

**December 7, 2025**  
**The Second Sunday of Advent**  
**10:30 a.m.: Celebration of Holy Eucharist**  
***with Children's Chapel and Healing Prayers***



**St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**  
***Seeking God • Building Community • Growing Faith • Reaching Out***

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Lila and Sany Saidi, *Sunday Morning Childcare Providers*

# Welcome to St. Dunstan's!

*This Advent, choose some time for silence. Make space within yourself to grow large with the abundance of God's favor. Make this a time to fill your lungs deeply with God so that you can breathe Christ into the world.*

~ Thomas Hoffman, *A Child in Winter*



Thank you for choosing to worship with St. Dunstan's this morning! We are a community of seekers doing our best to live authentically and faithfully in this challenging and complicated world, and we are delighted that you are sharing the journey with us today.

**Children** are *always* welcome here; please make yourself and your family at home. There are coloring sheets on the round table between the glass doors, as well as books and soft toys at the back of the church. Rest assured: We are delighted by the "joyful noise" that children inevitably make, *and* don't worry if you feel you need to take your child out of the service for a few minutes.



**Babysitting** for children **4 and under** is provided **downstairs in the Nursery**. For everyone's safety, **registration is required**: Please scan the QR code to the left to sign up.

*To learn more about offerings for children and families, please share your contact information on the clipboard on the Welcome Table.*

**Restrooms** are located in the hallway by the glass doors.

If you find the wooden pews uncomfortable, feel free to borrow a **cushion** from the rear of the Nave for use during worship.

Please wear a **name tag**! Permanent name tags are on the board in the entry hall. If you don't yet have a permanent tag, please use a stick-on badge until we can make you an official one.

Unless otherwise noted, music for this morning's **hymns** may be found in the blue *Hymnal 1982* or the red and black *Lift Every Voice and Sing* in your pew rack.



This morning we are blessed by the presence of **The Rev. John S. McDuffie** as our Guest Presider and Preacher! John+ served as St. Dunstan's Rector from 1989-1998. Welcome "home," John+!

*In keeping with the contemplative tone of the Season of Advent,  
please observe quiet in the Nave before the service to enable everyone  
to pray and prepare for worship.*

## **The Holy Eucharist**

### **Introit**

*Matin Responsory*

G. P. da Palestrina (1525 -1594)

St. Dunstan's Chancel Choir

*Please stand, as you are able, and join in singing.*

### **Processional Hymn**

“On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”

Music: *Hymnal*, 76

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let each heart prepare a home  
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge, and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
earth’s own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
whose advent doth thy people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore.

## The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Presider* Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE.

*The candles are lit.*

*Reader* Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. (*Colossians 3:15*)

*Presider* Let us pray: Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace, **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Opening Acclamation

*Presider* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

### Song of Praise

“Creator of the stars of night,” v. 1

*Hymnal, 60*

1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,

1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,

1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,

1 we pray you hear us when we call.



## **The Collect of the Day**

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*Presider*      Let us pray: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

*Children are invited to attend Children's Chapel in the Youth Room.*

The Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

*Lector*      A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah:

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the  
ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

*continued*

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please join in reciting the psalm responsively.*

**Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
**and your righteousness to the King's Son;**

That he may rule your people righteously \*  
**and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
**and the little hills bring righteousness.**

He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
**he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
**from one generation to another.**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
**like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
**there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

Blest are you, O God of Israel; \*  
**you alone do wondrous deeds!**

And blest is your glorious Name for ever! \*  
**May all the earth be filled with your glory.**  
**Amen. Amen.**

*Please stand and join in singing.*

## Sequence Hymn

"O thou who camest from above"

Music: *Hymnal*, 704

O thou who camest from above  
the fire celestial to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
upon the altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn  
with ever-bright, undying blaze,  
and trembling to its source return  
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
to work, and speak, and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire  
and still stir up the gift in me.

Still let me prove thy perfect will,  
my acts of faith and love repeat,  
till death thy endless mercies seal,  
and make the sacrifice complete.

## The Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every

*continued*

tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.  
“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated at the preacher's invitation.*

**The Sermon**

The Rev. John S. McDuffie

*After a moment of silence, please stand.*

**The Nicene Creed**

*Leader and People*

**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.**

*\*universal*

## The Prayers of the People

*The Intercessor and People pray responsively*

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray.

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for your Church, especially *Sarah*, Archbishop of Canterbury-elect; *Sean*, our Presiding Bishop; *Mariann*, our Bishop; *Eugene*, our Assisting Bishop; and *Hosam*, Archbishop in Jerusalem, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

Come Lord Jesus,

**and hear our prayer.**

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth, especially in *Gaza, Haiti, Israel, Russia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine, the United States, and Venezuela*. We remember, as well, all those serving in the Foreign Service and in our Armed Forces at home and abroad, especially *U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe*.

Come Lord Jesus,

**and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind, especially those commended to our Parish Prayer List (*see p. 16*) and all those whom we now name, either privately or out loud:

*Pause for prayers of intercession*

We pray that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Come Lord Jesus,

**and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We praise you for all the blessings of this life, especially for the ordination next Saturday of *Emily Elder* to the Transitional Diaconate, and those blessings we now name, silently or aloud:

*Pause for prayers of thanksgiving*

Come Lord Jesus,

**and hear our prayer.**

*continued*

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your Son to be with us. We pray for your abiding presence with all who have died. We remember before you this morning *Jane Avery, Monica Burdeshaw, Herbert Schaumburg*, and those whom we name silently in our hearts or out loud:

*Pause for prayers for the departed*

Come Lord Jesus,  
**and hear our prayer.**

*The Presider concludes*

God of hope, you call us from the exile of our sin with the good news of restoration; you build a highway through the wilderness; you come to us to bring us home. Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power, made known in Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

### **The Confession and Absolution**

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins to God.

*A brief silence*

*Deacon* God of love and life,  
*and People* **we come to you this morning  
sharing our burdens and sins.**

**For the right roads we have avoided traveling,  
and the kindly words we refused to share;  
for the hidden hurts we have held too tightly  
and the promises which we never kept;  
for the careless use of our time and money  
and the true selves we have starved of love...  
God, by your grace, forgive us.**

**For all we should be and all we can be,  
for all you have in store for us,  
for the life of the world,  
God, in your love,  
Forgive us, renew us,  
and commit us back to you, Amen.**

*Presider* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life, **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*Presider* May the peace of Christ be always with you!  
*People* **And also with you!**

*Please greet one another in the Name of Christ and then be seated.*

## **Welcome**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and make good your vows to the Most High.

*Psalm 50:14*

## **At the Offertory**

*A Tender Shoot*

K. Briggs (b. 1991)

German 15<sup>th</sup> c., versified by O. Goldschmidt (1829–1907)

Trans. W. Bartholomew (1793–1867)

*Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church!*  
*If you would like to make an offering this morning, you may place it in the Offertory bag.*  
*Please also feel free to donate online at <https://stdunstansbethesda.org/support/donate.html>*  
*or mail a check to the Parish Office.*

## **The Holy Communion**

*Please stand as the Offering is brought forward and join in singing.*

### **The Doxology**

Music: *Hymnal*, 380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer 3, *EOW*

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Presider*

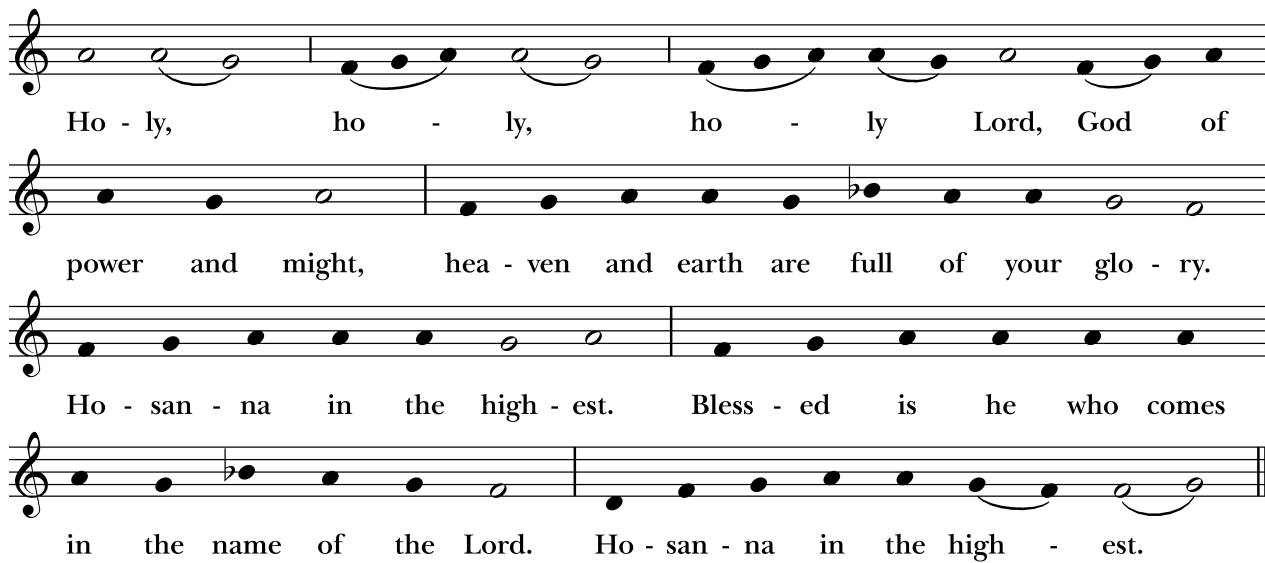
All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout for joy:

*continued*



*Sanctus**Hymnal, S-122**Please stand, kneel, or sit.*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent;  
you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from  
bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the  
coming of your reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into  
your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when  
he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave to his friends and said: **“Take, eat,  
this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and  
said: **“Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured  
out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance  
of me.”**

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection  
and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these  
gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Presider and People*

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed John the Baptist, Blessed Dunstan, and all your people, into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*Presider and People*

**Blessed are you 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 Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Presider* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*People* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

*Presider* These are the Gifts of God for you, the People of God, **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## The Communion

*All are welcome to receive the Sacrament in one or both kinds. Consecrated wine is available by sipping directly from the chalice, by dipping your bread gently into the chalice, or by taking an individual cup; gluten-free Communion bread is available upon request. Please place used Communion cups in the bowl at the back for reverent disposal. If you would prefer not to receive, you are invited to come forward for a blessing, the signal for which is to cross your arms over your chest when you reach the Altar.*

*Prayers for healing, guidance, or thanksgiving are offered at the back of the Nave during Communion and the Postlude.*

## Music during Communion

*Redeemer of the nations, come (Veni redemptor gentium)* C. Price (1920-1999)  
arr. D. Hurd (b. 1950)

The St. Dunstan's Chancel Choir

*Remaining seated, please join in singing*

"Come now, O Prince of Peace"

*Wonder, Love, and Praise, 795*

1. Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one bod - y,  
2. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y,  
3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior,  
4. Come, Hope of U - ni - ty, make us one bod - y,

come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Words: Geonyong Lee; para. Marion Pope, alt. Music: *O-so-so*, Geonyong Lee.

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## Prayer after Communion

*Presider* Let us pray: Eternal God,  
*and People* **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 Blessing

*Presider*  
May you raise a song of longing for the King Who is to come, whose coming ends all strife, Who will defend the poor, descend and bring with him the saints in glory and a new Heaven and Earth. And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, and all those you love, always, **Amen.**

*Please join in singing.*

## Closing Hymn

“O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling”

Music: *Hymnal*, 539

O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling,  
to tell to all the world that God is Light;  
that he who made all nations is not willing  
one soul should fail to know his love and might.

*Publish glad tidings:  
tidings of peace,  
tidings of Jesus,  
redemption and release.*

Proclaim to every people, tongue, and nation  
that God, in whom they live and move, is Love:  
tell how he stooped to save his lost creation,  
and died on earth that all might live above.

### *Refrain*

Send heralds forth to bear the message glorious;  
give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;  
pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious  
till God shall bring his kingdom's joyful day.

*continued*

*Publish glad tidings:  
tidings of peace,  
tidings of Jesus,  
redemption and release.*

He comes again! O Zion, ere thou meet him,  
make known to every heart his saving grace;  
let none whom he hath ransomed fail to greet him,  
through thy neglect, unfit to see his face.

*Refrain*

*Please be seated following the hymn.*

## **Announcements**

*Please stand.*

## **The Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord!

*People* **Thanks be to God!**

## **Postlude**

Ulysses Squitieri, *organ*

**+++**

***Please remember in prayer:***

Julie Anderson; Jeff Boesch; Rebecca Bryant; Phil and Patti Carroll; Steve Cooper;  
Austin Cox; Henry Cox; Donna Embry; Kenny Farnsworth;  
Katie Beck Fey; Bishop Clark Grew; John Hogg; Ben Hull; David Hull; Debbie  
Kirk; Frank Libutti; Patricia Mackenzie; Rick Nickles; Joyce Nugent; Daniel  
Phaneuf; Linda Rogers; Shannon Rose; Barbara Sander; Curtis Shively;  
Jalene Spain Thomas; Jack Tovornik; Ellie Tupper; Peggy Vaughn; Sandra Walters;  
Jim Ward; Ben; Bill; Christopher; Claire; David; Farid; Gerald; Henry; JW; Karen;  
Katherine; Lynne; Marty; Melanie; Phyllis; Sherry; *and* Shiloh

**+++**

 ***Music Notes*** 

**Kerensa Briggs** (“A Tender Shoot”) was born in 1991 and is an award-winning composer specializing in choral music. Described as “poignant, ambivalent, quietly devastating music” in the *New York Times*, her works have been performed internationally at venues including St Paul’s Cathedral and the Sistine Chapel. Her music is regularly performed or broadcast with groups such as Voces 8 and The Sixteen. Kerensa was winner of the National Centre for Early Music Young

Composers Award 2014 and is an alumna of the TheoArtistry Composers scheme at St Andrews' Institute for Theology and the Arts. She is currently Composer in Residence for St Louis Chamber Chorus. Her love of choral music emanates from her choral background, singing in choirs including Gloucester Cathedral Youth and the choir of King's College London. ~ *Curated by Diane Atherton*

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## Announcements

### Today at St. Dunstan's:

- + **The Rector** is away today for a wedding and will return to the office tomorrow (Monday, December 8). In the event of a pastoral emergency while she is away, please call or text 914.882.4221.
- + **Welcome, Visitors!** We are delighted that you are here, and we hope you can stay for a few minutes after worship so that we can greet you properly. To learn more about St. Dunstan's, please fill out a **visitor form**, found on the table in the entry hall, and help yourself to a **welcome bag** as a token of our gratitude that you have joined us today.
- + **Fellowship Time:** Come share a cup of coffee or tea, a snack, and good conversation in the **Parish Hall** immediately following this service!
- + **Children's Choir Rehearsal:** All children ages 4-12 are invited to sing with **Miss Diane** from 12–1 p.m. in the **Music Room**.
- + Our annual **Stewardship Drive: "With Glad and Generous Hearts" (Acts 2:46)** continues this week, through **December 14**. This drive will enable your Rector and Vestry to plan for (and fund) our staffing and ministries for the coming year. Together, let us thank God for all our abundant blessings by supporting God's mission in this place. **If you are ready to make your pledge today, please place your pledge card in the Offertory bag. Thank you!**



### The Week Ahead:

- + **Tuesday, December 9:**
  - **7:00 p.m.: Advent Compline (Zoom\*).** All are welcome to participate in this ancient (and short!) prayer service for the end of the day; it is a soothing and centering ritual before winding down for the night. *Note: Compline takes the place of Prayers for Peace and Healing during Advent.*
  - **7:30 p.m.: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Nave)**

*continued*

- + **Wednesday, December 10:**
  - **10:30 a.m.: Midweek Bible Study (Zoom\*).** All are welcome to participate in this lively discussion of the **Gospel of Luke**. No preparation or previous experience is required: Just bring a spirit of curiosity and a desire to learn more about God's Word!
- + **Thursday, December 11:**
  - **2 p.m.: Book Group Meeting (Zoom).** This month's selection is *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, by Shelby Van Pelt. All are welcome to join the conversation; please contact **Donna Alvarez** ([donnabethesda1@verizon.net](mailto:donnabethesda1@verizon.net)) for the Zoom login.
- + **Saturday, December 13:**
  - **9 a.m.: Men's Group Meeting (Kitchen/Parlor)**
  - **10 a.m.: Soul Sisters Meeting (Zoom\*)**
  - **10 a.m.: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Nave)**
- + **Next Sunday, December 14: The Third Sunday of Advent ~ 2026 Pledge Drive Commitment Sunday**
  - **10:30 a.m.: Advent Lessons and Carols.** Please plan to join us for this beautiful Anglican liturgy, during which we will hear the story of God's plan for salvation as told by the ancient prophets and realized in the birth of Jesus. The music will be gorgeous! *Note: There will not be a celebration of the Eucharist during this service.*
  - **10:30 a.m.: Pledge Card Ingathering.** Join your Rector and fellow parishioners in a financial commitment to St. Dunstan's for 2026. If you have not done so already, we would be grateful if you could please make your pledge by **Commitment Sunday, December 14**; this will enable our Treasurer and Vestry to start building the parish budget for the coming year. *If you have questions about pledging at St. Dunstan's, please do not hesitate to reach out to The Rev. Patty Alexander.*
  - **5 p.m.: "Cocoa and Caroling" (Parish Hall).** Come get in the Christmas spirit! Join the choirs and clergy around the piano as we sip cocoa and sing our favorite carols for an hour or so before heading over to Brighton Gardens to share some Christmas cheer with the residents there. Bring your friends...Festive dress encouraged!
  - **9 p.m.: Festive Holiday Auction Closes (see next page)**

*\*Please see the online newsletter for links.*





**The Festive Christmas Online Auction** continues! Skip the big box stores full of things this week and next and log onto St. Dunstan's Festive Christmas Online Auction. You'll be captivated by the splendid choice of unique and fun experiences. And every one of these spectacular experiences is available to bid on **through next Sunday, December 14 at 9 p.m.** This year, Black Friday doesn't have to define you or your gifts! Think compelling experiences – like golf at local private country clubs, a beach house for a week in Elie, Scotland that's just 45 minutes from Edinburgh and 20 minutes to St. Andrews Golf Club. Oh! And the Nationals' tickets to watch the game from the President's Club to experience the best baseball in your life. And There's More. Don't miss out! *Reminder: All proceeds support the important mission and ministry of St. Dunstan's.*



### **A Note of Thanks**



Last week Outreach Chair **Elin Botha** (and her accomplice, Karen Edwards) delivered **60** holiday shoeboxes filled with hats, gloves, hygiene items, and other necessities for the clients served by **So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E.)**. Elin thanks the *many* St. Dunstan's parishioners who contributed to this effort – and we thank Elin for her faithful witness to those living in poverty this winter. To learn more about **S.O.M.E.**, please feel free to speak to Elin or visit their website: <https://some.org>.

*continued*

# Christmas

*@ St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church*

## *Christmas Eve*

3:00 pm **Children's Christmas Pageant &  
Family Communion Service**

6:45 pm **Christmas Concert: Part 1 of Handel's *Messiah***

7:30 pm **Festival Holy Eucharist ("The Christ-Mass")**

## *Christmas Morning*

10:30 am **Holy Eucharist and Carols**



5450 Massachusetts Ave, Bethesda, MD 20816 - [www.StDunstansBethesda.org](http://www.StDunstansBethesda.org)

## *Serving this Morning*

<b>Presider and Preacher:</b>	The Rev. John S. McDuffie
<b>Deacon:</b>	The Rev. Jessica Ault
<b>Musicians:</b>	Diane Atherton, Heather Fetrow, Ulysses Squitieri, and The St. Dunstan's Chancel Choir
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Marsha Barnes, Augusta Cox, Ann Johnson, and Michelle Mesen
<b>Flower Guild:</b>	Trudy Surut
<b>Greeter:</b>	Susie Cooper
<b>Livestream Minister:</b>	Vince Leonard
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Cami Caudill
<b>Advent Wreath Lighting:</b>	The Bradley-Renaldo Family
<b>Children's Chapel:</b>	Jenna Monroe
<b>Lector:</b>	Sue Carroll
<b>Psalm Leader:</b>	Cami Caudill
<b>Intercessor:</b>	Fred Atwood
<b>Healing Minister:</b>	Sue Carroll
<b>Lay Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	Cami Caudill and Emily Elder
<b>Ushers:</b>	Marsha Barnes and Chong Park
<b>Barista:</b>	Marie Park
<b>Vestry Member of the Day:</b>	Janet Repka
<b>Snack Angels:</b>	Marsha Barnes and Janet Repka

## Attributions

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### **On the Cover:**

*Advent II: Peace* (Mixed media liturgical art by Sue Carroll)

### **Advent Wreath Liturgy:**

Matthew Kozlowski (revised Nov. 2015)

### **The Opening Acclamation for Advent:**

*Enriching Our Worship 1*, © 1998, Church Publishing, Incorporated

### **The Lesson and Gospel Readings:**

*New Revised Standard Version Bible*, © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

### **The Psalm:**

*The Saint Helena Psalter: A New Version of the Psalms in Expansive Language*,  
© 2004, The Order of Saint Helena, used by permission

### **The Prayers of the People:**

Adapted from prayers by Fr. Rick Morley: <http://www.rickmorley.com/archives/207>

### **The Concluding Collect:**

*Daily Prayer for All Seasons*, © 2014, Church Publishing, Incorporated

### **The Confession:**

*Iona Abbey Worship Book*, © 2001, Wild Goose Publications

### **The Great Thanksgiving and Fraction Anthem:**

*Enriching Our Worship 1*, © 1998, Church Publishing, Incorporated

### **The Blessing:**

Adapted from "Like Dew Upon the Grass: A Response to Psalm 72,"  
in Malcolm Guite, *David's Crown*, © 2021, Canterbury Press Norwich



## *Parish Leadership*

### **Vestry**

The Reverend Patricia Phaneuf Alexander, *Rector*

Vince Leonard, *Senior Warden*

Fred Atwood, *Junior Warden*

Nils Overdahl, *Treasurer*

Michelle Mesen, *Registrar*

Leo Bouma

Nancy Douglas

Doug McManus

Carmen Petruzzi

Janet Repka

### **Capital Campaign Committee**

Karen Kosiba Edwards

Carmen Petruzzi

Rosi Sweeney

### **Liturgical Artist-in-Residence**

Sue Carroll

### **Seminarian's Lay Support Team**

Chuck Cash

Nancy Douglas

Lynne Leonard (*Chair*)

Carmen Petruzzi

### **St. Dunstan's *Rectors Emeriti***

The Rev. John S. McDuffie

The Rev. Jeffrey B. MacKnight

### **Treasurer *Emeritus***

Cliff White



# St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

*Come share the journey with us*