



San Jose Episcopal Church



Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.



All are welcome at San Jose Episcopal Church

We welcome you to San Jose Episcopal Church, a traditional parish focused on the Holy Eucharist and the best of the Anglican tradition, which welcomes all people and embraces many points of view. Our commitment is to work, worship, and minister in the service of our Lord; and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we intend to live prayerfully and joyfully in each other's company. We welcome everyone who wants to join us on any part of this holy pilgrimage. Above all, know that we are blessed to have you worship with us.

About Worship in the Episcopal Church

If our liturgy (worship) is unfamiliar to you, we hope the information below will be helpful. If you require help, please inform one of our ushers or simply turn to one of your neighbors in the pews, let them know you are a visitor, and they will gladly help.

Our liturgy is rooted in the practices of ancient Christianity. Everything you see and hear today, including the prayers, music, architecture, physical postures, and responses, hold deep meaning about our beliefs, and are intentional and outward expressions of our faith.

Families with children of all ages are welcome at our worship services. There are many postures of prayer observed in the Episcopal church, usually standing or kneeling, but please do what you find most comfortable. Restrooms are located outside of the main church entrance to your right as you exit.

We now have assisted listening devices available for use during livestreamed services. Please contact an usher to request one. Users will need to supply their own headphones or earbuds. Instruction cards are available when you request a device.

About Receiving the Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at San Jose. If you are unable to receive at the altar rail, notify an usher and the clergy will come to your pew. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of bread, cross your arms over your chest. Please notify the clergy if you require a gluten-free wafer.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

The Word of God

The tower bell is rung to signal a time of preparation. The people remain seated.

Prelude

Opening Hymn 83

Adeste fideles

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

Refrain
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Verse 6: Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakley (1802-1880) and others

Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People:

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

The Celebrant may say

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

The following hymn is sung, all standing

Hymn 96 v. 1

Gloria

I An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.

Refrain
Glo - - - - - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.
Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 *Please be seated.*

Reader: A reading from Isaiah.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Reader: A reading from Titus

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 87

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro-claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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!"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Stephen C. Britt

The Nicene Creed *All stand and speak in unison.*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his Kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Christmas Prayers

On this most holy night we remember God's love in sending us his Son our Savior:

O Christ who comes to us, **Help us to go with you.**

Jesus came to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. May we who confess his Name, be united in his truth, live together in his love and reveal his glory in the world.

O Christ who comes to us, **Help us to go with you.**

Jesus came to this world as the King of kings and Lord of lords but arrived in the humility of a stable and manger. Help those who lead, in this nation and in the world, to lead with compassion and selflessness that all people may live into the peace of God and prosperity of the Holy Spirit.

O Christ who comes to us, **Help us to go with you.**

Jesus came to gather the sick, the suffering, the lonely, and the lost. Strengthen us to continue to seek out ways to alleviate suffering, to console grief, and to shine forth as a light to the world.

O Christ who comes to us, **Help us to go with you.**

Jesus came to end the sting of death and to show us the way to eternal life. We thank you for the souls who have gone before us, and who now celebrate this Christmastide in the very presence of the Incarnate Word.

O Christ who comes to us, **Help us to go with you.**

The celebrant adds a closing collect.

The Peace *The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*

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

People: **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Offertory

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam,

Kate Patterson and Chris Robertson

Arr. Stephen DeCesare

Presentation Hymn *The people stand as able.*

Hymnal 82 v. 4

Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wea - ried prais - es be;
ho - nor, glo - ry and do - min - ion, and e -
ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

Words: Marcus Aurelius (1st cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.

Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Burce Neswick (b. 1956)

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Wonder, Love, and Praise 858



Land of Rest, arr. Marcia Pruner; harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

The people stand or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

The Breaking of the Bread: Christ our Passover

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Communion

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Hymnal 100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses the people with these, or other appropriate words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People:

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Church Staff

The Rev. Stephen C. Britt, Rector
The Rev. Katie Bennett, Deacon
Brandon Michael Smith, Director of Music
Susan Beaudin, Parish Administrator
Cathy Richter, Assistant to the Rector
Janice Waters, Parish Nurse
Melissa Spediacci, Children's Ministry
Cathe Gray, Outreach
Barbara Turon, Nursery
Kelli Cribb, Youth Ministry

FrBritt@SanJoseEpiscopal.com
Katie@SanJoseEpiscopal.com
Brandon@SanJoseEpiscopal.com
Susan@SanJoseEpiscopal.com
Cathy@SanJoseEpiscopal.com
Jan@SanJoseEpiscopal.com
Melissa@SanJoseEpiscopal.com
Outreach@SanJoseEpiscopal.com
ChurchOffice@SanJoseEpiscopal.com
ChurchOffice@SanJoseEpiscopal.com

San Jose Episcopal Church is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

www.SanJoseEpiscopal.com 7423 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32217 (904) 733-1811