

11 A.M. SERVICE



The Episcopal Church of
St. John the Baptist

(831) 708-2278 125 Canterbury Drive Aptos CA 95003
www.st-john-aptos.org



The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day

December 25, 2023 11 a.m.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer (1979)

† The Liturgy of the Word †

Organ Prelude:

Il est Né, le Divin Enfant / He is Born the Divine Child *Fr carol arr. Noel Goemanne*

Carillon on Come, All Ye Shepherds

Moravian melody arr. Gordon Young

Performed by Ann Elizabeth Thiermann

Opening Hymn: Joy to the World

Hymnal 1982 #100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his bless - ings flow far
and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
as the curse is found, far as the curse is
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

Opening Acclamation

BCP 351

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Presider 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.



Gloria

The St. James Christmas Service

To the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Glo - ry be to God onhigh,
Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare
Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,
To all peo - ple, peace on earth, An - gels, shep - herds
Lamb of God and Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy,
Prai - ses sing in high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er
draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le - brate His birth.
hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'en a - bove.
and the Son and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.
Glo - - - - - ri - a
1. in ex - cel - sis De - o! 2. in ex - cel - sis De o!

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray. (Silence.) Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the residual of the bell ringing before continuing.

Psalm 98

BCP Version

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
 for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
 has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
 his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
 and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
 lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
 with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
 shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
 the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
 when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
 and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-12

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son; today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.”

But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

And,

“In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same, and your years will never end.”

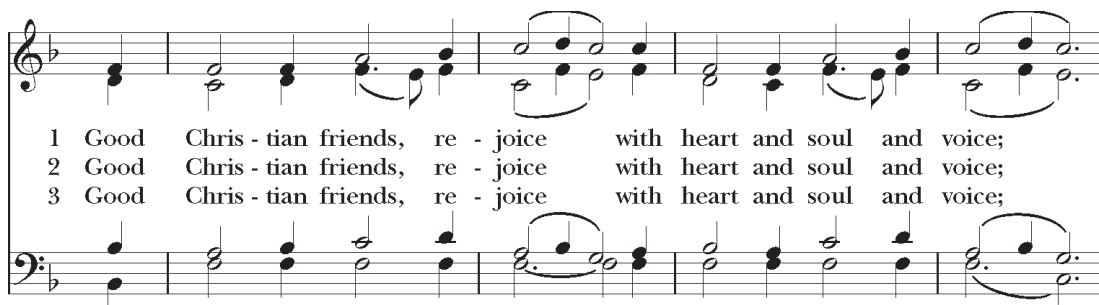
Lector **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the bell ringing before continuing.

Gospel Hymn: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

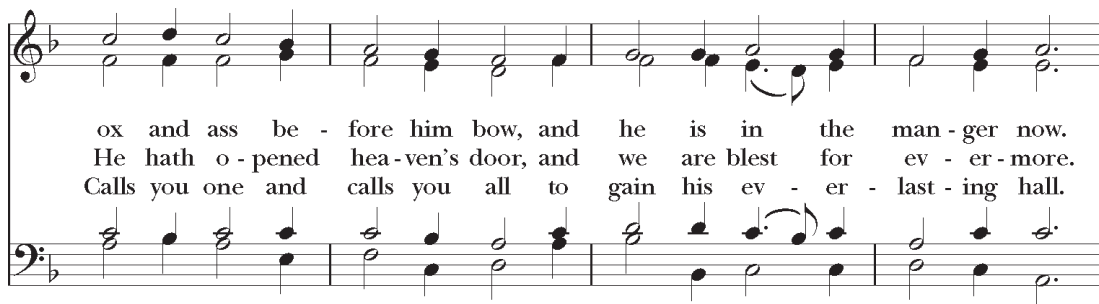
Hymnal 1982 #107



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Deacon 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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: The Rev. Eliza Linley, Interim Pastor

A moment of silence follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, and 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 for Christmas

Written by a parishioner at St. John's

Intercessor We delight today in the holy birth of Jesus Christ.

All We exult in the Lord's unbounded grace.

Intercessor Bless our bishops, priests, and deacons, who guide us to Christ.

All Like the shepherds, let us receive the good news without fear.

Intercessor Bless the leaders of all cities, states, and nations.

All May they conduct us all in a new song to the Lord.

Intercessor Let us share what we know of Christ.

All Let us tell our mirth in town, city, and county.

Intercessor Lord, bless the sick, the grieving, and the suffering.

All May we strive to ease their pain and increase their joy.

Intercessor May we honor and nurture all of God's creation.

All Let us join with the trees and shout for joy.

Intercessor May we be loving servants to everyone we know.

All Let us renew our zeal for good deeds.

Intercessor As the holy family did, may all who travel arrive safely.

All May angels guide us along the way.

Intercessor Let us forgive as the Lord forgives.

All Let us live glad lives of self-control.

Intercessor On this night we bless all the beloved who live in heaven.

All We trust in the Lord to surround them with mirth.

Intercessor Let us work for peace without tiring

All as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace.

Concluding Collect

RCL Collects (scriptural)

All God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Having made peace with God, we now make peace with our neighbors. Share a sign of God's peace with those around you, saying "Peace," or "Peace be with you." Sharing the peace is a way to reconcile with others before receiving communion, so it is particularly appropriate to seek out anyone you have had a conflict with recently to offer a sign of peace during this time.

Welcome to Visitors

† The Holy Communion †

The Offertory

During the offertory portion of the service, we offer our gifts to God. At St. John's, that takes the form of both financial gifts and gifts of our time. Time donated is documented on a form and put in the offering plate along with financial offerings. If you're participating online, you can find links to donate on the Virtual Worship page of our website: www.st-john-aptos.org/virtual-worship.html

Offertory Anthem: In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach

Presentation Hymn: In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymnal 1982 #112 vs.4

4 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.

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider 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:

Sanctus

To the tune of "Jesus Our Brother, Kind and Good"

St. James Christmas Service

Gently [in One]

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,
God of pow'r and_ might,____ heav'n and earth are
full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.
Blessed is he, is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.____ Ho - san - na in the
high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Presider 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,

Memorial Acclamation

Hymnal 1982 #S-138

Celebrant and People

We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -
rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics 'We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -' and the second line contains 'rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the second line.

Presider And we offer this 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 St. John the Baptist 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.

Great Amen

Hymnal 1982 #S-146

A - men. A - men. A - men.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three phrases of the word 'Amen'. Each phrase is set to a simple, rhythmic melody. The first phrase is 'A - men.', the second is 'A - men.', and the third is 'A - men.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the third phrase.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal 1982 #S-149

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who
sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Fraction Anthem

St. James Christmas Service

To the tune of "What Child is This"

As the Presider breaks the consecrated Bread, we sing,

Gently [In One]

O Lamb of God, O Ho - ly
Child, who takes the sin of the world a - way; Have

mer - cy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the
son of Ma - ry. This, this is your bo - dy
giv'n, Your pre - cious blood, the gift of heav'n.
Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the
son of Ma - ry.

Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Receiving communion is an act of renewing one's commitment to Christ and receiving grace to continue to follow him. Please join us in the circle, even if you choose not to receive communion, which you can indicate by crossing your arms over your chest as the servers come by. If you choose not to receive, the priest will say a blessing over you instead.

Distribution of Communion

The bread is distributed first. Please hold out your hands to indicate your desire to receive; the priest will place the bread in your hand. Gluten-free wafers are available if needed; they are in a separate gold container on the paten (plate) with the bread.

The wine will be served in the common cup (chalice) and from a flagon (pitcher) that is not shared with others. To receive from the non-shared flagon, you must have brought a cup from home; hold out that cup as the servers come around so they can see that you would like to receive from the flagon instead of the chalice. At this time we are not allowing intinction, dipping the bread into the wine chalice. If you would like to abstain from the wine entirely, cross your arms over your chest when the wine comes by.

For Online Participants: Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Those not physically present to receive communion can say this prayer while communion is being distributed: "In union, O Lord, with the faithful of St. John's, where the Holy Eucharist is

now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.” If you live in Santa Cruz County and would like someone to bring you communion at home, please contact the church office at 831-708-2278 or email LEVs@st-john-aptos.org.

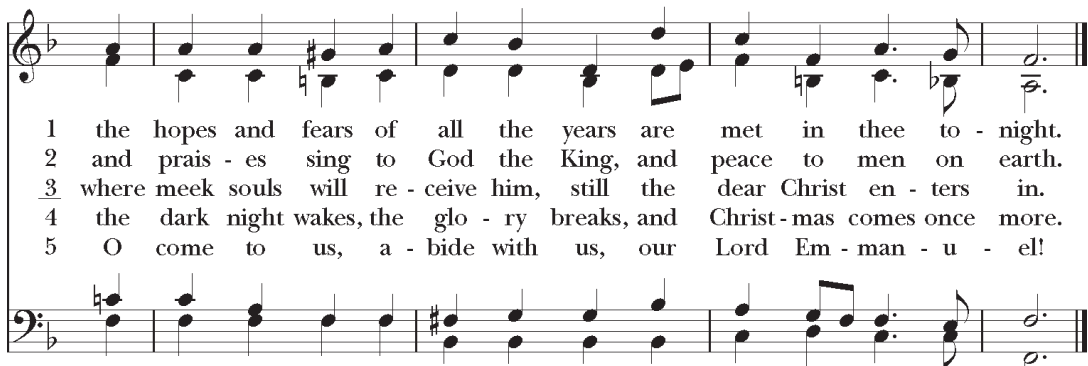
Communion Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymnal 1982 #79

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

The Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

All 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 Christmas Blessing

BOS 23

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. **Amen.**

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

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven,
 give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Go, Tell it On the Mountain

Hymnal 1982 #99

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through-out the hea-vens there shone a ho-ly light.
 out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sa-vior's birth.
 God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Caroling, Caroling

Alfred Burt, arr. Diane Bish

Go Tell It On the Mountain

African American spiritual, setting: Johannes Matthias Michel

Please give special thanks to Ann Elizabeth Thiermann
 for the lovely organ music.

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Serving Today

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Presider & Preacher:</i> | The Rev. Eliza Linley, Interim Pastor |
| <i>Organ:</i> | Ann Elizabeth Thiermann |
| <i>Acolyte:</i> | Susan VonSchmacht |
| <i>Lesson:</i> | Brian Raney |
| <i>Epistle:</i> | Barbara Raney |
| <i>LEM/ Psalm Leader:</i> | Lise Crowley |
| <i>Intercessor & Usher:</i> | Sherrie DeWitt |



The Leadership of St. John's

Ministers: All of us!



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The Rev. John Duncan (“Father John”)

The Rev. Mary Lou McKenney (“Rev. Mary Lou”)

Vestry (Governing Board)

To reach the entire vestry, email vestry@st-john-aptos.org.

Administration Team vestry-admin@st-john-aptos.org

Win Fernald, Senior Warden

Debra Spencer, Junior Warden

Alliee DeArmond, Clerk

Nelson Crandall, Treasurer

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