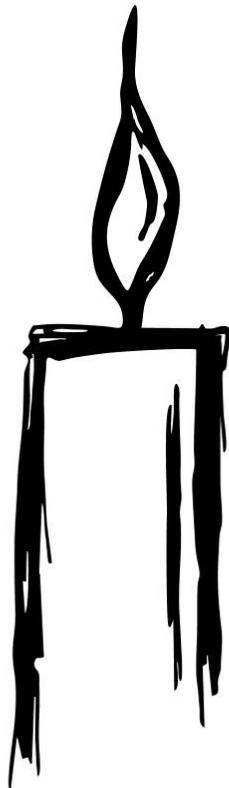


St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net



Second Sunday of Advent

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

December 10, 2017

10:30 a.m.

KYRIE ELEISON

Cantor, then all:
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Cantor, then all:
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Translation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Music: Litany of the Saints, adapted by Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

All sit.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

*Psalm 85:1-2,8-13**The people say the words in **bold** and sing the antiphon as indicated.*

Show us your mer - cy, O LORD; and grant us your sal - va - tion.

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 **You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.**
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 **Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.**
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 **Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 **Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

Antiphon

THE EPISTLE

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader The Word of the Lord.*People* **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN People, look East

BESANÇON CAROL

All stand and sing. During the hymn, children may follow the acolyte out of the church to attend Word Alive. The children will return at the Peace.



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
 5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
 2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
 3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
 4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
 5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
 2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
 3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
 4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
 5. com-ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.



Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

Music: Besançon Carol, harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944)

THE GOSPEL

*Mark 1:1–8**Minister* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

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.

Indwelling God, you have baptized your Church with the Holy Spirit: Inspire us to lead lives of holiness and godliness as we prepare for new heavens and a new earth, that as Christ comes he finds us to be a people of peace and justice. We pray for Michael our presiding bishop, Ian and Laura our bishops, our parish clergy, and all who serve God in the church. *[Pause for silent or spoken prayers.]* May we listen to what the Lord God is saying, **for he speaks peace to his faithful people.**

Holy and Mighty One, open the ears and eyes of the leaders of all the nations that they may listen to what the Lord God is saying, for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you. We pray for Donald our president, Dannel our governor, and all who are privileged with power. *[Pause for silent or spoken prayers.]* May we listen to what the Lord God is saying, **for he speaks peace to his faithful people.**

Compassionate One, look upon the needs of all humanity: Feed your flock like a shepherd; gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom, gently leading the mother sheep, that all may know the comfort of your strength. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list and those whom we name now. *[Pause for silent or spoken prayers.]* May we listen to what the Lord God is saying, **for he speaks peace to his faithful people.**

Ever-present God, lift up your voice with power to herald good tidings to the people of this community to cast out all fear as we listen for the happy cry of your coming salvation. *[Pause for silent or spoken prayers.]* May we listen to what the Lord God is saying, **for he speaks peace to his faithful people.**

Glorious One, come with might in your divine recompense to reveal your glory to all who look to you in hope. Accept our glad tidings for those who offer you their gracious thanksgivings, and bring into your everlasting reign those who have died. *[Pause for silent or spoken prayers.]* May we listen to what the Lord God is saying, **for he speaks peace to his faithful people.**

Celebrant Look upon your creation and comfort your people, O Holy One: Let every valley be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low; let the uneven ground become level and the rough places a plain, that all people may see the revelation of the glory of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 There is no rose (*from A Ceremony of Carols*) Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)
Words: Anonymous, 14th century

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda. (Thing of wonder)

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Paresforma. (Equal in form)

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis deo: (Glory to God in the highest)
Gaudeamus. (Let us rejoice)

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus. (Let us follow)

A Ceremony of Carols was written in 1942 when the English composer Benjamin Britten was 29 years old. It is one of the composer's most popular and widely performed works, particularly at the Christmas season. A Ceremony of Carols was composed in part during five weeks that Britten spent travelling by ship from New York to England during the Second World War. During the voyage, the ship stopped in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where Britten purchased a book of medieval poetry. Poems from this book, along with Gregorian Chant and other poetry spanning 14th to 16th century England, were the inspiration for A Ceremony of Carols, which includes both a Christmas narrative as well as references to the rebirth of spring.

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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

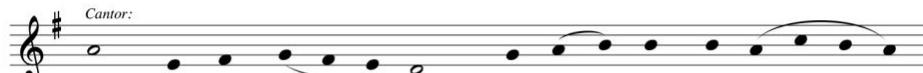
THE SANCTUS

Cantor, then all:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

Cantor:



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo -

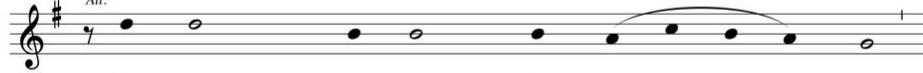


ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est,



ho - san - na in the high - est.

All:



Ho - san - na in the high - est,



ho - san - na in the high - est.

Cantor:

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the
high - est. *All:* Ho - san - na in the high -
est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

All remain standing or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may

enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

All 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.

Cantor

1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you take a - way the sins of the world,
3. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

1.2. *All* have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. 3. *All* grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc..

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 *In dulci jubilo* (1837)

Robert Pearsall (1795-1856)

Words: Heinrich Seuse, c. 1328, translated Pearsall

In dulci jubilo, (In sweet rejoicing,)

Let us our homage show!

Our heart's joy reclineth

In praesepio; (in the manger;)

And like a bright star shineth

Matris in gremio. (in the mother's lap.)*Alpha es et O!* (You are the Alpha and Omega!)*O Jesu parvule*, (O tiny Jesus)

I yearn for thee alway!

Hear me, I beseech thee,

O puer optime; (O best of children)

My prayer let it reach thee,

O princeps gloriae. (O prince of glory)*Trahe me post te*. (Make me follow you)*O patris caritas!* (O love of the Father)*O Nati lenitas!* (O gentleness of the Son)

Deeply were we stained.

Per nostra crimina: (through our crimes)

But thou hast for us gained

Coelorum gaudia, (the joys of heaven)

O that we were there!

Ubi sunt gaudia, (where are joys)

Where, if that they be not there?

There are angels singing

Nova cantica; (new songs)

There the bells are ringing

In Regis curia (in the courts of the King).

O that we were there!

In dulci jubilo ("In sweet rejoicing") is a traditional Christmas carol. Translations into English, such as J.M.*Neale's arrangement Good Christian Men, Rejoice* have increased its popularity, and Robert Pearsall's 1837 macaronic translation is a mainstay of the Christmas Nine Lessons and Carols repertoire. (Macaronic: alternating between two languages, often showing odd contrasts.)

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 DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Praeludium: From heaven above to earth I come

Johann Pachelbel

*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.*

Vestry members are on hand to welcome you to St. John's today. Today's greeter is Buffy Ineson.

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant: The Reverend Hope Eakins

Preacher: The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

Deacon: The Reverend Walter McKenney

Layreader: Carol Sonne

Psalterer: John Church

The St. John's Adult Choir

Organist/Choirmaster: Scott Lamlein

Cantor: John Nowacki

Assisting Pianist: Jacqueline Smith

Ushers: Laura and John Roche, Don Polk, Christoph Stretz, Susan Clemow

Acolytes: Gus Murchie, Francis Lamlein, Caroline Thaxton, Olivia Thaxton

Altar Guild: Michael Wilkinson and Buffy Ineson

At Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center

Layreader: John Hardy

Musician: Joyce Burke

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Psalm Antiphon from A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition ©2007 Carl P. Daw, Jr., and Kevin R. Hackett.

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Prayers of the People are adapted from those published on the web site of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

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.

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

Those in need of healing:

Jim Evans	Cheryl Trahan	Jay	Chas
Kim Green	Andrew Lee	Susan	Meg
Carol Grieco	Susan Murray	Donald Myers	John McCain
Janet Ray	Mary Stoughton	Barbara Proft	Mike Mahoney
Ida McKenney	James Varga	Richard Myers	David

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Lyn Walker	Sarah Thaxton	Tim Henning
Edward Hohl	Mariana Evica	Morgan Babbitt
Edward Nelson	Elisabeth Russell	Carol Sonne
Bowie Thomas	Elsa Ciscel	Ellen O'Brien
Emily Russell	David Pond	

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Diocese of Western North Carolina.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Christ Church, Bethany; St. Thomas', Bethel; Christ Church, Bethlehem; Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield; and for the children of the world, the Bishops' Fund for Children, and all ECCT ministries for children at risk.

Happening Today!

Christmas Flower Offering Envelopes

If you would like to make a contribution toward Christmas poinsettias in memory or honor of a loved one, please take one of the Flower Offering envelopes placed in each pew. Put your contribution in the envelope, and make sure to list the names of those whom you would like remembered on the envelope or a separate list. You may also mail or drop off your contribution and list of names to the office. **All names must be received in the office by Monday, December 18.**

Church School Sale

The church school is selling handmade soaps from the Dominican Republic and unique Christmas ornaments for \$2 each or three for \$5.

Candlelight Festival of Lessons and Carols, 3 p.m.

This traditional service of scripture readings and music, featuring the St. John's Youth and Adult Choirs, is the perfect way to center yourself and enjoy a peaceful hour in the midst of pre-Christmas activity. The service is free and open to all. Donations are accepted. Please come and bring a friend! There will be a reception afterward.

2018 Pledges

The fall stewardship campaign, in which members commit to financial support for the upcoming year, allows the Vestry to draft an annual budget and plan for the year to come. We are grateful to the following people, along with several others who wish to remain anonymous, for their faithful commitment to St. John's ministries in 2018. If you would like to pledge and haven't yet, you may pick up a pledge card at either entrance to the church and put it in the offering plate, or mail it to the office. You may also pledge online at www.sjparish.net.

Merriol Almond	Edwin & Giselle Genece	Susan Pinkerton
John & Bess Amamoo	Colin & Ginger Gillespie	Mark Proft
Brad & Janet Babbitt	Sally Given	Audree Raffay
Richard Bainbridge	Timothy Goetz	Melissa Render
John & Eleanor Barnes	Jeffrey & Heidi Gostyla	Harold Rives, III & Margaret Ware
Richard & Wendy Bartlett	Joel & Beth Grieco	John & Laura Roche
Courtney & Brittany Bass	David Grimaldi	Guiduccio & Nina Rosselli Del Turco
Margaret Beers	Bette-Jane Hardersen	Judith Schaffer
Frank & Jenefer Berall	Anne Harney	Paul Shaker & Cleveland Williams
Mike Biondi & Virginia Kemp	Ross & Susie Hatch	Robert & Nancy Skeeel
Eloise Biscoe	Eleanor Hayes	Spencer & Mary Sloan
Shirley Blean	Patricia & Ronald Hensley	Paul & Jacqueline Smith
Lynn & Lissie Brooks	Priscilla Hexter	William & Margaret Smith
Christopher & Kimberley Byrd	Patricia Howard	Carol and Charles Sonne
Philip Chapman	David Hrdlicka & Veronica Marshall-Hrdlicka	Flora Speer
Stephan & Francine Christiansen	Ann Hutchinson	Laura Stabile
Christopher Cipriano	Douglas & Tita Hyland	Mary Stoughton
Matthew & Alina Ciscel	John & Buffy Ineson	Christoph & Dale Stretz
Elijah & Annabel Clapp	Dianne Jones	Patricia Struglia
Brian & Susan Clemow	Sarah Kieffer	Paul & Susan Thaxton
Robert & Edith Connolly	Richard & Ann Krissingner	Margaret Thomas
Helen Cooke	Scott & Mary Beth Lamlein	Heidi & Hubertus Tummescheit
Samuel & Trig Cooley	Carroll & Cindy Lawler	Alex & Pat Vance
Stephen Crocker & Rosaria Guzzo	Albert & Barbara Lennox	Guy & Julia Verney
Patrick & Monica Curtis	Karen Licht	Jeffery & Pamela Verney
Conny DeLuca	Michael & Lisa Mahoney	Audrey Walker
Pamela Dimock	David & Tina McCary	Lyn Walker & Tyler Smith
James & Susan Donaldson	Sonia Michel	Joan Warner
Linda Dunakin	Patrick Miller	Judith Wawro
William & Hope Eakins	Jean Mitchell	Martin Wheeler & Deborah Ferrari
Robert & Kate Eikel	Marie-Jose Montas	Edward & Brooke Whittemore
Miss Frances Eikel	Robert & Marnie Mueller	John Wilcox & Virginia Van Dyk
Geoffrey & Karan Emerick	Stewart & Leah Murchie	Craig & Michael Wilkinson
Miss Catherine Emerick	David & Joan Murphy	Janet Willard
Miss Britt Emerick	Alex & Elizabeth Nelson	Dennis & Jeanne Winkleblack
Anthony & Carole Erdman	Samuel & Ann Newbury	Wesley Winterbottom
Alycia Evica	John Nowacki & Don Polk	Anita Winters
Martha Fine	James & Julia O'Brien	Andrew & Joanna Worrell
John & Linda Fiske	Nancy Pedersen	Several families who wish to remain anonymous
Carol Fiske-Davis	William & Agnes Peelle	
Benedict & Ellen Flynn		

Giving to St. John's: How we make a difference in the world

WHAT – What stewardship means at St. John's

St. John's undertakes a dedicated stewardship campaign each fall to encourage members to make a promise to give financial support for the next year's operating expenses and investments. We think about stewardship more broadly however; stewardship is more than a season, and about more than financial giving. Stewardship is about *gratitude* for the abundant gifts God has given us, and how giving *generously* out of that abundance can change our outlook and nurture our relationship with God and others.

WHY – From our Rector, Susan Pinkerton

"Through our worship, pastoral care and the many ministries at St. John's, we experience God's grace working in our lives in ways we could never imagine. God's abundant love transforms and shapes how we see ourselves and how we act in the world, as we become more aware of the many blessings that grace our lives. With this deepened awareness, we understand that all that we have and all that we are comes from God."

HOW – Your participation

We are seeking deep and meaningful engagement across the parish, while meeting people where they are in their lives and situations. From a financial appeal standpoint, we ask that you consider the following:

- **The cost to run St. John's is more than \$3,000 annually per active member family.**
 - As the wardens explained in their letter to the parish in September, we fund church operations and good works through our pledges, gifts, events, offerings and use of endowment resources. To use our resources effectively for many years to come, we need more annual gifts so we become less reliant on our endowment for current operations.
- **We receive pledges from roughly 50% of our total membership.**
 - We need this percentage to be higher, both to raise more funds (to sustain as well as to grow our programs and expand our services), as well as to increase engagement across our community. Greater engagement brings benefits far beyond financial ones, as St. John's ministries are energized and expanded, to become even more of a positive presence in people's lives.
- **The average current-year pledge is \$3,200.**
 - We do not expect that all parishioners can pledge at this average level. We hope nonetheless that all of our active members can make a financial contribution at some level — whatever that level is.

We appreciate your consideration of financial support for St. John's, as well as your overall contributions to our worship and ministries, as we work together to share the word of God among us and across our community.

Save the Date

Stop. Rest. Pray. — Midweek Advent Services, 6 p.m. on Tuesdays

Enhance your Advent observance with a simple midweek service of readings, chants and prayers.

Christmas pageant preparations

Sunday, 12/10 — Pageant rehearsals during the 9:30 education hour.

Saturday, 12/16 — Dress rehearsal from 9 to 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, 12/17 — Christmas pageant during the 10:30 service!

Sign up to teach Church School in January and early February

Sign-ups for our Church School Winter Term will be available on Sunday, December 10. Please see Janet Babbitt, director of religious education, for more information about this volunteer teaching opportunity. The winter term runs Jan. 7 to Feb. 11, 2018.

Advent Compline services at Trinity Church, Sundays at 8 p.m.

Compline is an evening service descended from the prayer said before bed in the monastic order of daily services. It includes confession of sins, psalms, a short Scripture reading, the *Nunc dimittis*, and prayers for protection and rest. All are welcome to attend Sunday evening Compline at Trinity Church (Farmington Avenue and Sigourney Street in Hartford) on Sundays in Advent.

Stacey Kohl's ordination, December 20 at 6:30 p.m.

The Reverend Stacey Kohl, who has been sponsored by St. John's in the ordination process, will be ordained to the priesthood on Wednesday, December 20, 6:30 p.m., at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Mystic. All are welcome to attend.

Office schedule and end-of-year donations

The church office will be closed from Monday, December 25 through Thursday, December 28. The office will be open on Friday, December 29, and then closed again on Monday, January 1. For donations to be recorded in 2017, we need to receive them in the office no later than **Friday, December 22**. Statements including 2017 donations received and outstanding pledge balances were sent out last week to all pledging households.

Vestry Notes

A monthly summary of St. John's Vestry meetings

The St. John's Vestry met at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29, 2017. Key discussions included the following:

- Co-treasurers Chris Byrd and Beth Grieco presented a preliminary 2018 budget. Continuing revisions will be made in the next month, and the Vestry will vote to approve a final budget at the December 19 meeting. The preliminary budget includes a 6.5 percent draw on the endowment, which is significantly higher than is recommended. This is a continuing concern for the parish's long-term health, and is caused by stagnant or decreasing pledge receipts combined with a few expense increases.
- Ted Whittemore reported on proposed changes to St. John's bylaws, which he, Susan Pinkerton and Chris Byrd have been working on. Proposed changes are both minor (such as updating names and allowing for electronic communications) and major (such as adopting more flexibility concerning how many people serve on the vestry, and establishing more rigorous voting procedures for certain types of major votes). The Vestry will vote on the changes at a future meeting, after everyone has a chance to review them and ask questions.
- Scott Lamlein reported on progress on incorporating the Music at the Red Door concert series as a separate nonprofit organization. The purpose of this is to allow Music at the Red Door to apply for grant funding for which churches are not eligible. St. John's would be the sole "member" of the nonprofit corporation and would retain ultimate control over all Music at the Red Door activities. The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the terms of Music at the Red Door nonprofit incorporation (as outlined on a document shared with the Vestry) and also unanimously approved the following Board of Directors for the new nonprofit corporation: Douglas Hyland (president), Karan Emerick (secretary), treasurer TBA, Kay Cox (member) and Jeff Verney (member).
- The Vestry received updates on various programs and ministries from the rector, the wardens, the Stewardship Committee, and the Nominating Committee for 2018-2019 Vestry elections.

Complete minutes of the Vestry meeting are posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule between Hubbard Hall and the Education Wing, or you may request them from the parish office.

Candlelight Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday
December 10
3:00 p.m.

St. John's Youth and
Adult Choirs
Scott Lamlein, choirmaster
Floyd Higgins, organist

In the tradition of King's College,
Cambridge, prepare your soul
for the Christmas miracle with
carols for choir and organ.
This event is a long-standing
tradition at St. John's
– a "must" to center your soul
during the Advent season.

Free admission,
with donations received,
no tickets required.
A reception follows
in the church hall.



St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Avenue (near Prospect)
West Hartford, CT 06119
www.RedDoorMusic.org

Music at the Red Door



Advent and Christmas

at St. John's

Sundays in Advent

December 3, 10, 17 - Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10:30 a.m.
December 24 - Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. only

Advent Wreath Making & Pageant Sign-Up

December 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Celtic Contemplative Service

December 3 at 4:30 p.m.

"Women Together" Advent Book Group

December 5, 12, 19 at 3 p.m.

Midweek Advent Services

December 5, 12, 19 at 6 p.m.

Candlelight Festival of Lessons & Carols

December 10 at 3 p.m.

Christmas Pageant

December 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

December 24 at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m.,
with musical prelude at 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

December 25 at 10 a.m.

Twelfth Night Chili Cook-Off

January 5 at 6:30 p.m.

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

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
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