St. John’s Episcopal Church
A place to discover connections with God and one another
www.sjparish.net

First Sunday of Advent
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
December 3, 2017
10:30 a.m.
An Advent Message from the Rector

We begin a new year in the church calendar with the dawn of Advent. It is a short season lasting only four weeks. During this time, we are invited into a space of quiet waiting and deep reflection. These darkened winter days seem fitting, a gentle reminder that we need to slow down a bit and simply allow ourselves time to be. It is in these quiet, restful moments that we hear God best, reminding us that we are loved by God beyond our wildest imagination. The pending birth of the Prince of Peace is God’s assurance to the whole world how much we are loved. So we wait in the darkness with the hope of what is to come — the promise of a new life, a new way of being. We find this hope in the most humble and vulnerable of people and places — a tiny, frail newborn cradled in a manger of straw. I invite you to set some time aside this Advent season to listen to where God is calling you. This season’s services and events are listed in the back of the program. Please come and bring a friend as we ready ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child.

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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY
Savior of the nations, come Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Prelude on Veni Emmanuel Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 56 (vv. 1,2,6,7,8) O come, O come Emmanuel VENI, VENI EMMANUEL
All stand and sing.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader #1 We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord’s coming.

Reader #2 For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. A righteous Branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

People Come, Lord Jesus, come!
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christendom

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.

KYRIE ELEISON

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


THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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 64:1–9

All sit.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.
Reader  The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 80:1–7, 16–18

The people say the words in bold and sing the antiphon as indicated.

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
   shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
   stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
   show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *
   how long will you be angered
   despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
   you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
   and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
   show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
   the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
   give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
   show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader  The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.
THE SEQUENCE HYMN 324  Let all mortal flesh keep silence
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.

THE GOSPEL

*Mark 13:24–37*

Minister  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

All  *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Minister  The Gospel of the Lord.

All  *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON

The Reverend Helen M. Moore

THE NICENE CREED

*All sit.*

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.

Help us, O God, to keep awake and watch for signs of your coming. Open our ears to your call; our eyes to your presence in our world, our church and our neighbors; and our hearts to the hope that lies only and always in you. [Pause for silent or spoken prayers.] Restore us, O Lord God of Hosts; show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

When conflict, disaster, deceit and meanness surround us and make us afraid, as if the sun and moon are darkening and the stars may fall from the sky, remind us, O God, that you are always near. May we and our leaders strive to do right and to remember your ways of justice, mercy and peace. [Pause for silent or spoken prayers.] Restore us, O Lord God of Hosts; show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

We lift up to you, O God, those who feel as if they are being fed bowls of tears — those who suffer in body, mind or spirit; and those who are derided, unseen, abused or excluded. [Pause for silent or spoken prayers.] Restore us, O Lord God of Hosts; show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

We remember those who have died, whose waiting and watching have ended, for they dwell in your presence, O God, now and forever. [Pause for silent or spoken prayers.] Restore us, O Lord God of Hosts; show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, because of the grace you have given us in Christ Jesus. Strengthen us to keep awake and watch for your presence in the world and in one another. By you we were called into the fellowship of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 I wonder as I wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
For poor on’ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky
When Mary birthed Jesus ’twas in a cow’s stall
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all
But high from God’s heaven, a star’s light did fall
And the promise of ages it then did recall.
If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing
Or all of God’s Angels in heaven to sing
He surely could have it, ’cause he was the King.

The text and more familiar tune of “I wonder” was collected by John Jacob Niles in Murphy, NC in July 1933 from a young traveling evangelist Annie Morgan. According to Niles, he asked her to sing the song repeatedly until he had memorized it. It was published in his 1934 Songs of the Hill-Folk. Written in a minor key, its qualities of pensiveness make it one of today’s most popular carols. This contemporary arrangement by Swiss composer Carl Rütti was first performed at Lessons and Carols at King’s College, Cambridge, in 2002.
THE PRESENTATION HYMN

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

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.


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 My Lord is come

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels:
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.
Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven;
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.
His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.
Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels;
No place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.

THE POST-COMMUNION ANTHEM He owns the cattle on a thousand hills

For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

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 57 Lo! He comes, with clouds descending
HELMSLEY

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

THE VOLUNTARY Toccata from Symphony No. 5 Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)

The “Widor Toccata” is arguably the second-famous of all organ works (just behind the Bach Toccata and Fugue in D minor). The first of the great French toccatas to take literally the title (meaning “touch”), it is a whirlwind of chords and arpeggios with a pedal melody that travels through many keys. And it is pure joy!

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 Ginny Kemp.

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY
Celebrant: The Reverend Susan Pinkerton
Preacher: The Reverend Helen M. Moore
Deacon: The Reverend Walter McKenney
Layreader: Christoph Stretz
Psalterer: Olivia Tummescheit
The St. John’s Youth and Adult Choirs
Organist/Choirmaster: Scott Lamlein
Cantor: John Nowacki
Church School Song Leader: Heidi Tummescheit
Ushers: Jeff Gostyla, Troy Gostyla, Steve Crocker, Julia O’Brien, Ross Hatch, Will Smith, Courtney Bass
Acolytes: J.P. Evans, Claire O’Brien, Dawson Biondi, Elise Biondi
Healing Prayers: Ginger Gillespie
Altar Guild: Conny DeLuca and Bess Amamoo
At Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center
Layreader: Lissie Brooks
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. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
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 missioner in Haiti, Dr. Lucinda Mosher.

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

Those in need of healing:

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<tr>
<td>Jim Evans</td>
<td>Cheryl Trahan</td>
<td>Jay</td>
<td>Chas</td>
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<td>Kim Green</td>
<td>Andrew Lee</td>
<td>Susan</td>
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<td>Carol Grieco</td>
<td>Susan Murray</td>
<td>Donald Myers</td>
<td>John McCain</td>
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<td>Janet Ray</td>
<td>Mary Stoughton</td>
<td>Barbara Proft</td>
<td>Mike Mahoney</td>
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<td>Ida McKenney</td>
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Those celebrating birthdays this week:

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<td>Susan Knapp Thomas</td>
<td>Ann Hutchinson</td>
<td>Anne Harney</td>
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<td>Claire O’Brien</td>
<td>Bobby Biondi</td>
<td>Virginia Van Dyk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lissie Brooks</td>
<td>David Hrdlicka</td>
<td>Marshall Barnes</td>
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Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Barbara and Albert Lennox

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Diocese of West Buganda, Church of the Province of Uganda.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul’s, Bantam; and for postulants and candidates for Holy Orders, and the Commission on Ministry and its members.
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
John & Bess Amamoo
Brad & Janet Babbitt
Richard Bainbridge
John & Eleanor Barnes
Richard & Wendy Bartlett
Courtney & Brittany Bass
Margaret Beers
Frank & Jennifer Berall
Mike Biondi & Virginia Kemp
Eloise Bisceo
Shirley Bleam
Lynn & Lissie Brooks
Christopher & Kimberley Byrd
Philip Chapman
Stephan & Francine Christiansen
Christopher Cipriano
Matthew & Alina Ciscel
Elijah & Annabel Clapp
Brian & Susan Clemow
Robert & Edith Connolly
Helen Cooke
Samuel & Trig Cooley
Stephan Crocker & Rosaria Guzzo
Patrick & Monica Curtis
Conny DeLuca
Pamela Dimock
James & Susan Donaldson
Linda Dunakin
William & Hope Eakins
Robert & Kate Eikel
Miss Frances Eikel
Geoffrey & Karan Emerick
Miss Catherine Emerick
Miss Britt Emerick
Anthony & Carole Erdman
Alycia Evica
Martha Fine
John & Linda Fiske
Carol Fiske-Davis
Benedict & Ellen Flynn

Edwin & Giselle Genece
Sally Given
Timothy Goetz
Jeffrey & Heidi Gostyla
Joel & Beth Greico
David Grimaldi
Bette-Jane Hardersen
Anne Harney
Ross & Susie Hatch
Eleanor Hayes
Patricia & Ronald Hensley
Priscilla Hexter
Patricia Howard
David Hrdlicka & Veronica Marshall-Hrdlicka
Ann Hutchinson
Douglas & Tita Hyland
John & Buffy Ineson
Dianne Jones
Sarah Kieffer
Richard & Ann Kriissinger
Scott & Mary Beth Lamlein
Carroll & Cindy Lawler
Albert & Barbara Lennox
Karen Licht
Michael & Lisa Mahoney
David & Tina McCary
Sonia Michel
Patrick Miller
Jean Mitchell
Marie-Jose Montas
Robert & Marnie Mueller
Stewart & Leah Murchie
David & Joan Murphy
Alex & Elizabeth Nelson
Samuel & Ann Newbury
John Nowacki & Don Polk
James & Julia O'Brien
Nancy Pedersen
William & Agnes Peelle
Susan Pinkerton

Mark Proft
Audree Raffay
Melissa Render
Harold Rives, III & Margaret Ware
John & Laura Roche
Guiduccio & Nina Rosselli Del Turco
Judith Schaffer
Paul Shaker & Cleveland Williams
Robert & Nancy Skeele
Spencer & Mary Sloan
Paul & Jacqueline Smith
William & Margaret Smith
Carol and Charles Sonne
Flora Speer
Laura Stabile
Mary Stoughton
Christoph & Dale Stretz
Patricia Struglia
Paul & Susan Thaxton
Margaret Thomas
Heidi & Hubertus Tummescheit
Alex & Pat Vance
Guy & Julia Verney
Jeffery & Pamela Verney
Audrey Walker
Lyn Walker & Tyler Smith
Joan Warner
Judith Wawro
Martin Wheeler & Deborah Ferrari
Edward & Brooke Whitemore
John Wilcox & Virginia Van Dyk
Craig & Michael Wilkinson
Janet Willard
Dennis & Jeanne Winkleblack
Wesley Winterbottom
Anita Winters
Andrew & Joanna Worrell
Several families who wish to remain anonymous
Helen Moore’s last Sunday at St. John’s

The Reverend Helen M. Moore, priest associate and director of the St. John’s Center for Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction, and her husband Tom will be moving back to Boston, where they lived for many years and raised their children. Helen is preaching today, her last Sunday with us, and we will celebrate her ministry with a reception after the 10:30 service. The counseling ministry that Helen began here at St. John’s is thriving and will continue, with several new counselors whom Helen has interviewed and is working with to ensure a smooth transition. Please keep Helen and Tom in your prayers as they navigate this major life change, sell their home and find a new one in Boston.

Advent Wreath Making at 9:30 a.m.

At this intergenerational Faith Forum, you’re invited to come make an Advent wreath to use for your Advent practice at home. We will provide wreath forms, candles and decorations with which you can personalize your wreath. Supplies are limited, so one wreath per family, please. Suggested donation to cover the cost of materials is $10.

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.**

Celtic Contemplative Service, 4:30 p.m.

This monthly service, a joint program of St. John’s and St. James’s, features silence, prayer, reflections, and music from a variety of traditions. The service, held at St. John’s, begins with a period of silence at 4:30.
Women’s Book Group, Tuesdays starting on December 5
The Women Together book group will be discussing a collection of Advent meditations titled *Watch for the Light* (Plough Publishing 2001) on December 5, 12 and 19 from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. at St. John’s. Women Together is a book discussion group for women from St. John’s and other churches in the area. New members are always welcome! If you plan to attend, please purchase the book from Amazon or your favorite book store before the first meeting.

Midweek Advent Services, Tuesdays in Advent starting on December 5, 6 p.m.
Enhance your Advent observance with a simple midweek service of readings and prayers.

Christmas pageant preparations
Sunday, 12/3 — During the intergenerational Advent wreath workshop at 9:30 a.m., kids can also sign up for pageant roles and tag their costumes.
Saturday, 12/9 — Drop in between 10 and 11:30 to help spruce up the camels for our upcoming Christmas pageant.
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.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, December 10 at 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.
CELTIC WORSHIP

WORSHIP in this ancient tradition. All are welcome.
MONTHLY on the FIRST SUNDAY
OCTOBER-JUNE at 4:30pm

St. John’s Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford

stjameswh.org sjparish.net
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.
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
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