

# St. Jude's Episcopal Church

*Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching out to Others*



**December 31, 2023**

**The First Sunday after Christmas Day**

*10:30 a.m. A Service of Lessons & Carols*

**----- A Special WELCOME to all! -----**

We are pleased to have you worship with us this morning and hope you **feel warmly welcomed**. This morning we share a special, Anglican tradition (begun in Truro Cathedral, England in 1880) of scripture readings and Christmas carols that tell the full story of humankind's relationship with God – from disobedience in Eden, to salvation in Jesus. The service does not include Holy Communion today.

Please stay for a special reception after the service, to say farewell to Tyler Morse our Music Director (until 11:59 pm). We wish him, and you, a very **Happy New Year** ahead. We have posted the position on our website, [stjudesfenton.com](http://stjudesfenton.com), if you know another talented musician with church experience who might like to know more about us!

**New to our church?** We'd love to get better acquainted. Please leave your name and email or phone number in one of our guestbooks, located at both entrances of the worship space; or by filling out one of the Welcome cards in the pew.

COVID is still a concern in our area, and several parishioners have contracted the virus in recent weeks. Face masks are recommended; they are provided at all entrances to the worship space.

**Hymn #** These hymns are located in the blue Hymnal 1982 in your pew.

**WLP #** These hymns are located in the green hymnal books located near the library entrance to the church.

## *The Gathering of the Community*

Prelude \_\_\_\_\_

Opening Hymn #96 \_\_\_\_\_ *vss 1-3, Angels we have heard on high*

Christmas Greeting \_\_\_\_\_

*Officiant* Alleluia. To us a child is born:

*People* Come let us adore him. Alleluia!

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips;

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*All* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia!

*Officiant* My sisters and brothers in Christ, in this brief season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the angels and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, to see the Son of God lying in a manger.

As we mark once more the mystery of the Word made flesh, let us join with the song of angels and saints and make this place ring with our carols and hymns of praise.

But first, let us remember the poverty of the birth of the Prince of Peace, and pray for the poor, the cold, the hungry, and those among us who find that there is no room for them at the inn or the team or the family gathering.

Let us also remember that the Lord of Glory experienced the pain of life and death, and pray for the sick, the anxious, the weary, and the bereaved.

And holding onto the promise that Christ shall reign for ever and ever, let us pray for the rulers of the nations, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church, that we may be a sign that God's rule on earth has already begun.

*Silent prayer*

*Officiant* Amen. Now with joy in our hearts, let us hear again the story of the birth of Christ; and join with Mary and Joseph, with shepherds and wise men, and with all our forebears in faith, in offering him our worship.

## The Lessons & Carols

*Please be seated*

### **The First Lesson** \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 3:1-15

Adam and Eve disobey God, and must leave the Garden of Eden.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Thanks be to God!

Carol \_\_\_\_\_ *Adam lay Ybounden, Boris Ord*

Second Lesson \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 7:10-15

God promises Emmanuel, whose name means God-with-us.

The Lord spoke to King Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

Thanks be to God!

Carol: Hymn #66 \_\_\_\_\_ *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Third Lesson \_\_\_\_\_ Micah 5:2-4

The town of the Messiah's birth will be Bethlehem, in Judah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Thanks be to God!

Carol: Hymn #79 \_\_\_\_\_ *O little town of Bethlehem*

Fourth Lesson \_\_\_\_\_ Malachi 3:1-3

God's messenger will prepare the way for the Messiah.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

Thanks be to God!

Carol \_\_\_\_\_ *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord, from Godspell*

**Fifth Lesson** \_\_\_\_\_ **Luke 1:26-38**

An angel invites Mary into God's plan of salvation.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God!

**Carol: Hymn #265** \_\_\_\_\_ *The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

*An offering will be received during this hymn.*

**Sixth Lesson** \_\_\_\_\_ **Matthew 1:18-25**

Joseph is asked in a dream to be Jesus' adoptive father.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

**Carol: Hymn #497** \_\_\_\_\_ *How bright appears the morning star!*

**Seventh Lesson** \_\_\_\_\_ **Luke 2:1-7**

Jesus is born in Bethlehem.

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.

Thanks be to God!

**Carol** \_\_\_\_\_ **Duet: *What Child is This / Child of the Poor***

**Eighth Lesson** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hebrews 1:1-6**

God's Son shall reign in heaven forever.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Thanks be to God!

**Carol: Hymn #93** \_\_\_\_\_ *Angels, from the realms of glory*

**Ninth Lesson, please stand** \_\_\_\_\_ **John 1:1-14**

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

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. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God!

**Carol** \_\_\_\_\_ **Solo: *He comes as well***

**The Apostles' Creed, please stand** \_\_\_\_\_

*Officiant* In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say:

*All* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*All* **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.**

*Officiant* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

## **A General Thanksgiving at the Turning of the Year**

*Leader* On this last day of the Year of our Lord 2023, let us look back with gratitude for the blessings we have received.

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

*People* **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

*Leader* We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

*People* **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

*Leader* We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

*People* **We give you thanks, O Lord.**



*Leader* We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

*People* **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

*Leader* Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for his incarnation in Bethlehem; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. In the new year ahead, grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, may praise you in all things.

*People* **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

*Officiant* O God our Creator, you have divided our life into days and seasons, and called us to acknowledge your providence year after year: Accept your people who come to offer their praises, and, in your mercy, receive their prayers; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

## Sharing the Peace

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*Officiant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you!**

## Milestones and Announcements

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## The Christmas Blessing

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*Priest* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #100 \_\_\_\_\_ Joy to the world!

Sending Out    *The Deacon dismisses the congregation, after which the people respond:*  
                    **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude \_\_\_\_\_

**Please join us for a special coffee hour following the service to say farewell to  
Tyler Morse, our music director. This is his last Sunday at St. Jude's!**

**Happening This Week at St Jude's**

<b>TODAY, 12/31</b>	10:30 am	Worship in church/livestreamed to Facebook
	11:45 am	Farewell to Tyler coffee hour
<b>Tuesday, 1/2</b>	1 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library
<b>Wednesday, 1/3</b>	10 am	Alanon Meeting, library
<b>Thursday, 1/4</b>	7:30 pm	N.A. meeting, VH
<b>Sunday, 1/7</b>	9:15 am	Adult Formation, VH
	10:30 am	Worship in church/livestreamed to Facebook

**Prayer List**

For the Church: Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop; the Standing Committees of the Eastern & Western Dioceses of Michigan; for Susan, our Priest; Judy, our Deacon; for our Vestry. In the diocesan cycle of prayer: Diocesan Councils of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan.

Pray for Al; Margaret; Bill; Todd; Diane; Sue; Barbara & Joe; Cindy; Cathy; Molly; Cory; Dale; Sue; Linda; Marcia; Gabe; Kady; Rose; Joan; Rex & Judi; Jim; Bob; Jim; Sharon; Mia; June; Ed; Carl; Sydne; Laura; Liz; Mike; Mary Lou; Pedro; James; Randy; Jack; Sherry; Pam; John; Francine; Sara; Marsha; Chet; Leonard; Ellen; Glenn; Jim; Patti; Brad; Vince; and Zack.

## SERVING TODAY

*Readers:* Nancy Day, Greg Forsyth, Amy Freeman, Judy & Mike Marinco, Dave Rayner,  
Ellen Tripp, Katie Young

*Prayers:* Denise Rayner

*Ushers:* Dave & Deb James

*Live-streamer:* Lynn Hopper

*Altar Guild:* Mary Ellen & Mary Louise

*Vestry P. of Day:* Heather Ludwig

*Coffee Hour:* Heather Ludwig

1/1 *Mon. Office Volunteer:* New Years' Day – office closed

2/2 *Tuesday Counter:* Nancy Day

1/4 *Thus. Office Volunteer:* ??

## Serving Next Week, Jan. 7

*LEM:* Dee Grossmann

*2nd Chalice:* Paul Dolza

*Reader:* Jim Ramelis

*Prayers:* Paul Dolza

*Ushers:* Dave & Denise Rayner

*Live-streamer:* Dave James

*Altar Guild:* Dee Grossmann & Lisa Cronk

*Vestry P. of Day:* Bill Anderson

*Coffee Hour:* Clay & Diane Putnam

1/8 *Tuesday Counter:* Nancy Day

## Announcements

**Farley House Dinner Support** St. Jude's Outreach Committee is looking for a few people who are willing to cook a dinner for a family at Farley House in Burton on January 14th and the 15th. Farley House is a temporary housing for a homeless family that are working their way to permanent housing. You could make a meal consisting of an entrée, salad, and dessert. Or perhaps Taco Night or one of your favorite dishes! If you like to partner with another parishioner, I could help you team up. The meal could be delivered to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint by 4:00 or delivered to Farley House yourself by 6:00 pm. Make your meal in disposable containers and drop it off. If you'd like to help with this Outreach, please call or text Diane Putnam at 810-938-5307.

**2024 Coffee Hour & Altar Flower Sign Ups** Please sign up to host coffee hour and/or donate toward our altar flowers in 2024! Suggested donations are \$24. Sign ups are on the bulletin board in Vandenberg Hall.

**Annual Meeting** Our Annual Meeting will take place Sunday, January 28 during and following the 10:30 am service. Please plan on attending so that you can hear all about what St. Jude's has done in 2023 and what we hope to do in 2024.

### New Picture Directory

We are going to create a new updated picture directory for St. Jude's in the new year! Picture dates are Feb. 8-10. We will be signing families up beginning on Sundays in January. You can also sign up yourself online for a picture time slot. Extended families (and pets) are welcome. You can indicate who in your family should be in the church directory if you wish to use this as a chance to get family pictures professionally taken as well. A complimentary 8 x 10 and a copy of the completed St. Jude's photo directory will be given to each person/family who gets their picture taken. Be looking for more updates soon!

**St. Jude's Episcopal Church**  
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[www.stjudesfenton.com](http://www.stjudesfenton.com)  
Facebook: St. Jude's Episcopal Church