

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

The Rt. Rev. Gregory O. Brewer, Bishop

The Rev. Jabriel S. Ballentine, Rector

The Rev. Canon Nelson W. Pinder, Rector Emeritus



Sunday, December 24, 2013

Christmas Eve

Year A RCL

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist was established on April 18, 1896. We seek to maintain the fullness and richness of the Anglican tradition in its common life and worship; to witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the good news about God and life which is revealed in the Gospel. We seek to serve the community as a place of hope and love, and to reach out and touch those who need the enabling and empowering, the healing and forgiving grace of God.

A Note to Our Visitors

We welcome you to The Episcopal of St. John the Baptist with an extended hand and a joyful spirit! We are blessed by your visit, and we believe that God has directed our paths to intersect. Our meeting is not an accident but a divine appointment, so we want to express Christ's love to you with genuine warmth. We are delighted to know you and we are excited to share with you the marvelous ways in which God's hand is at work in our church. We believe you will discover that our fellowship is truly a family, rich in the relationships that matter most. Growing together, we worship, we serve, we laugh, we cry, we learn, and we reach out to our world with life-transforming truth. We reach out to you, as well. Our doors are open. Our hearts are open, too. If you're been thinking, praying, searching and hoping for a place to belong, we say again—Welcome!

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the mystical presence of Christ in this Holy Communion. To receive the Bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed. When receiving the Wine, please guide the chalice as it is offered. If you prefer not to drink from the common cup you may choose Intinction. The person administering the chalice will dip the Bread into the Wine and place it on your tongue. You may come for a prayer for God's blessing in lieu of receiving Holy Communion. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms on your chest. Ladies are encouraged to blot lipstick before receiving Communion.

In our worship we use *The Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) (red) and hymnals, *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (LEVAS II) and the *Episcopal Hymnal 1982* (blue). These books are located in the racks facing you on the back of the pew. Page numbers are identified in the service bulletin.



CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS

“O, Little Town of Bethlehem”

HYMNAL Page 79

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

HYMNAL Page 89

“Lo, how a Rose E'er Blooming”

HYMNAL Page 81

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL

The church is darkened when the service is to begin.

Celebrant: Light and Peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Celebrant

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. *John 1: 1-9*

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Lighting of the Candles

The Word was made flesh, * alleluia, alleluia.

The Word was made flesh, alleluia, alleluia.

And dwelt among us:

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The Word was made flesh, alleluia, alleluia.

V. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, alleluia.

R. God is the Lord; he has shined upon us, alleluia.

The Song of Mary *Magnificat* *Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Solemn Procession

V. Let us go forth in peace. Alleluia!
R. In the Name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia!

V. Behold, the dwelling of God is with creation.
R. He will dwell with us and we shall be His people.

V. God himself is with us. Alleluia!
R. Come let us adore Him. Alleluia!

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, you sent your only-begotten Son to take our human nature upon Him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Bless we pray, this crèche that it may be a sign of His humble birth; and grant that we who joyfully behold His appearing may be strengthened to greet Him when He comes again in glory; ever the same Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

SOLEMN EUCHARIST

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

HYMNAL Page 96

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Lector: A Reading from Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it

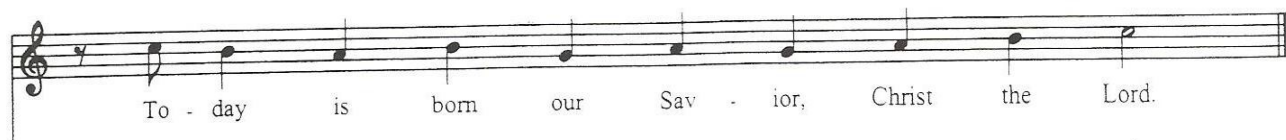
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

THE PSALM

Psalm 96: 1 - 4, 11- 12 *Based on ‘Vom Himmel hoch’ (H82—80)*



1. Sing to the LORD a new song; *
Sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
2. Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. [ANT.]
3. Declare his glory among the nations *
And his wonders among all peoples.
4. For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised. *
He is more to be feared than all gods. [ANT.]
11. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
Let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
Let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
12. Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the lord when he comes. *
When he come s to judge the earth. [ANT.]

THE EPISTLE

Lector: A Reading from Titus

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Please stand if able

THE GOSPEL

Celebrant:: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke

People: Glory be to you, Lord Christ.

Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Jabriel S. Ballentine

A period of silent reflection is kept

Leader Like pilgrim shepherds we have gathered tonight. Like children of royalty we have come together to celebrate the birth of true royalty.

People Our Savior comes to us as a babe, wrapped in swaddling cloths. He lays aside his crown, to dwell among us and share the joy and sorrow of our pilgrimage. He passes through the curtain around God's love and, holding it aside, invites us in.

Leader Oh, the humanity of God, the divinity of God’s children.

People What child is this? What love is this that seeks to share our burdens and lead us in on kindness towards a glory that is gentle and peaceful like a meadow in spring?

Leader O God, roll away the stone in our hearts and let our spirits soar into that realm where angels laugh, martyrs weep for joy, and God’ infinite love dances among the singing throngs of those who have gone before us.

People That we may know what has been accomplished in this child, that we may see the world as you see it, Lord, sanctified, cleansed, and sojourning towards a healing so great we are almost afraid to hope in it.

Leader On the night before his death, Jesus said to his disciples, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.” Now the risen Christ, in perfect joy, graciously invites us to join him at the table, to break and share the bread of life and lift with him the cup of salvation.

People O, Lord as we join you at your table on this sacred eve, accept us as we are, even in all our imperfections.

Leader Jesus says: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

People What shall we render to the Lord for all God’s bounty to us? We shall lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

All This Christmastide let our spirits so entwine that we form a wreath of joy, a circle of light from which God’s precious and fragile love will shine out into the darkness of this world and in to our own hearts. It is in th strong name of Jesus, who came to us as a child, that we ask this. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP Page 330

THE PEACE

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

St. John the Baptist Choir

PRESENTATION HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LEVAS II Page 83

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER Rite I

BCP Page 333-339

SANCTUS BENEDICTUS “Holy, Holy, Holy”

LEVAS II Page 252

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LEVAS II Page 264

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God"

LEVAS II Page 269

THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

*"O, Holy Night"
"Rise Up Shepherd and Follow"
"Away In A Manger"*

St. John the Baptist Choir
LEVAS II Page 24
HYMNAL Page 101

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, TRAVELS

THE BLESSING

THE WELCOME OF VISITORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

CLOSING HYMN

"Joy To The World"

HYMNAL Page 100

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

LECTORS & INTERCESSOR

**Miriam Henry
Crystal Priester
Lorraine Harris**

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

**Cynthia Hammonds
Norma Smith**

**Carolyn Morris, Organist
Sylvia Warren, Worship Leader**

**Ernest "Pete" Boyd, Musical Director
Roger Johnson, Verger**

ACOLTYES

**Deyone Romeo
Camden Acree
Deshawn Romeo
Omari Ballentine**

**Taylor Harris
Walker Harris
Avery Lewis
Evan Lewis
Miles Parr**

**Alexandria Musgray
Brian Musgray
Camuriel Parr
Sean Parr**

USHERS

**Heldon Ward
Roopchand Chandoo
Ken Beckles
Janet Pinder
Barbara Robinson**

**Nelson Pinder
Tracey Monroe
Judith Hayes
Eric Parr
Patricia Jones**

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2014. There will be one service at 10:00AM. All members in good standing are entitled to participation and encouraged to attend.

BRING YOUR BIBLE TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY

**THE CONGREGATION IS REQUESTED TO PRAY FOR
THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND CONFINED, ESPECIALLY**

Grace Burgess 220 Domino Dr., 32805 407-578-0322
Muriel Burgess, Health Center of Windermere 4875 Cason Cove Dr., 32811 407-420-2090
Ileane Jones, 14155 Town Center Blvd., 32837 407-851-1323
Florita McKenzie, 5900 West Gate Drive, 32835 407-422-0565
Nathaniel Williams, 2124 West Gore Street, 32805 407-292-2743
Carrie Lawrence 3401 Rogers Drive, 32805 407-293-1733
Pat Brooks and Dorothy Wilder, 6106 Bruhley Ct. 32809 407-345-0039
Conrad Gill, 5033 Wise Bird Drive, Windermere, FL 34786 407-654-4548

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Please use the envelope labeled "Christmas Offering" from your envelope box to make your special Christmas Offering. Each member is asked to contribute \$25. These funds will be earmarked and used to complete payment of our diocesan Fair Share. Thank you!

SERMON NOTES



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENERY



IN THANKSGIVING

GIVEN BY

*Congregation of The Episcopal Church of
St. John the Baptist*

Krim & Rosalie Ballentine

God's Many Blessings

Katherine Briggs

For Our Family

Hugh & Wilhelmina Burgess

God's Love, Grace & Mercy

Dr. Karen Adderly Clark

Our Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchild

Earl & Cynthia Hammonds

Our son Richard, as he goes into Ministry

Earl & Cynthia Hammonds

*God's Blessings given to the Henry, Humphries, Mitchell
and Johnson Families*

Gloria Henry

*The Life of Our Beloved - In Loving Memory
Mr. Willie B. Kimbrough, Mr. Albert W. Kimbrough,
Mrs. Pearlina K. Piner, Mrs. Odessa F. Kimbrough, Mr.
John P. Pinder, Mrs. Lonnie Harris, Mrs. Sue Maulsby*

Dr. Lorraine & Mr. Willie Harris

Clifford & the late Ruby Jackson, my parents

Krisita A. Jackson

Family & Friends

Pat Jones

God's Many Blessings

Lois Mitchell

Christmas

Valerie Petersen

Many Blessings

Alene Sanderson

God's Blessings

Joe & Jeanette Williams

God's Blessings

The Warren & Lawrence Families

My Lovely Wife, Edwina

Roopchand Chandoo

In Thanks to My Lord for His Love and Blessings

Mabel Butler

All God's Blessings

Freddie & Esther Stevenson

God's Blessing

Christine Rollins

Ken & Cassie Beckles and Family

Ken Beckles

God's Blessings

Cleve Geer

Blessings bestowed on family

Judith Hays



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENERY



IN MEMORIAM

GIVEN BY

*Lula B. Williams, Cornelius Boyd,
Margarita "Margo" Gonzalez Bellanger*

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Boyd

Life of Mr. & Mrs. Woodrow McKenzie

Barbara McKenzie Grant

*Deceased Members of the Nixon, Johnson and
Humphries Families*

Juanita Humphries

Henry W. Jettison

Gerry Jettison

Parents and Grandparents

Lee McElroy

Doris M. Lyle, forever in our hearts

Lee & Sylvia McElroy

*Deceased members of the McDonald, Hopkins and
Everette families*

Sylvia McElroy

Life of Tom Mitchell and Josh Floyd

Belverly Mitchell

William Bernard Richardson

Ernest & Shirley Bradley & Family

*Nichelle Elise Henderson, my daughter
Mr. & Mrs. Lowman J. Oliver II—Parents*

Faye Oliver Henderson

Patrick "Pete" Stanford

Janet Stanford

Clarence Braham

Hazel Braham

James B. Walker, Jr & Melrose Taylor Reeves

Joyce Taylor Walker

*Alcedos E. Lettsome, Jr.
Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather, Brother & Uncle*

Lydia Simmonds—Lettsome

The deceased family members of Bob & Miriam Henry

Bob & Miriam Henry

Yvonne Johnson

Dennis Johnson

Marge Jennings-Lewis & Ruth V. Jennings

Christopher Johnson & Diane J. Johnson

Johnny & Eloise Feagins

Dale Feagins

*Charles & Idell Smith
William D. & Pearl M. Prime*

Bill & Norma Smith



*The St. Anne's Altar Guild extends sincere thanks to you for
your offerings to support our service to God.*

*Your contributions given in Thanksgiving and In Memoriam
made it possible for our church to be festively adorned
for this Christmas season as we together celebrate the
birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.*

Members of St. Anne's Altar Guild

Cynthia Hammonds

Lois Mitchell

Ann Hill

Lela Andrews

Judith Hays

Katherine Briggs

Barbara Grant

Jeanette Williams

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*Your flower offerings for 2014 are now being accepted.
Please sign up on the charts in the Pinder Parish Hall
to place flowers on the altar to celebrate your birthday,
anniversary or any other occasion in your life.*



ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN YEARS OF FAITHFULNESS ...



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist was established on April 18, 1896 in a four room house on the corner of Terry St. and Pine St. in Orlando, FL.

During our 117 year existence, we have become known for a rich history of a blend of Anglican but contemporary family friendly liturgical worship. Our modern sanctuary is graced with a series of twelve African American inspired stained glass windows including representations of St. John the Baptist and window etched renditions of the beasts of the four Gospels.

Whether you are a resident of Central Florida or a visitor to the area, we invite you to visit and participate in our worship and various opportunities for fellowship. Our ministries include weekly Bible Study, a Young Adults Spiritual Focus Group, Men's Fellowship, the Episcopal Church Women and The Order of The Daughters of the King. Our outreach ministries provide a weekly distribution of groceries through our Food Pantry, a neighborhood youth Bible study group and we serve as a satellite office of the Episcopal Counseling Center. We are a host site for weekly meetings of Narcotics Anonymous.

