

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after pentecost:

November 15, 2026 | 10:30am

Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.

PRELUDE *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name arr. Sandra Zylstra*
St. John's Handbell Choir *Cheryl Milukas*

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

We kneel or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

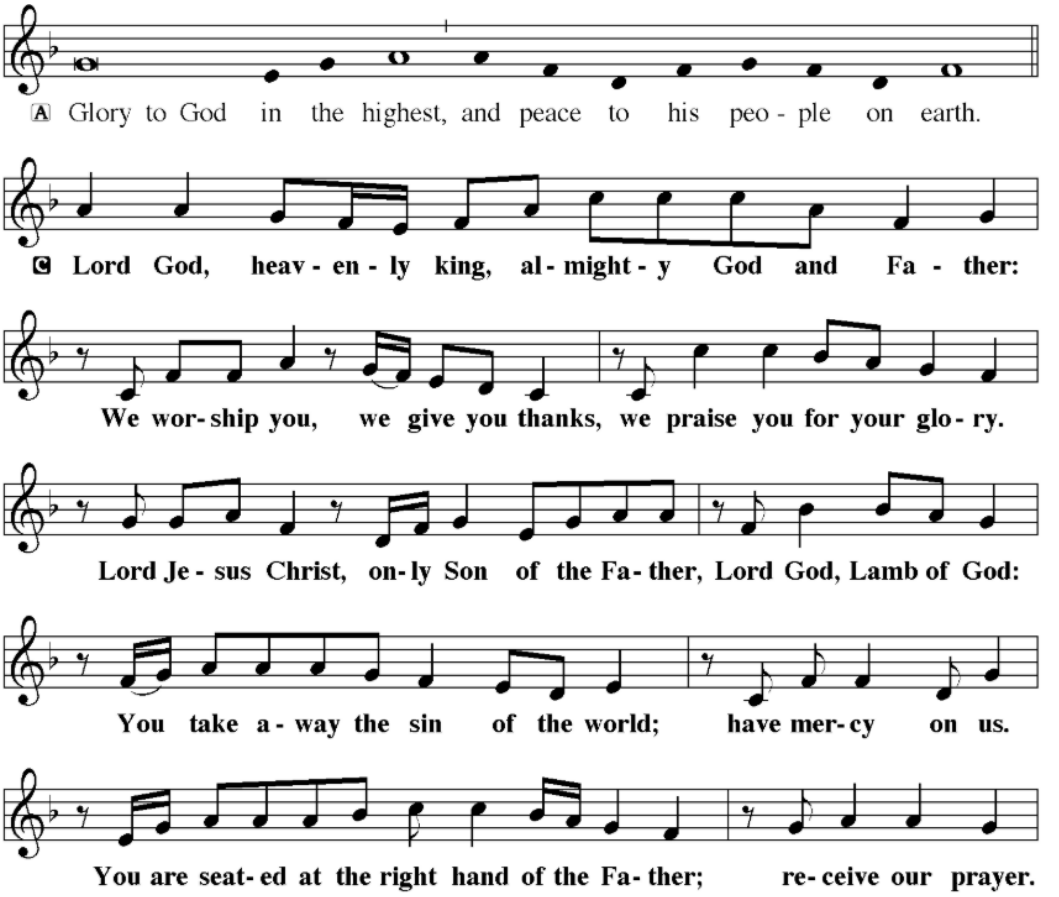
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

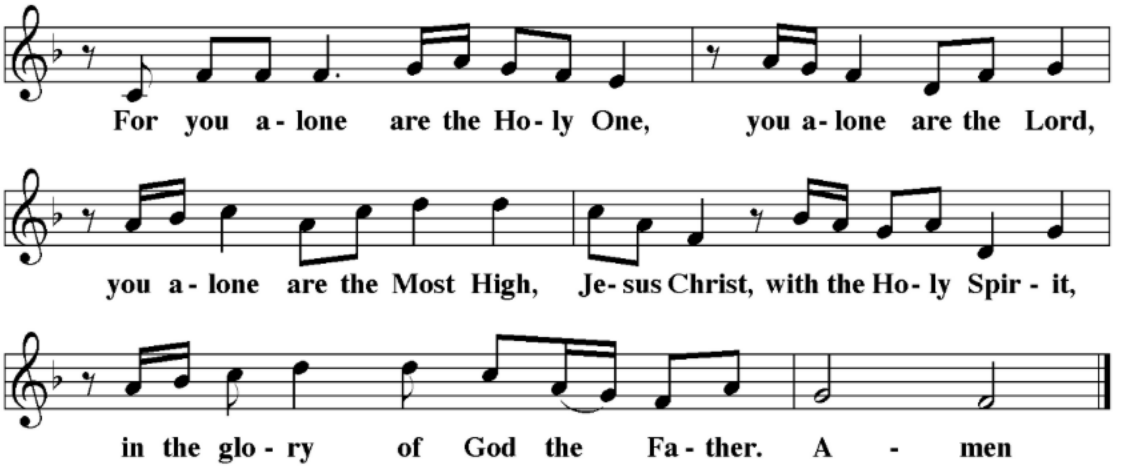
HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *We Praise You, O God* HYMN 870

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

GLORIA





PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.
Lord God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, always keeping in mind the end of all things and the day of judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of life here and may live with you forever in the world to come, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18

A reading from Zephaniah

Be silent before the Lord God,
for the day of the Lord is at hand!
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,

those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM . PSALM 90:1-8 [9-11] 12



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1 Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.
3 You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past**
and like a watch | in the night; R
5 you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
7 For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. R
[9 When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.
11 Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?
] 12 **So teach us to num- | ber our days**
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R

SECOND READING 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

A reading from 1 Thessalonians

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need
to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the
day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is
peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come
upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are
not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light
and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall
asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at
night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let
us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of
salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through
our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may
live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you
are doing.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL MATTHEW 25:14-30

The holy gospel according to St Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON REV. MARTHA MCCREIGHT

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* HYMN 678

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

We kneel or sit for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each intercession ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.



We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We sit.

GREETINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,

an offering and sacrifice to God.

To support the mission and ministry of St. John's, you can give online at www.stjohnelca.org or scan the QR code above.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Children of the Heavenly Father* *arr.* Paul Sjolund

We stand.

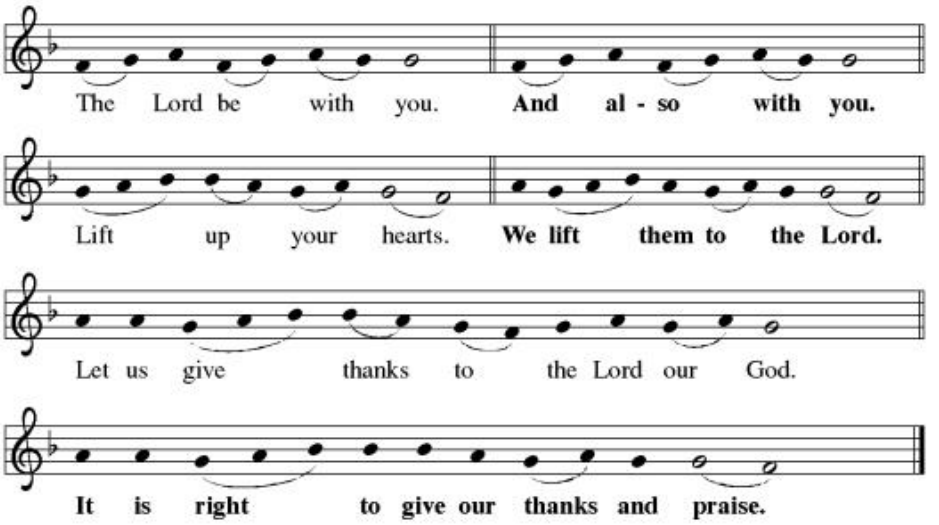
MEAL

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

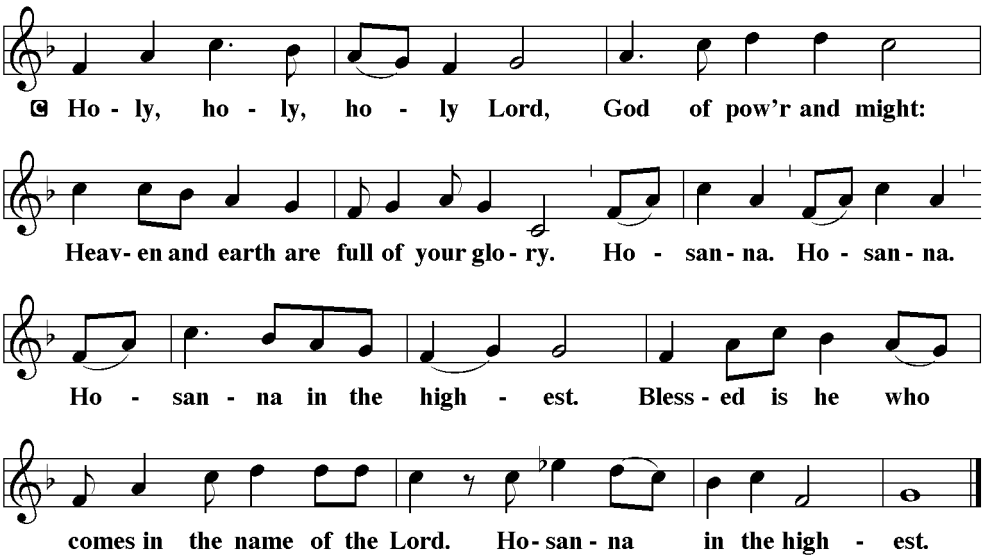




GREAT THANKSGIVING



Here the minister continues with preface for the day, concluding: we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God;
you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will
and accomplished our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving Passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again,

we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought, but as we are able;
and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving,
and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine;
that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son
may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body,
and have our portion with all your saints.

All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, now and forever.
Amen

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

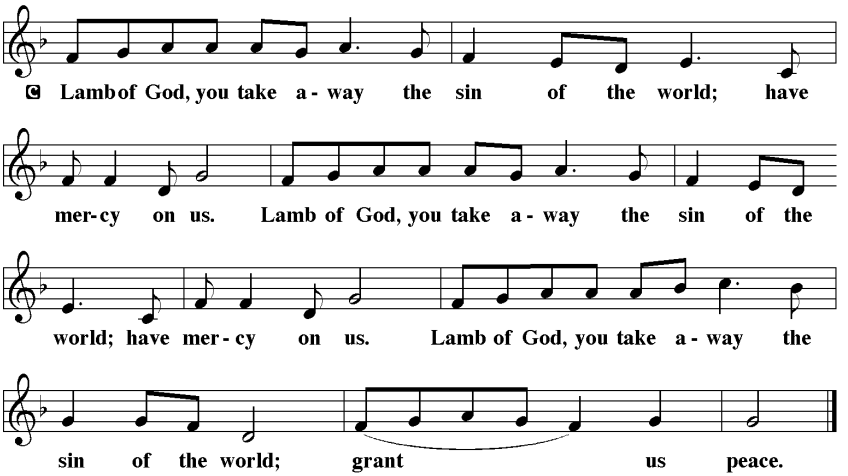
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sins, and promising eternal life, are welcome at the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

We sit.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together* HYMN 471

We stand.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.
Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen**

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow* HYMN 327

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE *Andante in F* *by* Fanny Mendelssohn

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Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight
Organist	Patrick Walker
Worship Assistant	
Reader	David Hendrickson
Communion Assistant	
Acolyte	
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett, Cathy Mahler
Counters	Pam Bartlett, Cheryl & Joe Milukas
Little Free Pantry	Nanette & Tom Jordan
Coffee Hour	

Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, November 18
12:00 noon Weekly Eucharist - Chapel
4:30pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Hand Bells
7:00 pm Choir



Thursday, November 26

Help make or deliver thanksgiving meals at St John's Episcopal Church – call 203-348-2619

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 29
First Sunday of Advent
8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship
5:00 pm Advent Night

Sunday, December 13
6:00 pm Santa Lucia Program with Scandinavian goodies afterwards

WE NEED YOU!

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, READERS, USHERS, COFFEE HOUR, AND LFP SIGN-UP



This week we pray for . . . Aiden**,** Andrew, Barbara, Beryl, Cat, Chrissy, Cody, Debbie, Gary, Gerald, James, Julie, Kelly, Kim, Lily, Marie, Sandra, Shirley, Toby, Valerie, Volter, Barbara, Kim, Debbie, Chrissy, Christian, and Gianna . If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please email the parish office.

Contact Pr Martha for pastoral needs at 406-565-3592.

Parish Office: parishoffice@sjlcstamford.com
Pastor Martha: MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com
Interim Director of Music: musicdirector@sjlcstamford.com
Finance: finance@sjlcstamford.com



We are delighted to have you with us today! To help us keep track of our cherished visitors, we kindly ask that you sign the visitor book located in the Narthex. This small gesture allows us to connect with you and offer any assistance you may need. Additionally, our ushers are more than happy to provide guidance and answer any questions you might have during worship. Whether you're here for the first time or returning, we hope you feel welcomed.



Busy bags are in the Narthex for your little ones to enjoy. These bags are thoughtfully prepared to keep children engaged during the service. Additionally, we invite you to explore and make use of the Pray ground area at the back of the Sanctuary and/or the Nursery, both designed to provide a welcoming and enriching environment for our young attendees. We hope these resources help create a meaningful and enjoyable experience for your family.

Mission Statement

All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

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Advent at St John's Lutheran 2026



Sunday Worship in Advent: November 29th | December 6th | December 13th | December 20th

Join us for weekly worship at 8:30am (chapel) and 10:30am (sanctuary) where we will light the Advent wreath with prayer and join in together on the journey throughout the season.

Wednesdays in Advent: December 2nd, December 9th, December 16th

Join us for weekly Advent book study and discussion in the Sweden Room after the noonday service. This year, we will be discussing Rev Tish Harrison Warren's book "Advent: The Season of Hope" – feel free to purchase a copy or let Pastor Martha know and she will order one for you.

Advent Night: Sunday November 29th at 5pm

At 4:30pm we will decorate the tree in the sanctuary. Please join us if you can.

At 5pm, we will be down in the Welcome Room for our annual Advent Night with dinner and various crafts to make as an individual or as a family.

Santa Lucia with Advent Lessons and Carols Service: Sunday December 13th at 6pm

We will hold our annual Santa Lucia program (in the evening this year!) coupled with an Advent Lessons and Carols service. It will be complete with children's and choir groups, guest musicians, and goodies afterwards down in the Welcome Room! Invite your friends and neighbors to join in this blessed St John's tradition!

The 4th Sunday of Advent: Sunday December 20th

After the 10:30am worship, we will decorate the sanctuary and chapel for the Christmas season – any and all help would be greatly appreciated!





Sunday, December 13 - 6:00pm

This service will weave together the beauty and mystery of the Scandinavian Santa Lucia observance and the traditional Advent Service of Lessons and Carols. Come hear both the children and adults of the St. John's Choir singing seasonal Scandinavian songs and join your own voices in favorite Advent carols. A reception will follow featuring Scandinavian goodies.

We are currently seeking children and adults interested in taking part in this service either in the Santa Lucia procession or singing with the choir. Please speak with Patrick Walker if you would like to get involved!

Rehearsals will start November 22 in the choir room directly following fellowship hour.



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 Family Christmas Eve Worship - 5:00 pm
Prelude & Candlelight Service - 9:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship

December 25 Christmas Day Worship - 10:00 am in the Chapel



Sunday, December 27 Worship

A single service at 10:30 am will feature Congregational Lessons and Carols. For the coffee hour, please bring your leftover Christmas cookies and treats to share with everyone.