Scriptures; ascended into heaven is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, 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, the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Carol Sullivan

Leader: In this holy season, let us offer our hopes and fears to the One who has come to dwell among us in love, saying: Incarnate God, hear our prayer.
God of the manger, who chose to be born in humility, imbue your Church with faithfulness and courage. Bless Sean, our presiding bishop; the Diocese of the Great Lakes; and our partner congregation, St. Philip's, Grand Rapids. Unite us in mission, that we may be your hands and feet bringing blessing. Incarnate God.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: God of the nations, whose birth the angels proclaimed as good news for all people, guide those who lead in every land. Kindle in them a passion for justice, a commitment to peace, and a vision of unity. Strengthen the bonds of our common humanity, that your hope might take root among all peoples. Incarnate God.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: God of creation, who entered the world as Word made flesh, bless this earth you have made. Teach us to cherish its beauty and to live as wise stewards of its gifts. Where there is brokenness, bring restoration; where there is fear or destruction, cultivate renewal and hope. Incarnate God,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: God of relationships, who came to reconcile the world to yourself, bless the communities where we live, work, and worship. Give us eyes to see your image in our neighbors and courage to love as you love. In homes, workplaces, and public squares, may we bring the gifts of understanding, trust, and peace. Incarnate God,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: God of mercy, whose birth was announced to shepherds keeping watch in the night, be present with all who suffer. We remember those weighed down by illness, loneliness, grief, or anxiety.. We lift up those on our parish prayer list: Cathy & Juan, Susan & Bob, Char, Ronnie, Henry, Chris, Yvonne, Charlene &

John, Lynn, Linda, Phillip, the Gwaltney family, Michelle, and Julie. Strengthen all caregivers, and let your presence bring comfort and healing. Incarnate God,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: God of eternity, who promises life everlasting, gather into your eternal embrace all those who have died, and sustain us with the promise of eternal life in your presence. Incarnate God

All: Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Incarnate God, in the birth of Jesus you met the hopes and fears of all the years in love that took on flesh. Dwell among us, that we may share this love with a world longing for hope. Transform our lives by your grace, and make us signs of your promise, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is Emmanuel, God with us.

All: 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.

Prayer for Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Other Milestones

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory

Please stand as you are able

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

Eucharistic Prayer B

p. 367 in The BCP

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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
Together

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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.
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.

Post-Communion Prayer

p. 366 in **The BCP**

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
People

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

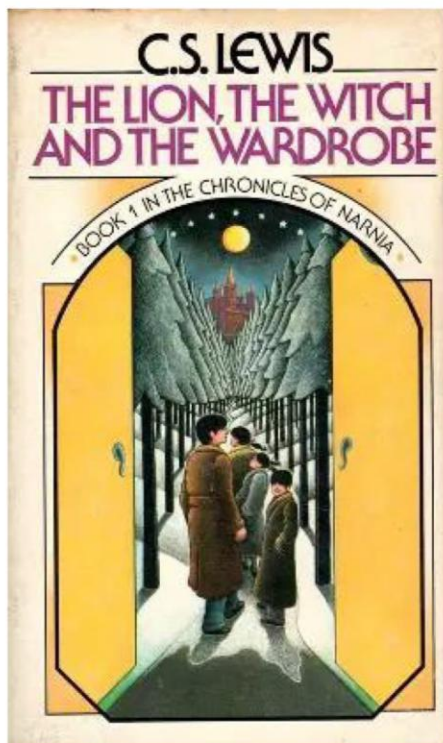
*The flowers on the Altar are given to the glory of God and
in thanksgiving for our St. John's family.*

Coming Soon

✦ Step Into the Wardrobe ✦

The Chronicles of Narnia – Read Aloud Series

📖 You're Invited!



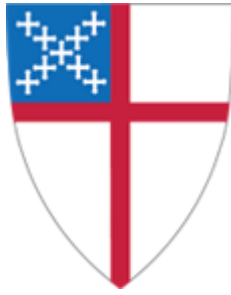
Step into the magical world of *The Chronicles of Narnia* as we journey together through C.S. Lewis's beloved series — read aloud for all to enjoy.

We'll begin with the classic tale ***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe***, where four children step through a wardrobe into a land of snow, magic, and adventure.

When: Sundays, 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.
Starting: January 11, 2026
Where: St. John's Episcopal Church —
Williams Hall, in front of the fireplace
Who: Open to all ages — children, teens, and adults alike!

No sign-up, no homework, no commitment — just come, settle in by the fire, and let the story carry you to a land of courage, friendship, and wonder.

✦ Bring a friend, bring your curiosity, and enjoy the simple joy of being read to ✦



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

St. John's Episcopal Church

405 N. Saginaw Road
Midland, MI 48640

Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday ... 9am-3pm
Friday ... 9am-noon

Phone: 989.631.2260

Fax: 989.631.4261

Parish email: office@sjec-midland.org

Website: www.sjec-midland.org

Facebook: sjecmidland

Instagram: sjecmidlandmich

YouTube: @st.johnsepiscopalchurchmid894