

ST. JOHN'S  
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE



DECEMBER 25, 2017  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
10:00 AM

The Rev. R. David Smith  
*Interim Pastor*  
The Rev. Carlton D.M. Rutherford  
*Pastor for Congregational Care*

ST. JOHN'S METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH  
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

*“Proclaiming Christ . . . Transforming Lives . . .  
Building Community . . .”*

ORDER OF SERVICE  
12:00 AM

**Pregnant with Possibilities**

Prelude:

Advent Candle Lighting:

From light comes life. Deep in expectant earth, a seed stretches. Through the fire-start of imagination, an idea takes root. In a passionate flash, love glows with infant intensity. Safe in the womb, a child senses its season turning and stirs. It is Advent, something coming, vulnerable in its unstoppable desire. God, unquenchable light, may they grow—the seed, the love, the idea, the child.

One: Love-shine, Your moment has come. In the dark of the womb You waited. Bathed in the balm of the star, You rest. Into a world sorely in need of Your light, You are born.

**Many: When You knock on our door looking for room, may we welcome You. Like the herald of Your birth, call us to share Your good news first with those who are poor, excluded and afraid.**

One: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot put it out.

**Many: The love of heaven has come to Earth.**

One: The call of Christ begins in a baby's cry. Listen and respond.

**Many: We light the Christ candle. May it light the way.**

\*\*The Processional Hymn:

“Light of the Stable”

The Welcome:

The Passing of the Peace:

Celebration Hymn:

“Oh Come All Ye Faithful”

Re-Membering the Christmas Story: Jim Manchester  
Luke 2:1-20

*You are invited to take a figure from the nativity scene and place it under the altar as the story is being told.*

Reflection Hymn: “What Child Is This?/This Is Our God”

The Resurrection Message: Rev. R. David Smith  
“Mary Treasured All These Things and  
Pondered Them In Her Heart”

The Giving Of Our Tithes And Offerings:

Passing the Hat for Rev. Delores Berry:

The Offertory Response: “The Magnificat (All That I Am)”

The Holy Eucharist:  
*The Holy Eucharist is open to all. Out of respect for those who are in recovery, grape juice is served at all stations.*

The Invitation to the Table:

The Sacrament of Holy Communion: (Responsively)

One: God is with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to our God.**

One: Let us give God thanks and praise.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: These elements of the earth made by human hands become blessed and holy by the power of God’s Spirit and in them we find the source of life and strength for our spiritual journey.

**All: Amen.**

The Words of Institution:

The Mystery of Our Faith: (In Unison)  
**Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ is here!  
Christ will come again!**

The Sharing of the Sacrament:

*You are invited, as the ushers direct, to receive the gifts of bread and fruit of the vine by simple intinction. We request that you observe the sacredness of this time, as others receive the Eucharist, through silent prayer and meditation*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Communion Hymn:

“Now Behold the Lamb”

Benediction:

\*\*Going Out Song:

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Postlude:

\*\* Please Rise As You Are Able

*PLEASE ACCEPT  
OUR WISHES FOR  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
A JOYOUS AND PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR!!!*

# St. John's Metropolitan Community Church

A **SPOTLIGHT** on Upcoming Events, Activities, and Special  
Announcements

## This Week at St. John's MCC

Sunday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Combined Christmas Day Service	10:00 am
Monday, December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Church Office Closed	
Tuesday, December 27 <sup>th</sup>	Church Office Closed	
Wednesday, Dec. 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO Potter's Hour Service</b>	
Saturday, Dec. 31st	Watch Night Service Imani MCC, Durham NC	10:30 pm
Sunday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Combined New Year's Day Service	10:00 am

## Mark Your Calendars Today for These Upcoming Events

January 14-15, 2017	Winter Revival With Special Guest: Rev. Terri Steed Pearce Senior Pastor—Joy MCC, Orlando FL	
January 29, 2017	Board of Directors Meeting	After 11



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on Twitter @stjohnsmcc



## *Convenient Information to Keep In Mind*

### Rest Rooms:

Two rest rooms are located off the hallway, just before the rear entrance into the worship space. An additional rest room equipped with a changing table is located in the Junior Saints Room.

### Parking for First Time Guests:

Our First Time Guests are cordially invited to park in the spaces specifically provided for them at the Maywood Avenue entrance to, as well as any other available spaces on our Ministry Center property. Additional parking is also available on both sides of Maywood Avenue. We also request that you do not block the entrances to the adjacent business located on either side of the Ministry Center or our neighbor's access to it.

### Parking for Members, Regular Attenders, Choir Members, Leaders and Staff:

St. John's MCC is committed to ensuring that our First Time Guests are treated with the utmost care and attention from the moment they arrive at our Ministry Center. We respectfully request that our members, regular attenders, choir members, leaders and staff, assist us in this vital ministry of welcome by leaving the parking spaces in our on-site parking lot for them during our worship services.

### Always Play It Safe:

While at our Ministry Facility, we strongly encourage you to make sure that you put away and secure any valuables that you may have in your vehicle and lock your vehicle before leaving it.

### Smoking Area:

The smoking area is located at the end of the sidewalk on the left side of the Ministry Center. Please use the ashtray provided. Smoking in the building or near the door entrances is prohibited. Thank you!

# St. John's Metropolitan Community Church

## Church Leadership and Ministry Team

**Interim Pastor:**

The Rev. R. David Smith  
pastordavid@stjohnsmcc.org

**Pastor for Congregational Care:**

The Rev. Carlton Rutherford  
revcarlton@stjohnsmcc.org

**Church Administrator:**

David Ray  
churchadmin@stjohnsmcc.org

**Praise and Worship Music Coordinator:**

Robby Blanks  
robbyb@stjohnsmcc.org

**Ministry Support Team:**

David Ray  
churchadmin@stjohnsmcc.org  
Leah Sampson  
leahs@stjohnsmcc.org

**Marketing Ministry Team Lead:**

If you are interested in helping getting the name of St. John's out to the public, please see:  
Takoma Sampson  
takomas@stjohnsmcc.org

**Public Relations:**

Mike Gauss  
mikeg@stjohnsmcc.org

**Web Ministry Team Lead:**

Jim Manchester  
jim.manchester@stjohnsmcc.org

**Worship Ministry Team Lead:**

If you are interested in any aspect of our worship services, including music, sound and AV, please see:  
Vance Haywood  
vanceh@stjohnsmcc.org

**Fellowship Ministry Team Lead:**

If you are interested in joining of our affinity groups or planning a fellowship opportunity, please see:  
Dela Adams  
fellowship@stjohnsmcc.org

**Discipleship Ministry Team Lead:**

If you are interested in going deeper in your relationship with God, embody the teachings of Christ and modeling the Christ way of life through one of our Bible studies, please see:  
Cindy Norton  
discipleship@stjohnsmcc.org

**Stewardship Ministry Team Lead:**

If you are interested in the blessings of living a generous life, please see:  
Al Williams  
alw@stjohnsmcc.org

**The Board of Directors:**

Fred Cannady, Vice Moderator  
fredc@stjohnsmcc.org  
Marty Smith, Clerk  
martins@stjohnsmcc.org  
Mark Godette, Treasurer  
markg@stjohnsmcc.org  
LeJune Perrin, Assistant Clerk  
lejune@stjohnsmcc.org  
Bob Young, Assistant Treasurer  
roberty@stjohnsmcc.org  
Dedric Carter-Reid, Appointed Member  
dedricc@stjohnsmcc.org

**Ministers:**

Members of the Congregation

**St. John's Metropolitan Community Church**  
**622 Maywood Avenue, Raleigh, North Carolina 27603**  
**Phone: (919) 834-2611 Fax: (919) 834-2036**

Web Site: <http://www.StJohnsMCC.org>

Church Office's E-Mail: [ChurchAdmin@StJohnsMCC.org](mailto:ChurchAdmin@StJohnsMCC.org)

Interim Pastor's E-Mail: [PastorDavid@StJohnsMCC.org](mailto:PastorDavid@StJohnsMCC.org)

Pastor Carlton's E-Mail: [RevCarlton@StJohnsMCC.org](mailto:RevCarlton@StJohnsMCC.org)

**Church Office Hours:**

**Tuesday : 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday: 3:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.**

**Thursday: 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

**Meetings with the Pastor(s) can be scheduled  
by contacting the Church Office.**

St. John's MCC is part of the global movement of Metropolitan Community Churches. Together, we are compelled by an unfinished calling and a prophetic destiny. We are a global movement of spiritually and sexually diverse people who are full awake to God's enduring love. Following the example of Jesus and empowered by the Spirit, we seek to build leading-edge church communities that demand, proclaim, and do justice in the world. Learn more about MCC at [www.mccchurch.org](http://www.mccchurch.org)

**Proclaiming Christ by Celebrating . . .**

. . . the joys of a Christian life and the experiences of diversity in worship;

**Transforming Lives by Growing . . .**

. . . in God's grace, equipping people for spiritual living, enhancing interpersonal relationships and developing a thriving diverse community of faith, and;

**Building Community by Serving . . .**

. . . God's church and community, where everyone is equally valued and loved by God and has the ability and responsibility to serve.