

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net



The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

October 15, 2017

10:30 a.m.

An Autumn Message from the Rector

As we enter the fall season, we are still in the midst of what we call “ordinary time” on the church calendar. Many Sundays have passed since Trinity Sunday last spring, when we started to count the number of Sundays after Pentecost, the Church’s birthday. We will continue to do so until we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, which concludes this liturgical year before we begin anew on the first Sunday of Advent in early December. In autumn, we feel a shift in time, in both our bodies and our calendars, as we fall in step with the pace of a new season. As the weather cools and the foliage takes on brilliant hues of red, orange and yellow, we are invited to take time to ponder what God is up to in the world, the neighborhood, and in our individual lives. During worship services, our faith forums, study groups, retreats and Church School, we will explore ways to tell our individual stories and how they are connected to God’s story. Through these shared stories, we see that God is always beckoning us, no matter where we are on our spiritual journey, drawing us closer as God’s beloved.

If you are with us for the first time, please make yourself comfortable. We look forward to meeting you. If you would like to learn more about the church, please fill out a card (hanging in each pew), put it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher or member of the clergy, and we will be in touch. It is our custom to be silent before the service, so as you take some time to pray, please turn off all electronic devices. All you should need to participate in the service is found here, in this bulletin and in the blue hymnal in the pew rack. Hearing assist devices are available from the ushers. Nursery care is available in the Education Wing for children from birth to age 5. On most Sundays, children are also invited to participate in “Word Alive” during a portion of the 10:30 service, where they will hear today’s lectionary scriptures in a child-friendly way. An acolyte will lead children out of the nave for “Word Alive” before the sermon; children will return to their families at the Peace. Please feel free to ask the ushers for assistance or more information. Again, welcome.

Photo credit: © Virginia Kemp



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Concerto in A minor (after Vivaldi) Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Allegro – Adagio

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 556 Rejoice, ye pure in heart MARION
All stand and sing.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

ANTHEM Deep River

Allan Bevan, 1998

All sit.

Words and melody: African-American Spiritual

Deep river,
My home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.

Oh, don't you want to go,
To the Gospel feast;
That Promised Land,
Where all is peace?

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 25:1–9

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 23

The people read aloud the text in **bold** and sing the antiphon as indicated.



- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures ***
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, ***
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. *Antiphon*

THE SECOND LESSON

Acts 4:32-37

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 321 My God, thy table now is spread

ROCKINGHAM

All stand and sing. During the hymn, an acolyte will lead children to the "Word Alive" program in the Education Wing. They will return at the Peace.

THE GOSPEL

*Matthew 22:1-14**Minister* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.*All* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson

All sit.

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The people say the words in **bold**. A period of silence is kept.*

Eternal One, ground us in silence to listen and to hear. O Holy One, it is in your depths we find ourselves: Enfold us now in your presence, restore us now in your peace, renew us now through your power, ground us now in your grace. Lord, with your love, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal One, teach us to pray, for the prayers we say shape the lives we live; the lives we live shape the kingdom expressed in and among us; the kingdom expressed ushers in your perfect will. Lord, with your love, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal One, press us to become more like your image, not through the lessening of struggles but the expansion of them, so we will be set free to unbury our gifts; sharpen our fears until, by your Holy Spirit, we name them and unlock their power. Transform us Lord, **for your power is great.**

Eternal One, God of our frail hearts and frayed history, help us to believe in new beginnings, to live into fresh dreams, to dare to make bold tracks in the land of now. Transform us Lord, **for your power is great.**

Eternal One, in whose kingdom no sword is drawn but that of righteousness, no strength known but that of love, save us from these perilous times of trial, war, and rumors of war. Inspire those in authority, especially our president and our governor, to lead us to be at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations. Transform us, Lord, **for your power is great.**

Eternal One, remember those afflicted by natural disaster, addiction and loneliness, and by illness of body, mind and spirit. We especially pray for those on our parish prayer list and those whom we name now [*pause for silent or spoken prayers*]. Embrace them with mercy, nourish their souls with love, heal them by your goodness, and lift up your countenance upon them. Heal us Lord, **for your power is great.**

Eternal One, we pray for those who have died, those we love now absent: Comfort us in rejoicing that we are eternally bound together in the communion of the Holy Trinity. Bless us, Lord, **for your salvation is great.**

Celebrant O blessed Lord, it is in returning to you that we shall be saved; may your Holy Spirit of wisdom keep us from all false choices; may Jesus Christ lift us to his presence, this day and always. In whose name we pray,

People **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All remain standing or kneel.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE WELCOME

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM Rejoice in the Lord always

Anonymous, mid-16th century
Words: Philippians 4:1-9

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100TH

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Celebrant continues.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Title: *The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus*
 Music: *William Mathias (1934-1992) Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.*

All remain standing or kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy

Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy on

us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: Give us your peace.

Title: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God: Agnus Dei

Music: Gerard R. Near (b. 1942) Copyright © 1985 Aureole Editions, Dallas, Texas.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at St. John's.

Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the clergy at the communion rail.

If you would like a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.

If you would like to receive Healing Prayers, go to the baptismal font at the rear of the nave after receiving Communion.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM Rise up my love

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.
 For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
 The flowers appear upon the earth.
 The time of singing of birds is come.
 Arise my love, my fair one, and come away.

Healey Willan was a prolific British composer and organist, spending most of his career in Canada. He has more than 800 works in all genres to his credit, including many in our Hymnal 1982. Rise up my love dates from 1929. Willan was devoted to the Gregorian tradition, as can be heard in this simple but beautiful piece.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Eternal God, 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

The Celebrant gives the blessing and the people respond, Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN Great is thy faithfulness

ASSURANCE

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

1. There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;
 2. Sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 3. Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

1. Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not,
 2. Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness,
 3. Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

1. As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 2. To thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
 3. Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed,

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)

Music: William M. Runyan (1870-1957)

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Thomas Chisholm wrote this hymn as a testament to God's faithfulness through his very ordinary life. Born in a log cabin in Franklin, Kentucky, Chisholm became a Christian when he was 27 and entered the ministry when he was 36, though poor health forced him to retire after just one year and work as an insurance agent. Still, even with a desk job, he wrote nearly 1,200 poems throughout his life, including several published hymns. Chisholm explained toward the end of his life, "My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness."

THE DISMISSAL

The Celebrant dismisses the people, and the people respond. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE VOLUNTARY Trumpet Tune in D

David N. Johnson (1922-1981)

*The closing voluntary is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for God's Word as it has been experienced this day. All are invited to say **Amen** at the end of the voluntary as a conclusion to our worship.*

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**Celebrant:** The Reverend Susan Pinkerton**Preacher:** The Reverend Canon Chuck Robertson**Deacon:** The Reverend Walter McKenney**Layreader:** David Beers**The St. John's Youth and Adult Choirs****Organist/Choirmaster:** Scott Lamlein**Ushers:** John Amamoo, Shirley Blean, Sarah Kieffer, Philip Chapman**Acolytes:** J.P. Evans, Margaret Babbitt, Kiley Murphy**Healing Prayers:** Cindy Lawler**Altar Guild:** Conny DeLuca and Paul Shaker**At Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center****Layreader:** Cindy Lawler**Musician:** Steve Metcalf

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Thomas Riggs Cox III.

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In your prayers this week, please pray for:

Peace in our world, for those serving our country in armed services, and for all victims of war and violence.

The parish of Santa Cruz del Norte, our companion parish in Cuba, and Saint Sauveur School, Les Cayes, Haiti.

Séinaire de Théologie d'Église Épiscopale d'Haïti (STEEH), the Episcopal Seminary in Haiti.

Residents of the Caleb Hitchcock Center at Duncaster; the George Beach Apartments, Allen Place, Hartford; and the Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Our postulant, Michael Corey, and our missionary in Haiti, Dr. Lucinda Mosher. Pray especially for Mike as he travels to Puerto Rico to help with hurricane relief efforts there.

All those whose hurts, burdens and fears are unspoken or unknown.

Those in need of healing:

Jim Evans	Jim Tracy	Bob Connolly	Chas
Kim Green	Cheryl Trahan	Jay	Doris Klemm
Carol Grieco	Andrew Lee	Susan	Meg
Janet Ray	Susan Murray	Donald Myers	Robin
Ida McKenney	Mary Stoughton	Barbara Proft	John McCain
Don Hamer			

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Benedict Flynn III	Bess Amamoo
Barbara Brunjes	Helen Douglas
Dawson Biondi	Merrilee Leonhardt

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Christoph and Dale Stretz

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Diocese of Swaziland, Anglican Church of South Africa.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for All Saint's, Cornwall; St. James's, West Hartford; St. John's, West Hartford; St. Paul's Mission of the Deaf, West Hartford; and for ministries with older adults.

All Saints Day Remembrances

If you would like your loved ones' names included in the All Saints Day (November 5) service bulletin and prayers for those who have died, please fill out this form, tear it off and put it in the offering plate OR e-mail Ellen in the parish office at ellen@sjparish.net. Please send in names no later than **Monday, October 30**.

Name(s): _____

25 YEARS AGO FROM THE HARTFORD COURANT OCTOBER 12, 1992

Twenty-five years ago, on a Sunday morning, St. John's parishioners arrived to find the church gravely damaged by a fire overnight. The congregation's response that morning set the tone for our overall response to this devastating event — we went ahead with Sunday worship, outdoors and with neighbors joining in. As the church was rebuilt over the next few years, St. John's connected more deeply with those neighbors, particularly Congregation Beth Israel, who welcomed us into their space for worship. Rebuilding was an opportunity to think about the future and how the building supports the church's mission. While the fire was an awful event, many people also testify that it energized and brought the congregation together.

Services Held Outside Church Damaged in Fire

Only hours after a fire heavily damaged St. John's Episcopal Church, shaken parishioners took communion outside the ruins and promised to rebuild the historic building.

Church officials said restoring the turn-of-the-century church could cost millions of dollars. The building was one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the area, said congregation member Gary Wait, an employee of the Connecticut Historical Society.

Meanwhile, the displaced congregation, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1991, has accepted an invitation to use Temple Beth Israel at 701 Farmington Ave. while the church is rebuilt.

On Sunday, the weary rector, Joseph Pace, conducted services for about 150 parishioners in front of the church on a small wooden table flanked by a water-stained banner retrieved from the damaged building. The older parishioners sat solemnly up front while younger members stood toward the rear. Soot-covered firefighters poked about in the rubble. After the service, the congregation formed a line to receive communion, then devotedly sang hymns.

The Rt. Rev. Arthur Walmsley of the Diocese of Connecticut arrived early Sunday from New Hampshire to lend support. The bishop, who called the extensive damage "jarring," said the congregation is staggered by its sense of loss, but will overcome.

About 60 firefighters from West Hartford and Hartford fought the blaze. A fire department spokesman said the fire was called in at 11:23 p.m. and declared under control at about 5 a.m. Sunday.



*Photo: Newfield Construction. The article has been shortened.
Bill Uricchio, Parish Historian, 10.12.2017*

Happening Today!

Welcome to our guest preacher!

The Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson is canon to the presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church. He is author of *Barnabas vs. Paul* — a book on church leadership that our Vestry is reading together this year — and other books. Robertson is preaching at both services and leading the 9:30 Faith Forum on “The Barnabas Principle,” which offers a fresh vision of how to lead and work together as a congregation. Please welcome him and learn how his ideas might apply here at St. John's.

Coffee hour and Vestry lunch

Coffee hour after the 10:30 service will be set up in the carpeted section of Hubbard Hall. Thanks to Ginger Gillespie and Annabel Clapp for hosting today. The Vestry, clergy and staff will be having lunch in the other part of Hubbard Hall with our guest, the Rev. Chuck Robertson, continuing the discussion about church leadership.

Celtic theology and spirituality class continues today at St. James's

Come and learn about an understanding of God that is relevant and both very old and needed now. Join us to discuss Celtic theology and spirituality this Sunday afternoon, October 15 at 4:30 p.m. at St. James's Episcopal Church. We are reading John Philip Newell's book *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*. You are warmly invited to join in. The next monthly Celtic service will be held on Sunday, November 5, at St. John's. The service starts at 4:30 p.m. with a period of silence.

1 new thing

*“One New Thing” is an invitation to St. John's parishioners to find **one new thing** to try this program year. Look around the parish web site, read the weekly e-mail newsletter and Sunday bulletin, or take a look at the annual calendar in our new program brochure. Find an event or activity you've never participated in before, and put it on your calendar. Attend an annual event for the first time or volunteer for a ministry you don't know much about. If you have a favorite event or ministry, invite a friend to make it their “one new thing.” The goal is to energize our parish life, make new connections and learn more about parish life so that we can more effectively invite newcomers into our community. **What will be your one new thing this year?***

The following letter from St. John's member Mark Proft will be mailed to the parish this week.

Dear friends at St. John's:

I would like to share an experience that changed my life, and the blessing I received recently as part of a St. John's community service mission in support of Journey Home.

The apartment was bare, save for a table and chair in the kitchen, an air mattress on the living room floor, and some plastic bags and a backpack containing John's personal belongings. John had been living here for two weeks, yet today he was smiling, because on this day he was getting a bed, a dresser, a sofa, and a coffee table for the first place he could call home in more than a year.



Mark Proft

As John thanked those of us who were working with Journey Home and had delivered the furniture, I wished I had been able to show him how St. John's had been involved in helping him make this change in his life. But at that moment, all that mattered was that a life had been changed, and that was enough. Leading up to that moment, Journey Home had been constantly working to end homelessness in Connecticut, and St. John's had supported that effort in many ways. St. John's Community Service Committee had donated funding, dozens of parishioners had donated used furniture, others had collected and stored that furniture, and still others participated in the delivery to John's apartment. And of course, there were many others like John who benefited from the varied contributions of St. John's parishioners.

Similar stories can be told of changing lives through homebuilding with Habitat for Humanity, or working to settle a refugee family through co-sponsorship with Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS). But the story that often does not get told is the way these experiences change our lives. We don't volunteer our time or donate goods with the expectation that our life will change, but when you see the outsized impact our collective small efforts can have, you can't help but be moved.

As a faith family at St. John's, we bring many hands to any task we take on, and we have an enormous capacity to address the needs of so many. If you would like to join our work with Journey Home, IRIS, or Habitat for Humanity, or if you know of an organization or a cause that needs support — join us, support us, and together we can change many lives. I am grateful for these opportunities; they are why I make an annual gift to St. John's. Please join me in support of our parish and our ability to change lives, within St. John's and beyond.

Blessings,
Mark Proft

Save the Date

October and November Guest Preachers at St. John's

St. John's is pleased to welcome **the Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson** as our guest preacher and Faith Forum leader today. Robertson is canon to the presiding bishop for ministry beyond the Episcopal Church, and author of the book *Barnabas vs. Paul: To Encourage or Confront*, a fresh look at church leadership. On **October 29**, which is St. John's Commitment Sunday when all are encouraged to return your 2018 pledge commitment, the guest preacher will be **the Very Rev. Andrew McGowan**, president and dean of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University. On **November 12**, the **Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler**, an Episcopal priest who has served churches in Cairo, Egypt and elsewhere, and an expert in interfaith relations, will preach and lead the Faith Forum. Chandler is author of *In Search of a Prophet: A Spiritual Journey with Khalil Gibran*, and will speak about how Gibran's work provides an opportunity for dialogue among people of different faiths.

Sacred Circle, October 17 at 7 p.m.

Sacred Circle is a small group of women who meet once a month to explore our relationship to the sacred and honor the divine in everyday life. Our meeting this month will be on **Tuesday, October 17 at 7 p.m.** in the St. John's Room. The topic this month will be "Grace: What Is It and How Is It Revealed?" Join our discussion about what God's grace means to us. We'll explore our traditional understanding of it and how it matches up with our real-time experience. Please come. All women are welcome!

Women's Retreat, October 21 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Join author/speaker Jennifer Grant for a **women's retreat on Saturday, October 21, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, about the power of storytelling for making sense of our lives and seeing God at work in them. We will talk about the stories of women in the Bible and share some of our own stories as well, looking for how they reveal insights about ourselves, our families and communities, and God. Grant is the author/editor of several highly regarded books, an experienced retreat leader, and an Episcopalian from the Chicago area. Her most recent books are *When Did Everybody Else Get So Old?: Indignities, Compromises and the Unexpected Grace of Midlife* and the children's book *Maybe God is Like That Too*. The retreat is open to ALL women – invite a friend! Registration is \$15 if tickets are purchased ahead of time*, and \$20 at the door. Lunch is included. To register, go to www.sjparish.net/events/retreat and click on the Eventbrite button. *Pre-registration ticket price is \$13.82 plus \$1.72 Eventbrite fee = \$15.

Lunch for all acolytes (old and new) and youth interested in the 2018 Dominican Republic trip, October 22 after the 10:30 service

Immediately following the 10:30 service on October 22nd, all acolytes, including middle and high school students interested in becoming an acolyte, will do a brief training in the nave. After that, acolytes and any other high school students interested in the July 2018 Dominican Republic mission trip will have lunch together in the Education Wing. Then Alan McCollum of the ECCT Ministry Network, who will be leading the mission trip, will share information and answer questions about it. (Acolytes who are not interested in the trip may leave after they've had lunch.) *Please RSVP for the lunch to Ellen in the parish office.*

Lecture on *The Rise of Beatlemania in America*, October 22 at 1 p.m.

Join Beatles scholar Aaron Krerowicz for a multimedia presentation on connections between the life and death of John F. Kennedy and the Beatles' unprecedented fame and success in America. Part of the Music at the Red Door series, this event is free and open to the public; donations in any amount are welcome.

Pipescreams! Organ Concert, October 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Hear the celebrated St. John's Austin organ played by a stunning cast of costumed players in this *spooktacular* concert. The music will be kooky, creepy, dramatic, doleful — featuring old favorites as well as some pieces you may not have heard before. Reception with ghoulish treats follows the concert. Fun for all ages. Don't miss it! Co-sponsored by the Greater Hartford Chapter, American Guild of Organists. A freewill offering helps support the L. Cameron Johnson Memorial Organ Competition for young organists.

A Night with the Saints ECCT Event, October 28, 6 to 9 p.m.

Join kids and parents from across the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) for a night of fun, tricks and treats at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. The evening will feature karaoke in costume, refreshments, and more. Bring some treats to share if you'd like. Free admission and free parking (with validation) available in the MAT garage.

Choral Evensong featuring the St. John's Youth Choir, October 29 at 5 p.m.

Evensong offers us the opportunity to gather and spend time in prayer while listening to and participating in music that is especially selected to bring us into deeper understanding of the mysteries of our faith. Evensong is a wonderful way to bring your weekend to a close in peace and beauty, and prepare for the week ahead. Please come and bring a friend.

Confirmation Program 2017-2018

We're thrilled to host the Very Rev. Ian Douglas, bishop of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, next April 15, for a service of Holy Eucharist and confirmation. The confirmation program will start with a special blessing of confirmation program participants during the 10:30 service next Sunday **October 22**. A dinner for confirmands and their parents will be on **November 5 at 6 p.m.** Classes will be held after the 10:30 service for four Sundays in January and February. Youth who are planning to go on the Dominican Republic mission trip are encouraged to take part in these classes and activities, even if they have already been confirmed. Please see Janet Babbitt or Susan Pinkerton for more information and to let them know if you/your child plans to participate. **Note: The confirmation dinner with the bishop, previously scheduled for February 27, will now be held on February 7.**

Everybody has a story... What is yours? Where do you see God in it?

The events of our lives, our relationships, our bodies and the lines on our faces – they tell a story. What is your story? How can telling and reframing our stories help us see God at work? What story is God telling in your life? Join author Jennifer Grant for a dynamic day of storytelling, conversation and reflection. Grant, an Episcopal writer and speaker from the Chicago area, is author of *When Did Everybody Else Get So Old? Indignities, Compromises and the Unexpected Grace of Midlife*. Reading the book ahead of time is recommended but optional; signed copies will be available for purchase at the retreat.

Women's Retreat with author Jennifer Grant

Saturday, October 21
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\$15 pre-registration

\$20 at the door

Lunch included

Register at

www.sjparish.net/events/retreat



St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06119
860.523.5201
www.sjparish.net

Come and bring a friend.
All are welcome!

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net

679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut 06119

860 523 5201 office@sjparish.net



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. each Sunday morning

5:00 p.m. Evensong on selected last Sundays of the month

4:30 p.m. Celtic contemplative service on the first Sunday of the month, October - June

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer each Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Christian Education: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. September – May

CLERGY and STAFF

The Rev. Susan Pinkerton (susan@sjparish.net)	Rector
Scott Lamlein (scott@sjparish.net)	Director of Music
The Rev. Walter McKenney* (walter@sjparish.net)	Deacon
The Rev. Hope Eakins* (hope@sjparish.net)	Priest Associate
The Rev. William Eakins* (bill@sjparish.net)	Priest Associate
The Rev. Helen M. Moore* (helen@sjparish.net)	Director of Pastoral and Spiritual Ministries
Janet Babbitt (janet@sjparish.net)	Director of Religious Education
Ellen Painter Dollar (ellen@sjparish.net)	Parish Manager and Assistant to the Rector
Dwight Latif (dwight@sjparish.net)	Sexton
Peggy O'Toole (peggy@sjparish.net)	Financial Administrator
Mary Scripko (mary@sjparish.net)	Religious Education Assistant
Ralph Valentine	Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus

**These positions are non-stipendiary. These clergy give generously of their time and expertise to support St. John's mission and ministries.*

VESTRY

Buffy Ineson	Warden
Wes Winterbottom	Warden
Beth Grieco and Chris Byrd	Co-Treasurers
Ellen Painter Dollar	Clerk

2015-17: Courtney Bass, Jan Hickcox, John Roche, Heather Simson

2016-18: Bess Amamoo, Tim Goetz, Ginny Kemp, Will Smith

2017-19: Geoff Emerick, Douglas Hyland, Virginia Van Dyk, Andrew Worrell

ST. PAUL'S DEAF CONGREGATION

Sundays, 10:30 a.m., in the church

Lay leaders: Victoria Crosta – text: 860-478-6524; Melissa Render – text: 860-983-4606