



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Celtic Evensong
with
Holy Communion

The First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022 at 5:30 pm

You are welcome at
St. George's Church:
Regardless of race,
nationality,
sexual orientation,
gender expression,
or tradition.

Welcome to St. George's!

View Our Complete Weekly
Worship Schedule on our Website:
StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/worship

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, we are glad you are here. We hope you will find comfort in the beauty of the worship and encouragement in your personal faith journey.

New to St. George's?

Thank you for joining us today!

You can use this bulletin to follow along with the worship service. We use liturgies from the red *Book of Common Prayer*. Hymns are from the blue *Hymnal 1982* and green *Wonder, Love, and Praise*. All are located in your pew. Watch fellow worshippers for when to stand or sit, and please only do what is comfortable for you.

We'd love to get to know you and help get you connected with our parish ministries, formation, and fellowship groups.



Visit StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/connect or scan the QR code and we'll be in touch. You can also fill out the Newcomer Card in your pew and drop it in the offering plate.

Our rector (lead priest), Rev. Joe Hensley, would welcome the chance to speak with you. Please introduce yourself after the worship service. You can also contact him at: joe.hensley@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Thank You for Your Generous Gifts!

Your financial gifts fund our ministries so we may show the Love of God to all. This month your gifts have helped:

- Form followers of Christ through new offerings for children, youth, and adults
- Plan and prepare our annual Advent Workshop



You can make a financial gift:

- **In-person:** place gift in collection plate in the aisle.
- **Online - one-time or recurring:** StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/giving. Or scan the QR code.
- **Text:** Send a text message with the dollar amount [e.g. \$50] to: 540.701.4133)

You can also mail a check to the church office:
P.O. Box 7127
Fredericksburg, VA 22404 Thank you!

Formation for All Ages: Sundays at 10 am

One way we explore our spirituality is through learning - be it presentations, reading, or even talking with one another during coffee hour.

In lieu of Formation today, all are invited to attend our Advent Workshop for All Ages in Sydnor Hall. See the announcement in this bulletin for more information.

Nursery with Amy and Ballu

Nursery care is available for little ones ages 0 - 4 years old during the 9 am and 11:15 am worship services and the 10 am formation hour. Please see an usher for directions to the nursery.

Children

Montessori-based faith exploration

Age 3 - K: Godly Play, a Montessori-based program of stories, wondering, and expressive art or play. In the Godly Play room of the Preschool floor.

Grades 1 - 2: Seasons of the Spirit, an interdenominational program that follows the same schedule of readings used in church, with age-appropriate story and crafts. In the large Preschool room

Grades 3 - 5: Seasons of the Spirit, adapted for older children. In the Youth area on the 3rd floor.

View staff directory on our website:
StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/staff
Or call the church office: 540.373.4133

Youth

An inclusive, welcoming community
Youth Café: Middle schoolers and high schoolers meet up with adult leaders in the small side of Sydnor. We travel in two groups to nearby cafés or rooms in the church for conversation and are back by 11 am.
Youth Group meets for fellowship 5 - 7 pm Sundays on the Youth Floor

Adults

Forum presentation in Sydnor Hall
Meeting ID: 857 9269 1981
Dial in: 301.715.8592
No passcode is needed for this meeting.

Questions about formation offerings?

General inquiries:
Church Office - 540.373.4133
office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Children: age 3 - 5th grade
Rev. Dr. Rosemary Beales
rosemary@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Youth: 6th - 12th grade
Rev. Will Dickinson
will.dickinson@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Young Adults: age 18 - 45
Rev. Ethan Lowery
missioner@thehousefxbg.org

The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

from the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP), *Enriching Our Worship*, and forms of prayer from around the world.

We invite you to prepare for worship by observing silence or taking time for private prayer. Please take a moment to silence cell phones and alarms. We are glad you are here!

We welcome you to this service, whether you have been here often or if this is your first time. Please use this bulletin as your guide to participate. Please note the announcements about ways to connect and upcoming events. May this time of worship and prayer be a blessing to you.

Prelude

One minute of silence follows the prelude. Please rise or rise in spirit at the ringing of the bell.

Opening Reading: "A Grateful Heart"

St. Isaac of Ninevah

Be at peace with your own soul,
then heaven and earth will be at peace with you.
Enter eagerly into the treasure house that is within you,
you will see the things that are in heaven;
for there is but one single entry to them both.
The ladder that leads to the Kingdom is hidden within your soul...
Dive into yourself, and in your soul you will discover
the stairs by which to ascend.

Hymn 56 (st. 1 - 2): "O come, O come Emmanuel"

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

Gather in God's Name

A Prayer for the Evening

Officiant: In the quiet of this place;

All: We wait and watch;

Officiant: In the stillness of the soul;

All: Our hearts awaken to you;

Officiant: For new showings of light;

All: We search in your spirit, O God.

Officiant: Loving God, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the Breaking of Bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God

The Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 24:36 - 44

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: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

All: Thanks be to God.

Silence is observed after the reading

Meditation

the Rev. William S. Dickinson

Two minutes of silence will follow.

Music for Meditation

Pray for the World and the Church

Please stand.

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Officiant: Almighty God, you promise to hear us when we pray in Jesus' name. Therefore in confidence we lift up our prayers for ourselves and others.

Leader 1: We pray for those who work through the power of Christ, all who serve others, and all who proclaim justice.

Officiant: God of new life,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 2: We pray for those who are sick, who are alone, who seek after you; may your Spirit enfold them, and encourage us to offer our care.

Officiant: God of new life,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 1: We pray for the earth, your Creation, that we might love and serve it as much as it loves and serves us.

Officiant: God of new life,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 2: We pray for those who have been asked to forgive, and we pray for those who need our forgiveness.

Officiant: God of new life,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 1: We pray for those whom we love but see no longer; that angels may guide us all into the paths of peace.

Officiant: God of new life,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 2: We pray to those new to us, and those long known to us; may we grow into the people you long for us to be.

Officiant: God of new life,

All: Hear our prayer.

Officiant: Spirit of God, you have given us grace to lift our common prayer to you; hear now our own prayers in the quiet of our hearts and in the light of candles, and help us hear your promised answer. **Amen.**

If you like, please come forward during the music and light a candle as an embodied symbol of your prayer. Please help us to keep a bit of distance between one another.

Music for Meditation

"Wait for the Lord"

Taize

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart.

Officiant: Let us pray, alternating sides of the church, beginning on this side (lectern/north):

Lectern/north side: Eternal Spirit Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Pulpit/south side: source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all.

Lectern: Loving God, in whom is heaven,

Pulpit: the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

Lectern: The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth!

Pulpit: Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Lectern: Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

Pulpit: With the bread we need for today, feed us.

Lectern: In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

Pulpit: In times of temptation and test, spare us.

Lectern: From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

Pulpit: For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen.

Exchange the Peace

Officiant: Christ has broken down the dividing wall and has proclaimed peace and wholeness to those who are far off and to those who are near. My siblings, brothers, and sisters, the Peace of our Savior Jesus Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

All are now invited to exchange a sign of peace.

Prepare the Table

As we prepare to make Eucharist, the holy feast of thanksgiving and grace, we present ourselves and our gifts to God and remember that Jesus said, "Abide in my love...I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

It is a joy to gather together this evening, and we especially welcome anyone who is visiting or here for the first time. Please see more information in the bulletin notes and feel free to introduce yourself after the service. There are also printed instructions about receiving communion or a blessing.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. As the table is prepared, we invite you to consider a gift in support of our ministry within and beyond our congregation. Make your offering online (<http://bit.ly/stggive>), in the alms basin provided in the aisle, or by mail to the church. Please note the announcements at the rear of this bulletin. For the latest updates and messages of encouragement, check our website (StGeorgesEpiscopal.net) and subscribe to our email newsletter (<http://bit.ly/stgenews>).

Music for Meditation

Make Eucharist *Please stand.*

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And with your spirit

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to highest heaven.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds:

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea, and sky, we sing to you.

With the angels of light who envelop us, with all the saints before and beside us, with brothers, sisters, and siblings east and west, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant proceeds:

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and gave it to them saying:

Together

"This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me."

So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it and gave it to them saying:

Together

"This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me."

Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, and make us whole.

And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

All this we ask through Jesus, our brother: with him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be to you, O God, all honor and glory forever. **Amen**

Celebrant: I invite us to pray as Jesus taught his disciples:

People and Celebrant:

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 for ever. Amen.

Break the Bread

"Emmanuel"

Ralph R. Stewart

all echo the cantor

**Emmanuel, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Emmanuel, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Emmanuel, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.**

Celebrant: This is the table, not simply of the Church, but of our God. It is made ready for those who love God and those who want to love more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is God who invites you. It is God's will that you should meet Love here.

All are welcome at St. George's to receive communion. Please come forward and approach the altar rail, kneeling if you wish. Receive the bread with your hands over each other, palms up. You may then receive the wine if you wish, by taking a sip or intincting (dipping). If you require a gluten free wafer, please hold out your hands palms down or make your need known. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead, please cross your arms over your chest. After, please return to your pew by the side aisle.

Music during Communion

After Communion

Please stand.

Blessed be God who calls us together.

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Accept our thanks for all you have done.

Our hands were empty, and you filled them.

The Blessing

And now may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Holy, Blessed, and Undivided Trinity, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go into the World

Hymn 54: "Savior of the nations, come"

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

The Dismissal

Officiant: Go into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Acknowledgments

The Opening Reading by St. Isaac of Ninevah. Worship materials gratefully reproduced from *Iona Community Worship Book* (2001), *Book of Common Prayer* (1979), *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1997), and *Enriching Our Worship* (1998).

Announcements

For the latest news and events,
sign up for our weekly e-newsletter,
The St. Georgian:
StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/enews

Giving Tuesday is November 29!

Mark your calendars for Nov. 29 and support our market-style food pantry, The Table for Giving Tuesday. We will have donate buttons on The Table Facebook page and St. George's website. You can also send a check payable to St. George's with "The Table" in the memo line (P.O. Box 7127, Fredericksburg, VA 22404) or you can text 540.701.4133 with the message: Funds. On Nov. 29, we will have a Donation Station set up in front of Faulkner Hall, 9 am - 2 pm. Stop by, say hello, and see The Table in action!

The Consecration of Bishop-elect Mark Stevenson, December 3

The 14th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia will be consecrated at a special service on Saturday, December 3, at 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Baptist Church in Henrico. The entire Diocese is invited to witness this moment in person or online. Registration is appreciated for those planning to attend in person. You can find more information here.

Micah Street Church Lessons and Carols Service - December 6 5:30 -6:30 p.m. Market Square

Join our neighbors from Micah Ecumenical Ministries congregations and the Micah Street Church congregation for cookies, hot chocolate, and a service of seasonal lessons and carols, led by Street Church members.

Calling All Stars...

...(and angels, shepherds, magi, prophets, and animals)! Our first, organizing rehearsal for our Christmas Eve Pageant will be held at 11:00 am on Sunday, December 4 (right after the formation hour). Parents are invited to assist, but may also choose to attend the 11:15 service, or just go out for coffee. We'll be in the Youth Room (3rd floor) for about an hour as we check out costumes, assign roles, and imagine! Our second (final) rehearsal will be Saturday, December 17 at 3 pm. All children and youth are welcome, whether enrolled in our Sunday School or not. For more information, contact the Rev. Rosemary Beales (rosemary@stgeorgesepiscopal.net).

Tuesday Evening Book Group at 7:15 pm via Zoom

Our Tuesday book group will be reading and discussing *The True Meaning of Christmas: The Birth of Jesus and the Origins of the Season* by Michael Barber. The discussion will span 4 weeks, beginning on November 29th and concluding on December 20th. The first week's discussion will cover Chapters 1-3. Please contact John Graham (jrgraham355@gmail.com or 540.907.6521) or Dennis Hardy (kashardy@gmail.com or 540.548.4575) with questions. New members can provide their email address and will be sent a link to join the discussion.

Announcements

For the latest news and events,
sign up for our weekly e-newsletter,
The St. Georgian:
StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/enews

Advent Workshop Today!

Join us at 10 am today for our the return of our Advent Workshop – come for some snacks, crafts and stories for children, and supplies to create your own Advent wreath to ring in the season! Suggested donation is \$10. The workshop takes the place of Adult, Youth, and Children's formation.

Christmas Craft Faire at The House

The House campus and young adult ministries are hosting a holiday open house and fundraiser on Sunday December 4, from 12 - 3 pm at The House (820 College Ave). Available for sale will be a variety of homespun art, crafts, holiday decor, and other wares. Pricing will be flexible and your generosity is encouraged to support the work of welcoming young adults in Fredericksburg into the lives of our church communities. A few higher ticket items will also be available for silent auction. Rest assured that The House will smell like Christmas tree and cinnamon and vanilla, Mariah Carey will be playing on repeat, and we will be there to welcome you into our special little space. Got questions or want to offer your support as we prepare? Email Fr. Ethan (missioner@thehousefxbg.org).

Santa Snacks, Dec 3

Our Youth are selling concessions during the Fredericksburg Christmas Parade! Stop by for a snack when you're downtown. Proceeds will be split between Micah Ecumenical Ministries and scholarships for our Youth Winter Weekend.

Advent Devotional

The Rev. Ethan Lowery, our young adult missionary, has compiled entries for each day of the Advent season, focused on the theme of "rest" with reflections by parishioners and clergy of St. George's, Trinity Episcopal, and Christ Lutheran Church. Hard copies will be available this Sunday and daily posts will be shared on The House's Facebook page.

Gratitude Offering

You can make a gift in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one or for the blessings in your life. Give online or mail a check to the church, designating your memorial/thanksgiving. We will publish memorials in the church bulletin and newsletter for Christmas services. Paper forms will be mailed and online giving forms available via our website later this week.

Today's Altar Arrangement:

is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Lt. Colonel and Mrs. John H. Irving and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer C. Roth, by Bryn and Dick Roth.

St. George's Prayer List

For the most up-to-date list of prayers and thanksgivings, sign up to receive our email prayer list: StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/signup

Regarding the Prayer List:

We strive to extend the power of the congregation's prayer to those who feel they would benefit from its embrace.

Please submit prayer requests in writing to office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Names remain on the list for 1 month.

Our leadership:

For our bishops, Justin, Michael, and Susan; our Bishop-elect, Mark; for Joe, Will, Rosemary, and Ethan, our clergy; for those who are priests and pastors in our community; for our staff—John, Ben, Jan, Nicholas, Amy, Danielle, Lisa, Achim, Laurel, Barbara, Michael, and Riley; and for our Vestry.

Those recently born:

Madeline Imada Blose, daughter of Matthew and Leilani Blose; Gwendolyn Rose Rasmussen, granddaughter of Peggy Mathias and Peter Rasmussen

Those who have died:

Maher Soltan, brother of Gamal Soltan; Betsy Friedberg, aunt of Brooke Di Lauro; Ruby Benson Bacon, grandmother of Caroline Pritchard; William Woolls Schultz, father of Mary Woolls; Pat Brown, father of Shelby Gleason; Charlena Kunkler, mother of Jason Kunkler; *Paris Swisher, granddaughter of David and Shirley Swisher*

Those serving our country overseas:

Matthew Martinez, Jeff Bryant

Those attending seminary:

Kris Rose (formerly Boyd)

Those homebound:

Betty Stephens, Betty Saunders, Cornelia Bryant

Those in convalescence:

Al Sharp, Martha Hearn, Daureen Perdue, *Susan Harrison*

Those with ongoing concerns:

Arya Holmes; Dick Roth; Molly Myers; Deepak Dey; Danielle and Sandi Davis; Randy Donaldson, June Filmore, Martha and Sarah Turner

Those needing God's grace:

John Vaaler and Mina Sabik; Hrvoje, Snjezana, and Noel Ljubicic; Theo Nemeth; Rose Rubino; Jay Fuller; Claire Simpson

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

in celebration of the Ordination and Consecration of the XIV Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Diocese of Ideato - The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Our Partners: St. George's Episcopal Preschool; Notre Dame Parish and School (Port-au-Prince, Haiti), Père Frantz Cole; The House college chaplaincy and young adult ministry; SAWs Virginia; Rev. Ōshin Jennings, No Barriers Zen Temple; Micah Ecumenical Ministries; Our Little Roses - Honduras

Serving This Sunday

Thank you to our worship leaders serving today. If you would like to volunteer, contact the church office: office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Preacher:

the Rev. William S. Dickinson

Officiant:

Marilyn Farrington

Chalice Bearers:

Marilyn Farrington
Jack Farrington

Reader:

John Graham

Greeter:

Jack Farrington

Usher:

John Graham

Prayers:

Diane Bachman
Sarah Bachman

Candle Setup:

Marilyn Farrington

Musicians:

Michael Cooper-Smyth, tin whistle;
Jon Bachman, guitar;
Trip Lloyd, voice;
Achim Loch, piano
