



St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net

Christmas Day

HOLY EUCHARIST

December 25, 2017

10:00 a.m.

A Christmas Message from the Rector

Christmas is a time of celebration and sharing of gifts. But it is also so much more. Christmastide is a season of 12 days that celebrates the miracle of God's love breaking into our troubled world in the most unlikely and unpredictable way, in the form of a tiny, fragile newborn. The baby Jesus, son of Mary — a peasant teenager — reveals God's unfathomable love not only for you and me, but also for all of creation. During the season of Christmas, we celebrate the hope and promise of a new life that is revealed in Jesus, the Son of the one, true living God. We rejoice in the knowledge that no matter the challenges, hardships or fears we may be facing, we know that God's love will sustain us and we will not be overcome. With the birth of the Christ Child, the light of God's love has shattered the darkness once and for all. And for that, we rejoice with the angels, singing, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come!"

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.



THE VOLUNTARY The shepherds *from* Nativity Suite

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

THE OPENING HYMN 96 Angels we have heard on high
All stand and sing.

GLORIA

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

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

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

People **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 62:6–12

All sit.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalms 97

The people say the responses in bold.

- 1 The Lord is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 **Clouds and darkness are round about him, ***
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.

- 4 **His lightnings light up the world; ***
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 **The heavens declare his righteousness, ***
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 **Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, ***
because of your judgments, O Lord.
- 9 For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 **The Lord loves those who hate evil; ***
he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 **Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, ***
and give thanks to his holy Name.

THE EPISTLE

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 79 O little town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region

there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Hope Eakins

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.

In joy and wonder, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Sustain the church by your Word made flesh among us. Feed us with your gracious gifts of the written word, the proclaimed word, and the visible word of the body and blood of Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shine your new dawn on all creation. Restore health to polluted rivers and seas, to hills and plains destroyed by natural disaster. Reveal your glory in all that you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Enter into the places of darkness in this world, where pride and abuse of power threaten right relationships among peoples. Overcome the darkness with your light. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your mercy and righteousness on all your people, and by your Spirit bring renewal to those who long for wholeness and health, especially those on our parish prayer list and whom we name now. *[Pause for silent or spoken prayers.]* Give them the hope of abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Now that we have seen your salvation, keep us diligent in seeking your presence among us, and make us eager to proclaim good news to those in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the gift of the saints, whose lives announced your salvation, we pray that you would mold our lives to always bear witness to the goodness you show your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Celebrant Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord.

People **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 The magi *from* Nativity Suite

Wilbur Held

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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. **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.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

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 100 Joy to the world!

ANTIOCH

All stand and sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Joy to the world from Nativity Suite

Wilbur Held

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 Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.

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THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant: The Reverend William J. Eakins

Preacher: The Reverend Hope Eakins

Layreader: Paul Shaker

Organist: Scott Lamlein

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	Edward Shaker	Barbara Proft	Mike Mahoney
Ida McKenney	James Varga	Richard Myers	David A. Valfer
Annie	Matthew		

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Marshall Cook	Claire Brouillard
Winston Booker	Dorian Ciscel
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.

2018 Pledge Envelopes: If you have requested weekly pledge envelopes for 2018, please stop by the table in Hubbard Hall (near the entrance to the nave) and look for envelopes with your name on them. Envelopes that aren't picked up by December 31 will be mailed. If you would like envelopes but have not requested them yet, please contact Ellen in the parish office.

Christmas Flower Memorials

Daniel Adams III
 Thomas W. Bailey
 William O. Bailey
 R. Marshall Barnes I
 Margaret and James Berry
 Nerice Bloomfield
 Elaine K. Byrd
 Carol H. Byrd
 Lois Newcomb Church
 Gerard and Nolda Cissen
 Wendy Wright Collins
 Cyril and Mildred Connolly
 Adrian Edward Crocker
 John Frank Shears Crocker
 Joseph and Mary DeLuca
 Ruth and Bill Eakins
 John Paul and Helen H. Faude
 John Paul Faude Jr.
 Wilson Hinsdale Faude
 Orson H. Hart Jr.
 Elizabeth Hetherington
 Noble and Sara Hetherington
 Helen and Harold Howlett
 Robert and Margaret Jaques
 Arline Simpkin Kingsley
 Arthur Charles Kingsley
 Beverly Ann Kingsley
 Elsa M. Lattey

Erik F. Lattey
 Mary P. Lawrence
 Richard W. Lawrence
 Lillian LeBlanc
 Ernest MacLaughlin
 Sadie MacLaughlin
 Lewis P. Nelson III
 Robert F. and Abbie V.S. Peterson
 George and Edith Phillips
 John and Grace Potter
 Andrya Ramer
 E. Clair Rankin
 Robert Reiersen
 Frank and Mary Reilly
 Francis P. Reilly
 Kate Chapman Simpkin
 Oliver Henry Simpkin
 Daisy and Harvey Spaunburg
 Calvert Thomas
 Thomas R. Tigt
 Henner Tummescheit
 Shirley LaValley Uricchio
 Joseph J. Uricchio
 George E. and Abbie Baxter Van Siclen
 Jean Walters
 Kenneth Wilkinson
 Brad Wilkinson
 M. Searle Wright

Save the Date

Twelfth Night Chili Cook-Off, January 5, 6:30 p.m.

Bring the Christmas season to a close by coming to St. John's for a delicious chili supper (vote for your favorite!) followed by the annual burning of the St. John's Christmas tree on our grounds outside — a spectacular sight that lights up the winter night. (All proper permits and safety precautions will be in place for the tree burning.) If you'd like to provide a pot of your favorite chili recipe, contact Stewart Murchie at murchgs@comcast.net. If you're not a chili cook, please bring a side or dessert to share.

Pipes Alive! with Scott Lamlein, January 7, 12:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand, the Pipes Alive! series resumes with St. John's own Scott Lamlein playing the mighty Austin organ on Sunday, January 7 at 12:30 p.m. The entire program will be the *Organoedia ad missam lectam* (Organ Mass) by Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály. Pipes Alive! is a series of half-hour organ concerts on the first Sunday of the month, January through June, 12:30 p.m. with regional organists. Free!

Monthly Celtic Service, January 7, 4:30 p.m.

In partnership with St. James's Episcopal Church, St. John's hosts a monthly Celtic service of prayers, chants, reflection and live music from many traditions. Ancient Celtic practices provide fresh ways of connecting with God and nourishing your spirit. All are welcome.



Free!
All are welcome!

St. John's

Chili Cook-Off & Twelfth Night Celebration

Friday, January 5
6:30 p.m.

Bring the Christmas season to a close with delicious food, fellowship, and the ever-popular outdoor burning of the St. John's Christmas tree!

Please bring a pot of your favorite chili recipe, a side or a dessert to share.

679 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford
860.523.5201 sjparish.net


SAINT JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*All necessary permits and safety precautions will be in place!

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