

Fueled by Christ's redeeming love, St. John's is called into a joyful life of welcoming hospitality, grace-filled worship, transformational relationships, and Gospel-driven service in the world. St. John's is an RIC congregation.

A vibrant community living faith boldly through Welcoming, Worshiping, Healing, and Serving

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT First Sunday of Christmas December 31, 2023

Welcome! Whether in the pews or online, whether for the first time or you've come more times than you can count, we are glad you are here. You are welcome to participate in every part of the worship service, <u>including</u> Holy Communion. Those of you joining online are invited to prepare a cracker or piece of bread and some juice or wine for partaking at that point in the service. Those in person are encouraged to sit in the forward half of the sanctuary both for audio and visual benefit. You're invited to create and wear a name tag, and to fill out a white Fellowship Card from your pew rack if you wish and hand it to an usher.

PRELUDE & CAROLS FOR GATHERING

please join in singing: Still, Still, Still The First Noel

Traditional Austrian 18th Century French

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people,

and call us to be messengers of your peace.

We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

Amen.

CAROL

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

19th Century English

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. During the singing of "O Come, Little Children" children of every age are invited to come forward to the front pews to join Edith for the Word of the Week."



Text: 11 11 11 11; Johann C. von Schmid, 1768–1854; tr. by Melanie Schute, 1885–1922, alt. Music: Johann A. Schulz, 1749–1800.

WORD OF THE WEEK

After the Word of the Week, children may return to be with their families in the pews or go to 'Grace Space' at the back of the sanctuary while the people sing v. 3 of "O come, Little Children."

PSALM

Please join in unison for the reading from Psalm 91:

⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,
¹⁰no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.
¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.
¹²On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

Psalm 91:9-12

Edith Bohardt

CAROL

GOSPEL READING

The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

Mark 1:1-20

MEDITATION

Pastor Mark Tiede

CAROL

The Holly and the Ivy

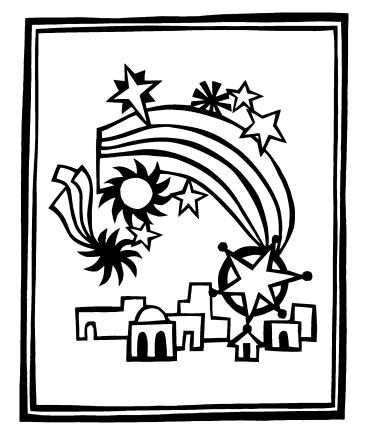
Traditional English

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness. Today we pray for: Kathy Cashin, Brian Conrad, Bruce Walker, Jan Sammelson, Jane McNaughton, Lana Tiede, Debbie Tuvey, George Tuvey, Nels Tuvey, Debra Jacobs, Sandy Rader, Kris Schepers, Karen O., Jeannie C, JoAnn Metzger, and others we name in our hearts *An intentional moment of silence* We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. We pray also for the family and friends of Gloria Conrad now mourning her passing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

While respecting the wishes of the other, you are welcome to share Christ's peace with one another by shaking of hands or a sign of peace.

OFFERING

OFFERING CAROL

Good King Wenceslas

Piae Cantiones

A word about 'The Offering' The offering is an important part of Christian worship. In all other parts of the liturgy we receive from God forgiveness, love, peace and hope. In the offering we actively participate in God's grace by giving. The Offering Cards available in the pew racks are for you to place in the offering plate as a representation of your financial contributions given electronically and of your non-financial generosity. Your offerings, offering cards, and pledge cards may be placed in the offering plates as passed. These are then presented to God as your weekly offering.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion Note:

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Communion will be served in continuous fashion as directed by the Ushers. Wafers, wine (red) and grape juice (white) are offered. Anyone choosing to not commune is welcome to come forward and receive a blessing. If you would like communion brought to you in the pew, please let an Usher know.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ nourish you, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

CAROL

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

African-American Spiritual

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.**

CAROLS FOR SENDING

Deck the Hall (vv. 1 & 3) We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Traditional Welsh Traditional English

We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas, And a happy new year!

Good tidings to you wherever you are; Good tidings for Christmas and a happy new year!



The First Noel

ELW 300



Text: English traditional Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840–1901

GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN GOD REST YOU MERRY Verses 1. God rest you mer - ry, gen-tle-men, Let noth-ing you dis - may; 2. From God our heav'n-ly Fa - ther A bless-ed an-gel came, 3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth-ing you af - fright; to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this place, 4. Now 1. Re-mem-ber Christ our Sav - ior Was born on Christ-mas Day cer - tain shep - herds Brought tid-ings of 2. And un - to the same, 3. This day is born Sav - ior Vir-gin pure and bright, а Of 4. And with true love and char-i - ty Each oth - er now em - brace; To save us all from Sa-tan's pow'r When we were gone 1. a - stray. 2. How that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by name. him From Sa-tan's pow'r and might." 3. To free all those who trust in 4. This ho - ly tide of Christ -Is filled with heav'n-ly mas grace. Refrain 0 tid - ings of com fort and joy, Com-fort and _ 0 tid fort and joy; ings of joy. com _

Text: 86 86 86 with refrain; trad. English carol, 18th cent. Music: Trad. English carol; melody fr. *Little Book of Christmas Carols,* ca. 1846.

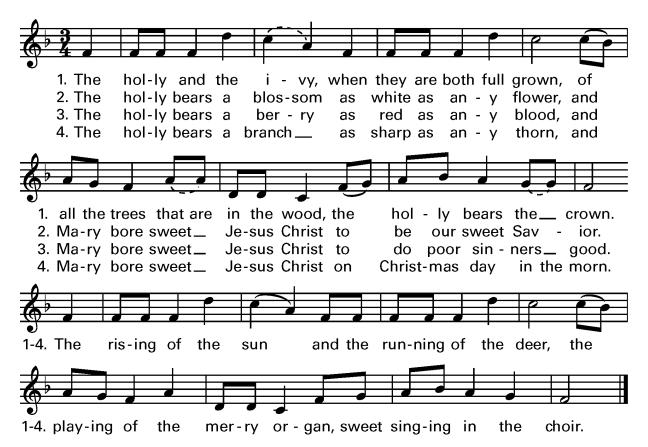


Words: Robert Croo, 16th c. *Music:* English melody; harm. Martin Shaw, 1875–1958 Music harm. © 1928 Oxford University Press

England 8.6.8.6. (C.M.) and refrain COVENTRY CAROL

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

Traditional English Carol



Good King Wenceslas

John Mason Neale, 1853

13th Century Spring Carol

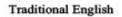


Public Domain Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™

Go Tell It on the Mountain



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt. Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual



Traditional Welsh



This edition @ Andrew Sims 2014

St. John's Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Our Mission:

Fueled by Christ's redeeming love, St. John's is called into a joyful life of welcoming hospitality, grace-filled worship, transformational relationships, and Gospel-driven service in the world.

Our Core Values:

Welcoming Celebrating and caring for all people. Our doors are open. You belong. Come as you are.

Worshiping Gathering together to joyfully thank God in prayer and praise for Jesus, who calls us, centers us, and sends us into the world.

Healing Reflecting God's unconditional grace and love by walking together through the joys and pains of life.

Serving Gratefully responding to the needs of the world with the abilities God has gifted us.

Our Vision for the Future:

A vibrant community living faith boldly

WORSHIP NOTES

- Worship is at 10 a.m. Sunday mornings in person and online
 Live on YouTube (link posted on St. John's Facebook page and website).
- Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday.
- Nursery care is available upstairs in Grace Place, 9:30-12:30 on Sunday mornings.
- Activities for children are available at the back of the sanctuary in Grace Space.
- Fellowship time is offered each Sunday following worship.

The Offering is an important part of Christian worship. In addition to placing your offering in the plate, you may also contribute offerings to the ministries of St. John's by:

- TEXT the word 'Give' to 612-800-0444 and follow the prompts, or
- **MAIL** your check to:

St. John's Lutheran Church 4842 Nicollet Ave Minneapolis, MN 55419

St. John's 'Guest' WiFi pw: #MartinLuther

St. John's has a new website!

The web address remains the same, <u>www.stjohnsmpls.org</u>. The worship bulletin, *Messenger, Mini-Messenger and Ministry Minute* can all be found under What's New/News & Events. The bulletin can also be found on the Worship/Stream worship online page.

Readings for Sunday, January 7

Mark 2:1-22 (Psalm 103:6-14)

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Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister: Pastor Mark Tiede

Musicians: Ann Paulson, piano Edith Bohardt, recorder

Assisting Minister: Andy Dosdall

Communion Preparer: *Elizabeth* Roe

Usher: Lori Johnson

Videographer: *Matthew Tiede*

Media Volunteers: Dylan Noaman Eleanor Nervig Sam Nervig

Offering Counters: Elizabeth Roe Deborah Dunham

Fellowship Hosts: Beth McAllister Susan Zabel

Church Council

President: Jennifer Burdick Vice President: Rick Falcon Secretary: Bonnie Conrad Treasurer: JoAnn Christoferson At Large: Deborah Dunham Sharon Koschak Anne Nervig <u>St. John's Staff</u> Pastor: *Mark Tiede* Organist/ Minister of Music: *Peder Flaten* Cross+Generational

Ministry Director Edith Bohardt

Nursery Attendant Diane Harayda

Assistant for Ministry Ann Paulson

Office Volunteer: Deborah Dunham

Bookkeeper: David Roinas

Media/Marketing

Specialist:

Matthew Tiede

Custodians: Joseph Sahai (Day) Manuela Solorzano (Sunday)

Dir. of Child Care Center *Tina Shear* Chi Rho Center Manager *Dave Helm*

Ministry Teams

Administration Chi Rho Child Care Center Community & Neighborhood Cross+Generational Facilities Foundation Music Series Worship

Website:

www.stjohnsmpls.org Facebook: https:// www.facebook.com/ StJohnsMpls Contact: communications@ stjohnsmpls.org; 612-827-4406

Our Life Together

Today-New Year's Eve Fellowship following worship (FH) St. John's Council, 11:15 a.m. (Lounge) Monday, January 1- Happy New Year! Tuesday, January 2 St. John's Staff meeting, 10 a.m. (Lounge) Wednesday, January 3 St. John's Choir, 6:45 p.m. (FH) Thursday, January 4 Holy Conversations, 10 a.m. (Lounge) Chi Rho Committee, 6 p.m. (Zoom) Saturday, January 6—Epiphany Minneapolis Brass, 9 a.m. (Sanctuary) Next Sunday, January 7 Worship—Service of Holy Communion, 10 a.m. in person & online; nursery available Grace Place learning, 11:15 a.m. (top floor) Fellowship following worship (FH)

ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL will meet today at 11:15 a.m. in the Lounge.

OUR STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES are an important help in planning for St. John's 2024 ministry year. You may still offer a pledge if you wish in person, by mail or online through St. John's website at 'Give/Make your 2024 Pledge.' Thank you!