



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Holy Eucharist

Rite I - 8:00 am

The Second Sunday after Christmas
January 4, 2026

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

Welcome to St. George's!

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

Whether you are worshiping 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 based in 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 worshipers 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. **Families with children:** Nursery services are available during the 9 am and 11:15 am services in the preschool. Please see an usher for directions.



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 (senior pastor), Rev. Joe Hensley, would welcome the chance to meet you, either after the worship service or via email: 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:

- Nurture new believers in their faith through baptism and formation.
- Support immigrants in our community with friendship, resources, and food.
- Support parishioners who are starting new ministries to help neighbors in our community.

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)

- **Automated bank withdrawal** (contact our parish finance manager, Kevin Carey, to arrange this)

- **Paypal:** www.paypal.com/paypalme/stgeorgesfxbg

- **Mail:** P.O. Box 7127, Fredericksburg, VA 22404



Walking Together

Pastoral Care at St. George's is a ministry of the clergy and the laity. By walking with each other through times of joy and times of sorrow, the love of Christ is revealed.

Prayer Ministers are available to pray with you during our worship services and outside of worship times on the phone. Our Prayer Group provides intercessory prayer weekly. Our One Body Response Team (OBRT) offers prayers, sends cards, and responds to other needs as able.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) are available to bring Holy Communion to the homebound.

Our Wednesday Noon Eucharist service in the nave includes prayers for healing and anointing.

Prayer Shawls are available upon request. These mantles of healing and comfort are made by our ministry teams.

If you need support or encouragement, please consider reaching out to our church office (540.373.4133; office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net). You may also contact clergy directly to make an appointment.

If you have a pastoral care emergency (death, serious illness, or other crisis) and need to speak with clergy, please call or text 540.361.8573 to reach clergy on call.

Land and Labor Acknowledgment

We give thanks for the land which God created as a precious gift. We honor the Indigenous peoples who long knew the land of our parish more than 10,000 years before it was established over 300 years ago, including the Patowomeck and Rappahannock Tribes who still live here. Please see our website for the full text of our land acknowledgement.

We also honor the people of African descent whose enslaved labor supported the parish for the first half of its history. Rooted in the Gospel, repentant of sin, we are nurturing faith and seeking justice, healing, and repair of relationships amid the complexity of our times.

The Second Sunday after Christmas January 4, 2026

from the red Book of Common Prayer
(BCP)

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!

Celebrant: Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Collect for Purity

BCP 323

Summary of the Law

BCP 324

Gloria

BCP 324

The Word of God

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect of the Day

BCP 160

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Jeremiah 31:7-14 *New Revised Standard Version*

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 84: 1-8**BCP 707****Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a** *New Revised Standard Version*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke 2:41-52 NRSV

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Pass-over. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Deacon or Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Anne-Tillery Melson
Wake Forest Divinity School Senior

The Nicene Creed

BCP 326

Prayers of the People

BCP 383

The Confession

BCP 330

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

All are now invited to exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory

Celebrant: As we prepare the altar to receive the offering of Christ in the sacrament, we make our offerings in gratitude for God's abundant grace. Please see the instructions later in the bulletin about participating in Communion or receiving a blessing. Know that you are most welcome. Thank you for sharing your gifts in commitment to God and to our ministry together. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God (Ephesians 5:2). *You can make your offering in the plate as you come forward for communion or send your offering electronically, by mail, or by automated bank withdrawal. See details on the inside cover of this bulletin for an easy to use QR code. Thank you!*

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer I	BCP 333
Sanctus + Benedictus	BCP 341
The Lord's Prayer	BCP 336
The Breaking of the Bread	BCP 337
O Lamb of God, Prayer of Humble Access	BCP 337

Invitation to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All who desire it are invited to receive either Communion or a blessing. Communion is the sacramental body and blood of Jesus Christ received in bread and wine blessed by the Holy Spirit.

- *Proceed forward when prompted (notify an usher if you need to receive at your seat)*
- *To receive the bread, hold your hands out, palms up.*
- *To receive the wine, sip from the cup (a.k.a. chalice) or point to the cup for the bread to be dipped by the minister.*
- *Gluten-free? Hold your hands palms down, then take the wafer from the separate container when offered. Ask for the gluten-free cup if preferred.*
- *To receive a blessing (prayed by the minister), cross your arms over your chest.*

Receiving just the bread or just the wine is a full and valid participation.

For more information about participation in the sacraments of Holy Communion or Holy Baptism, contact the clergy.

The Prayer After Communion	BCP 339
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The Blessing

Announcements

Please see announcements in the front and rear of the bulletin and information about our weekly newsletter.

Hymn 84: "Love Came Down at Christmas"	<i>Gartan</i>
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The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord

The congregation responds **Thanks be to God!**

Worship and Formation

No matter where you are on your faith journey, there's a place for you here.

Upcoming Worship

Tues., Jan. 6: Epiphany Worship and chili dinner: 6.30 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church

Sun., Jan. 26: Combined worship and Annual Parish Meeting at 10 am

New Sunday Worship Schedule

Today we begin a new Sunday schedule

- **8 am:** Holy Eucharist (Communion), Rite I, spoken
- **8.45 am:** Coffee, refreshments, and fellowship
- **9 am:** Christian Formation for All Ages.
- **10 am:** Holy Eucharist. This service is also livestreamed via YouTube Live.
- **11-ish am:** Coffee, refreshments, and fellowship
- **5:30 pm:** Celtic Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays:

12 pm: Rite II Eucharist with prayers for healing and anointing

Daily Office:

The Daily office (Morning and Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer) is offered on Zoom and led by a group of lay persons on Mon., Wed., and Fri. at 8 am and 5:30 pm.

Meeting ID: 890 4918 9545

Passcode: 638538

Dial in: +1 301 715 8592

Formation for All Ages Resumes Jan 4 Adults

Our new schedule on Sundays at 9 am includes a forum for adults on a variety of faith topics (meet in Sydnor Hall) and classes for children and youth (see below). Come early to visit and grab something to eat or drink before we get started.

Young Adults (18 - 45)

Our Young Adult Missioner, Rev. Ethan Lowery, leads a range of activities - both spiritual and social for college age students and older. To get involved, contact Rev. Ethan at: missioner@thehousefxbg.org.

Youth (6th - 12th Grade)

Youth group meets on 1st and 3rd Sundays from 5 - 7 pm for dinner, community and fun. Contact Rev. Rock to learn more: rock.higgins@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Youth Formation

Sunday mornings at 9 am, youth grades 6-12 meet with adult leaders on the youth floor for conversation and fellowship.

Children (pre-K - 5th grade)

Sundays at 9 am, children learn about our story as God's people in Godly Play (pre-K-2nd grade) and SPLASH (grades 3-5) classes. Contact stephanie.dolezal@stgeorgesepiscopal.net to learn more.

Mark Your Calendars

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

New Worship Schedule Begins Jan. 4

Beginning today we are changing our Sunday morning schedule. Please see previous page.

Feast of the Epiphany with Trinity

We will celebrate The Epiphany (the visitation of the Magi to the baby Jesus) on Tues, Jan 6, at 6:30 pm with our fellow Episcopalians at Trinity Church (825 College Ave Fredericksburg). The service begins at 6:30 at the church doors and moves to a chili dinner, followed by the Eucharist in the church.

Annual Meeting: January 25, 2026

All members of the St. George's family are invited to our annual meeting Sun., Jan. 25 during the 10 am worship service. We will select four new vestry members and hear brief reports about our ministries and our finances. Please watch for announcements in the bulletin, e-newsletter, and your email.

Shrove Tuesday Returns

Our annual Mardi Gras celebration returns Feb 17 with red beans and rice, pancakes, music, and more! Stay tuned for more information. To volunteer, please email: fellowship@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Baptism of Jesus Sunday January 11

We will baptize several new members into the Body of Christ on this special Sunday at the 10 am service. Come support them and be blessed by their faithful witness.

St. George's Preschool

Priority registration for the 2025-2026 school year begins Jan. 12, for current, alumni and parish families. Our Silent Auction returns in February. We are collecting art, hand-crafted items, experiences, and other unique collectibles to offer for bid. For more info, contact Danielle Davis (danielle@stgeorgesepiscopal.net).

Baptism and Confirmation

Baptism is formal initiation into the Christian faith. We will offer baptism for adults, youth, and children Jan. 11, Apr. 4 (Easter Vigil) and 12, and May 24 (Pentecost). Bishop Mark Bourlakis will visit St. George's on Mar. 8 to offer the sacrament of confirmation, the reaffirmation of Baptism, as well as reception into the Episcopal Church for those already confirmed in other traditions. Please contact the Rev. Rock Higgins to learn more or express interest in these sacraments
rock.higgins@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Becoming Disciples:

The Episcopal Way Course

Our Rector, the Rev. Joe Hensley, is leading an expanded version of this course on what it means to follow Christ in the Episcopal Church. The course continues in January (time tba). The course is designed to have something for everyone, from those who are brand new to those who have been lifelong Episcopalians. For more information or to sign up:
joe.hensley@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

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. All new additions listed in italics.

Our leadership:

For our bishops, Sean, Mark, Gayle, and Mark; for Joe, Rock and Ethan, our clergy; for those who are priests and pastors in our community; for our staff—Laurel, Jake, Kevin, Danielle, Barbara, Achim, Riley, Amy, Juliann, and Stephanie; and for our Vestry.

Those needing God's grace:

Dennis and Cindy Sale, Debbie Lore, Jim Davis, Barbara Deal, Teresa Gordon, Stacy Glessner, Abraham Cochin, Alec Benso, Mary Miller, Martha Wilson, Douglas Ferris, Dao Arthur, Sharon Gibson, Marcia Kole, Dan King, Donna Daniels, Kristen Schlee, Dave Schlee, Kevin Compton, Mark Steele, Rev. Aaron Dobyne, Zee Sprouse, Sue Hu (Mother of Stephen Hu), Cathy Powers

Those in convalescence:

Joyce Snead, Gunnar Burns, Peter Bumsted, Ellen Sharp, Vicki Harrison, Jim Lewis, Ron Coen

Those expecting children:

Paola and David Stever, Emma and Alberto Means; Captain Charles Lewis and Olivia Lewis, Julia and Lawson Creekmore

Those recently born:

Jovie May Glasheen (granddaughter of Julie and John Simpson)

Those who have died:

Betty Stephens, Jeannie Klein (sister-in-law of Beth Klein), Betty Jo Bloodgood, Charles Hill (father of Valerie Hill), Loriane (mother of Joanna Catron)

Those recently married:

Ann Bernardi and Rick Applegate (Dec 13)

Those attending seminary:

Anne-Tillery Melson, John Hager

Those serving our country overseas:

Jeff Bryant, Travis Weber, Avery Endler

Those with ongoing concerns:

Arya Holmes, Dick Roth, Molly Myers, Randy Donaldson, Martha and Sarah Turner, Claire Simpson, Paula Mullins, Logan Vaaler, Bill Marshall, Christina Shiel, Annette, Russ Carter, Ron Tebbutt, Betsy, Isobel Hornung, Janis Hales, Helen Taylor, Stephanie Cumming (step-daughter of Vicki Harrison), John Janney and family, Scott Fray, Bill Becker, Makai Kingston Bernardi Brown, Elizabeth Martel, Frank Rowe

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. Philip's, Richmond

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Anglican Church of Burund

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

Vestry

If you have questions or concerns,
please reach out to our Vestry
(elected lay leaders).

To reach the Vestry, please email: vestry@stgeorgesepiscopal.net. To reach an individual vestry member, please contact the church office at office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net or 540.373.4133.

Pete Kelly, 2025

Senior Warden

Kit Burns, 2027

Junior Warden

Brian Davis, 2025

Buildings and Grounds Warden

Brooke Di Lauro, 2025

Peggy Verdine, 2025

Katie Green, 2026

Gabi Kelly, 2026

Rogers Lawson, 2026

Jennifer Vaughan, 2026

Wendy Cannon, 2027

Robert Powers, 2027

Linda Wickersham, 2027

Peggy Mathias

Treasurer

Serving This Sunday

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

Clergy:

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr.

The Rev. Rock Higgins

Preachers:

The Rev. Rock Higgins

Lector:

Trip Wiggins

The Vestry is our elected, lay leadership council led by our Senior Warden Pete Kelly and our Junior Warden Kit Burns. The Vestry welcomes your questions, concerns, and feedback. Email them at: vestry@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

St. George's Episcopal Church

905 Princess Anne Street

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 7127

Fredericksburg, VA 22404

540.373.4133 (office)

Pastoral Emergencies:

540.361.8573 (call or text)

StGeorgesEpiscopal.net
