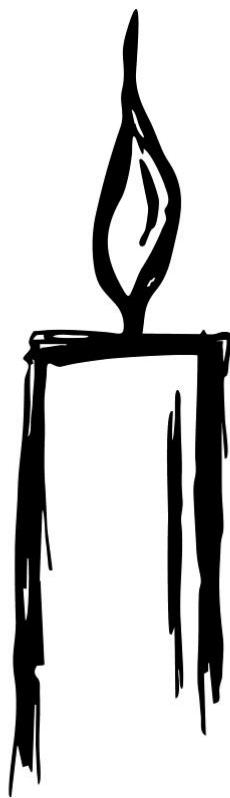


St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net



Fourth Sunday of Advent

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

December 24, 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. Please feel free to ask the ushers for assistance or more information. Again, welcome.



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Wake, awake! For night is flying Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Verney Family

Reader #1 We light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another.

Reader #2 For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness, and renews us in his love. He exults over us with singing and turns our shame to praise.

All **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

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

Cantor, then all:

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

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. Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

All sit.

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

*Canticle 15: Song of Mary**The people say the words in bold and sing the antiphon as indicated.*

My soul pro - claims the greatness of the Lord.
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: ***the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.****He has mercy on those who fear him ***
in every generation.**He has shown the strength of his arm, ***
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, ***
and has lifted up the lowly.**He has filled the hungry with good things, ***
and the rich he has sent away empty.**He has come to the help of his servant Israel, ***
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**The promise he made to our fathers, ***
to Abraham and his children for ever.*Antiphon*

THE EPISTLE

Romans 16:25–27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.*People* **Thanks be to God.**THE SEQUENCE HYMN 264 The Word whom earth and sea and sky
All stand and sing.

SONG 34

THE GOSPEL

*Luke 1:26–38**Minister* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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.

At this time of Advent preparation, we pray the words of Mary, as she trusted in God's care. **The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.**

We pray that visitors to St. John's may find Godly love in this place, that our clergy and people may be faithful witnesses to your love. **God has looked with favor on his lowly servants.**

We pray for Donald, our president; Dannel, our governor; and all who are elected to serve your people. **God has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

We pray for our community, for the unemployed, the forgotten, the bullied, the addicted, those facing major decisions and private battles. We pray for those who knit prayer shawls and for those whose hurts are bound therein. **God has filled the hungry with good things.**

We pray for those who grieve the losses in their lives, for those who are separated, and for those who have died, entrusting them into God's hands. **God has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.**

We ask forgiveness for the wrongs we have done and for the good we have left undone, and for strength to amend our lives. **My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Celebrant O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE CONFSSION 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 MUSIC** *Pastorale on Forest Green*

Richard Purvis (1917-1992)

Words: Anonymous, 14th century

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.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est,

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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, ho - san - na in the

high - est. 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:
 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 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 78 O little town of Bethlehem

FOREST GREEN

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Fantasy on *Veni Emmanuel*

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

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 William J. Eakins**Preacher:** The Reverend Susan Pinkerton**Layreader:** Kim Byrd**Organist:** Scott Lamlein**Ushers:** Shirley Blean, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Philip Chapman, Courtney Bass**Acolyte:** John O'Brien**Altar Guild:** Paul Shaker, Cleveland Williams and Shirley Blean**At Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center****Layreader:** Kim Byrd**Musician:** Kent Lawrence

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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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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:

Jim Evans	Cheryl Trahan	Jay	Chas
Kim Green	Andrew Lee	Susan	Meg
Carol Grieco	Susan Murray	Donald Myers	John McCain
Janet Ray	Edward Shaker	Barbara Proft	Mike Mahoney
Ida McKenney	James Varga	Richard Myers	David A. Valfer
Jimmy			

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Marshall Cook	Claire Brouillard
Winston Booker	Dorian Cisel
David Murphy	Alycia Montas
Carolyn Giliberto	Paul Faude

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Diocese of Jos, Church of Nigeria.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; and for ministries to the homeless; parishes that offer a temporary or permanent shelter; Chapel on the Green, New Haven; Church by the Pond, Hartford, all Ecclesia ministries; and the ministry of the Midnight Runs.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4 p.m. (musical prelude at 3:45) and 11 p.m. (musical prelude at 10:30)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

10 a.m. service with congregational carols

The parish office will be closed from Monday, December 25 through Thursday, December 28.

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www.sjparish.net

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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