

# SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

DECEMBER 17, 2023 | ADVENT

## PRELUDE MUSIC

### SILENT NIGHT

It was a silent night, a holy night  
All is calm and oh so bright  
Round yon virgin - Mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild

**Sleep in heaven- Oh so heavenly**  
**Sleep in heavenly - peace!**  
**Sleep in heavenly peace**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### SCRIPTURE READING & INVOCATION

Luke 1:46-49

"My soul magnifies the Holy One, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For God has looked with favor upon this humble servant. Surely, from now on, all generations will see the blessings, for the Mighty One has done great things in their Holy name. God's loving kindness is for those who fear God."

## SONG OF PRAISE

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR CHILD

Lord we thank You for Your child,  
born in a manger meek and mild  
Unto us this day born the King of Israel, of Israel

The star revealed His birth,  
peace and goodwill to men on earth  
Unto us this day born the King of Israel, of Israel  
(repeat)

Hallelujah born is our King / Hallelujah His praises we sing  
Hallelujah born is our King / Hallelujah His praises we sing  
Unto us this day born the King of Israel, of Israel

## TIME OF PRAYER

### TIDINGS OF COMFORT & JOY

God rest ye merry gentlemen - Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from satan's power when we were gone astray

Call: O tidings,

**Response: Tidings**

Call: O tidings,

**Response: Tidings**

Call: Of comfort and joy

**Response: O tidings of comfort and joy**

CONTINUED

In Bethlehem in Israel - This blessed Babe was born  
And laid in a manger upon this blessed morn  
To which His Mother Mary did nothing take in scorn

**Chorus**

Call: O tidings,

**Response: Tidings**

Call: O tidings,

**Response: Tidings**

Call: Of comfort and joy

**Response: O tidings of comfort and joy**

Joy to the world the Lord

The Lord has come to earth with comfort and joy

To all who receive His love **(to chorus)**

**Meditation on Joy ~ from Rev. Dr. Gabby Cudjoe-Wilkes**

**“This joy that I have the world didn’t give it to me. The world didn’t give it, the world can’t take it away.” Traditional Black Gospel refrain.**

“The conditions of this world didn’t produce joy for us; rather, something within us created the joy that the world continually tried to steal. Time and time again, systems of this world tried to steal our joy, our dignity, our hope and our future. We fought as a community to get what those systems took while keeping ourselves from internalizing what they said about us. We began to define ourselves. And out of defining ourselves came our ability to value ourselves. Out of defining and valuing ourselves came our ability to believe in ourselves. Out of defining, valuing and believing in ourselves came our ability to create joy. Hard, gritty, sustainable - - our joy that the world didn’t give.”

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### OPTIONAL GREETING TIME

Please greet people as you are comfortable, wave, high five or fist bump, a hug, or hello.

Move around the sanctuary or be still.

**Prompt: May the peace of Christ be with you.**

**Reply: and also with you**

**\*\*please take a moment and tidy up your surroundings!\*\***

## FAMILY LESSON AND PROPHETIC MESSAGE

### The Advent Candle

Week one: a candle of hope & the story of Eve

Week two: a candle of peace & the story of Tamar

**Week three: a candle of joy & the stories of Ruth, Rahab, Bathsheba**

Week four; a candle of love & the story of Mary

## JOY UNSPEAKABLE

### Nehemiah 8.10

“Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

### Zephaniah 3.17

The Lord your God is in your midst,  
God is The Mighty Warrior who saves;  
God will delight in you with great joy;  
God will comfort you with love;  
God will rejoice over you with loud singing.

**SONG OF RESPONSE**  
**DO YOU BELIEVE?**

Some doubted what was to come  
He was the chosen one  
Some people said that Mary couldn't conceive  
But some were waiting for the coming  
of the King and they said

**Refrain**

Do you believe that today a boy is born?  
To bring life and so much more  
- He's the King do you believe  
Do you believe that he is the son of God?  
Can do miracles for all to see - do you believe?

The wise men traveled to see  
They knew what this child was to be  
So they followed the star that was in the eve  
And when they saw him, they bowed down at his feet  
And they said (to chorus)

## OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Electronic Giving: [stjohnsbeloved.com/donate](https://stjohnsbeloved.com/donate)**

**~ Christmas Eve Brunch!**

**10AM** December 24th

Refreshments welcome.

Great for ALL AGES! Childcare is provided.

**Holiday Drive!**

Collecting coats (gently used OK)  
through Saturday January 13th, our next  
Community Breakfast & Giveaway

**~ Connection Lunch w/ MaTovu, TODAY**

1:30pm, all invited. Here are the church

**SOUL HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER**

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR MAKING IT A GREAT SUCCESS!

Subscribe to announcements, or get in touch!  
email - [info@stjohnsbeloved.com](mailto:info@stjohnsbeloved.com)

**PLEASE help keep the church building clean!  
Tidy up your surroundings,  
and help clean up refreshments if you are able.  
Thank you!!**

## **BENEDICTION & DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Them all creatures, here below  
Praise Them above, ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost Amen.**

**~NOTES~**