

LOGOS

The Newsletter for St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" John 1:5

December 2025/January 2026

Celebrate the Joy of Christmas at St. John's and St. Patrick's

Wednesday, December 24, St. John's, 5 p.m.

Family-friendly worship service with Eucharist.

Wednesday, December 24, St. Patrick's, 7 p.m.

Christmas music, followed by worship service with Eucharist at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 25

No services at St. John's or St. Patrick's. Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 28

Lessons and Carols services at St. John's and St. Patrick's (regular worship schedule).





The weather outside was wintry, but St. John's and St. Patrick's enjoyed worship and fellowship online during a joint Zoom service on Sunday, Dec. 14.



St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Julie D. Bryant
 Deacon: The Rev. Mary E. Cushing
 Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
 Organist: Zane Price
 Sexton: Julio Sorto

Vestry

Christine Williams, Senior Warden
 Patricia Broida, Registrar
 Peter Olivere, Treasurer

Parish Leaders

Peter Olivere, Treasurer
 Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Words on Hymns: Songs of Advent

Two Advent hymns are particular favorites at St. John's. The first is *People, Look East*, which can be found in our hymnal *Wonder, Love and Praise*. This joyful Advent hymn has the spirit of a Christmas carol, but with an imaginative Advent text. Hymn writer Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965) received much encouragement as a writer from her parents. One brother, Harry, was a composer; and her other brothers, Joseph and Herbert, were writers. In spite of her shyness, she participated in a circle of talented artists, writers, and musicians.

Farjeon grew up in England in a home surrounded by books. She and her brothers both enjoyed reading stories to one another and writing their own. In the United States, Farjeon's best-known work is the hymn *Morning Has Broken* (later recorded by Cat Stevens in 1971); but in England, she is beloved as the author of more than 80 children's books and poem collections. A native of London, she was a devout Catholic who viewed her faith as "a progression toward which her spiritual life moved rather than a conversion experience."

The hymn's ancient festive Basque tune *Bensançon* first appeared in *Christmas Carols New and Old* (1871) as the setting for *Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep*.

The other favorite Advent hymn at St. John's is *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*. The poem was written by James L. Milligan (1876–1961), who described its origins: "I wrote the hymn at the time of the consummation of the union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches, which now form the United Church of Canada. I was Director of Publicity during the three years' campaign prior to the Union."

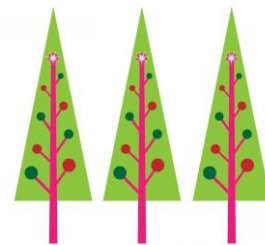
The phrase "voice in the wilderness" refers to a prophecy from Isaiah. Specifically, Isaiah 40:3 states: "A voice of one calling: 'Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'"

Milligan was the son of Anglican parents. His early and only formal education was obtained at Anglican schools. After going to work in the building trades at the age of 12, he applied himself so assiduously to self-study that he soon began contributing to London newspapers. In 1910 a collection of Milligan's verse was published, which resulted in him receiving the Hemans Prize for Lyrical Poetry. The next year, he immigrated to Canada with his family and became a pastor on the Methodist circuit in Hastings County, Ontario. He was also, variously, an editor, editorial writer, publicity director, and author.

The hymn's tune *Ascension* was written by Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904–1988). Born in Lincolnshire, England, he was an organist, choirmaster, and composer. Seeking better prospects, he immigrated to Canada in 1929, where he spent most of the rest of his life. He left Vancouver to become master of music at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney, Australia, but in 1953 returned to All Saints in Winnipeg. While visiting Cambridge University on his way back from Australia, he attended the annual Advent Carol service at King's College, and the next year introduced the tradition to Canada at All Saints Church.

An active composer and arranger, Bancroft was an Associate Composer of the Canadian Music Centre and published numerous pieces, including anthems, motets, chorales, and organ works. Several of his works had their premiere with major symphony orchestras.

Carol Dunlap



Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, January 6, at 7:30 p.m.** in the undercroft to discuss *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Wrap up 2025 by reading or re-reading this American classic and come join the discussion in January!

Thank You to:

➤ Patricia Broida and Christine Williams for organizing the Caroling Party on December 7 and to all those who attended and contributed refreshments. A good time was had by all!

➤ Everyone who continues to support the Little Free Food Pantry with food and monetary donations and to the volunteers who regularly check and restock the pantry. If shopping for items is difficult, the St. John's website (stjohnsarlingtonva.org) includes a link to contribute funds online.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in December and January:

Galen Henderson, Barbara Olivere, Camron Tallent, and Eloise Tallent.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in December and January:

Dave and Carol Dunlap.



LOGOS

LOGOS has a bi-monthly publication schedule.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Email articles to logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.
The deadline for the February/March issue is Jan. 28.

St. John's Vision Statement

St. John's Episcopal Church is an inclusive congregation that nurtures Christian spiritual growth and community through worship, education, outreach, mutual care, and fellowship.

St. John's Mission Statement

St. John's mission is building a strong spiritual community in Christ; welcoming all who enter our doors, including believers, seekers, and doubters; and reaching out to those in need both within our congregation and around us.