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

First Sunday after Christmas
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
December 31, 2017
10:30 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    Three chorale variations on Vom Himmel hoch    Ernst Pepping (1901-1981)
Allegretto cantabile; Scherzando; Pastorale

THE OPENING HYMN 98    Unto us a boy is born!    Puer nobis nascitur
All stand and sing.

Celebrant    Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People    And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.
Celebrant    Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
People    Amen.
HYMN OF PRAISE

Title: Canticle 20, Gloria to God: Gloria in excelsis
Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Copyright © Church Publishing, Inc

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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

All sit.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. or Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

THE PSALTER

Psalm 147:13–21

The people say the responses in bold.

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
   praise your God, O Zion;
14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
   he has blessed your children within you.
15 He has established peace on your borders; *
   he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
   and his word runs very swiftly.
17 He gives snow like wool; *
   he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
   who can stand against his cold?
19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
   he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
   his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
   to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!
THE EPISTLE

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 82 Of the Father’s love begotten

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1–18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

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

THE SERMON

All sit.

The Reverend Hope Eakins
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.

In Christ God’s Word has become flesh dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. Let us pray to the true light which enlightens the world, that from the fullness of God all creation may receive grace upon grace, saying: What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Clothe your church with the garments of salvation and cover her with robes of righteousness, O Gracious One, that we may be your witnesses to testify to the light. What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.
Almighty One, inspire the leaders of our nation and all in authority in the ways of grace and truth, that we may no longer be a people enslaved under the law but may know ourselves to be heirs, adopted as God’s children. What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Be our light in the darkness for all the world, O God, that the fullness of your heart may be made known for the healing of the earth. What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Live among us, O Word made flesh, and reconcile this community to your light. What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

May your people be a crown of beauty and a royal diadem in your hand, as we pray in faith for those on our parish prayer list and those whom we name now. [Pause for silent or spoken prayers.] Receive those who have died as heirs of eternal life, especially Barbara Proft and Barry Walker. What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Loving and gracious Creator, from the beginning you have brightened our darkness with the light of your life: Let your vindication shine out like the dawn, and your salvation like a burning torch, that your Word made flesh may bring grace upon grace to all the earth, in the power of your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of Christ.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:
THE SANCTUS

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

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes...
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.*

Music: from Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 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 healing prayers for yourself or someone else, please go to the baptismal font at the back of the nave after receiving Communion, where someone is available to pray with you.

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 115  What child is this  
Sit down and sing.  

GREENSLEEVES

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY

The old year has passed away  
Johann Sebastian Bach

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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Prayers of the People are from St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant: The Reverend Susan Pinkerton
Preacher: The Reverend Hope Eakins
Layreader: Cindy Lawler
Guest Organist: Douglas Johnson
Acolytes: John O'Brien, Teddy Babbitt, Elsa Ciscel, Genella Evans
Ushers: Jeff Verney, Brad Babbitt, Eleanor Barnes, Edwin Genece, Annabel Clapp
Healing Prayers: Marie Montas

At Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center
Layreader: David Beers
Musician: Helen Hughlett

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>
<td>Meg</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>Edward Shaker</td>
<td>Richard Myers</td>
<td>David A. Valfer</td>
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<td>Ida McKenney</td>
<td>James Varga</td>
<td>Alison Johnson</td>
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<td>Annie</td>
<td>Matthew</td>
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Those celebrating birthdays this week:

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<tr>
<td>Virginia Eikel</td>
<td>Olivia Thaxter</td>
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<td>Genella Evans</td>
<td>Caroline Thaxter</td>
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<td>Charles Sonne</td>
<td>Albert Lennox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Clemow</td>
<td>Julian Hartt</td>
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<td>Abigail Thaxter</td>
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Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

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<tr>
<td>Timothy Goetz</td>
<td>Neha Pande</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenifer</td>
<td>Julian Hartt</td>
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Those who have died:

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<td>Barbara Proft</td>
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<td>Barry Walker</td>
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In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Diocese of Zululand, Church of Southern Africa.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Mark’s, Bridgeport; St. Mark’s, Bridgewater; St. John’s, Bristol; and for soup kitchens and food pantries.
2018 Pledge Envelopes
If you have requested weekly pledge envelopes for 2018, please stop by the bench 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.

Deliver a poinsettia to a homebound parishioner
Please take a card for one of our homebound parishioners and deliver it with a Christmas poinsettia after church today. Cards with names and addresses are on the windowsill in Hubbard Hall, just outside the entrance to the nave. You may choose any of the poinsettias that are adorning the nave. Thank you!

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 Organoeedia 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.

“Women Together” Book Group, Tuesdays starting January 9, 3 p.m.
The Women Together book group will start meeting again on Tuesdays in January from 3 to 4:15 p.m. in the Reception Room at St. John’s. Women Together is a book discussion group for women from St. John’s and other churches in the area. The first meeting of the new cycle will be on January 9, and the group will discuss the first six short chapters from a collection of reflections titled In God’s Holy Light: Wisdom from the Desert Monastics by Joan Chittister. New members are always welcome! If you plan to attend, please purchase the book from Amazon or your favorite book store before January 9.

Intergenerational Faith Forum to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., January 14, 9:30 a.m.
Parishioners of all ages will come together for a variety of hands-on activities to celebrate Martin Luther King and his dream of a more just world. Children and adults are all invited to participate!
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

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

A series of half-hour recitals on the St. John’s Celebrated Austin Organ

2018 Artists:

January 7          Scott Lamlein
February 4         James R. Barry
March 4            Jacob Street
May 6              Ezequiel Menendez
June 3             Susan Carroll

Recitals are held on the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 p.m. Admission is free!

Austin Organs, Inc., Opus 2761, 3 manuals, 64 ranks

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