

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

April 29, 2018

10:30 a.m.

An Easter Message from the Rector

How wonderful it is to lift our voices as we shout out with joy, *Alleluia, He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!* After journeying through the 40 days of Lent, a time spent in quiet prayer and reflection in the darkened winter months, we are ready to embrace the hope and promise of the new life we are promised in the Risen Christ. We are assured by Christ's death and resurrection that nothing can vanquish God's love, not even the sting of death. The Light of Christ has come into the world through God's boundless grace for you and me, with the promise of new life without end. The Paschal candle, the large single candle to the left of the altar that burns during the 50 days of the Easter season, is a reminder of the Resurrection, where we are reunited with God as the Living Body of Christ. Every Sunday, we gather together to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, (*eucharist* is Greek for thanksgiving) as a reminder that we each have been given new life in Christ that will never end. So, there is much to celebrate and give thanks for as we shout, *Alleluia, He is risen!*

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. Please ask the ushers for assistance with these or any other requests.

We welcome children of all ages at St. John's. Your children are always welcome to stay with you in church. We encourage you to sit up front, as children are more engaged if they can see what's happening. We also have supplies for quiet play available at both entrances to the church, which children are welcome to use as they sit in the pews. We offer child care (infant – 5 years old) from 10:15 a.m. to the end of the service, in the Good Shepherd Room. For older children, we offer a Children's Sermon on most first Sundays of the month, and on most other Sundays, children are invited to attend *Word Alive* during the 10:30 service. At the sequence hymn (marked in the bulletin), the children follow an acolyte out to *Word Alive*, where they do age-appropriate activities to engage with the Sunday scripture readings. The children return at the Peace to take part in Holy Eucharist with their families.

Cover image: Resurrection by Fra Angelico. This is one of the frescoes with which Fra Angelico adorned the walls of the Convent of San Marco in Florence—known for their understated beauty as they are free of the bright colors and gold flourishes found in much sacred art. As an Early Renaissance (15th century) artist, Fra Angelico exhibits qualities of both Medieval and Renaissance art. In this resurrection scene, for example, his use of perspective in depicting the empty tomb and the angel's appearing in profile are examples of Renaissance naturalism. But the angel is also glowing with uncreated light—that is, there is no obvious light source shining from a particular point, which is a common quality of Medieval iconographic art. In this and others of his works, Fra Angelico painted Christ's face in shadow, despite painting Christ's body and other figures as bathed in light. One possible explanation is that he wanted to remind viewers that the light of Christ is far too bright for human beings to perceive and understand.



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Chorale and Prelude on *Abbot's Leigh*

Carl D.N. Klein, 1991

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 379 God is love, let heaven adore him

ABBOT'S LEIGH

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

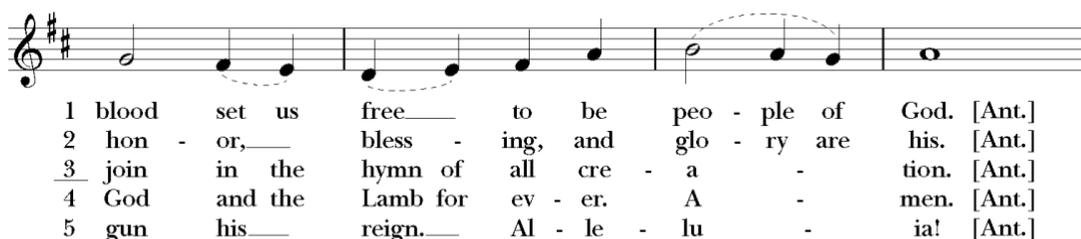
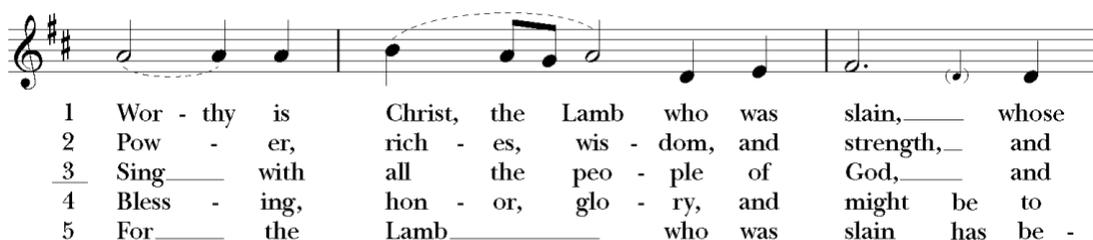
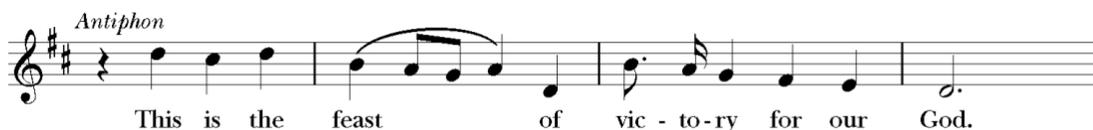
Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

Celebrant Let us pray. 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 HYMN OF PRAISE



Text: Revelations 5:12-13; adapt. John W. Arthur (1922-1980); Music: Festival Canticle, Richard Hillert (b. 1923)

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Music: © Richard Hillert.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26–40

All sit.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

*Psalm 22:24–30**Sung by the choir. The people join the choir in singing the antiphon before and after.*

Anglican chant by Shirley Hill

Make known the sav - - - ing deeds that God has done.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *

“May your heart live for ever!”

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; *

he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

Antiphon

THE EPISTLE

1 John 4:7–21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN O blessed spring

BERGLUND

All stand and sing. Children are invited to follow the acolyte to the Word Alive program. They will return at the Peace.

1. O bless - ed spring, where Word and sign em - brace us
 2. Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
 3. When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
 4. As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
 5. Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for

in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
 this blest mys - te - ry: that Word and wa - ter thus re -

be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Words: Susan Palo Cherwien (b. 1953) Music: Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950)

THE GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

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

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my

words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

All sit.

The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

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

*A period of silence is kept. The people say the words in **bold**.*

As branches of Jesus, the living Vine, abiding in the Spirit of love, we bring our prayers to God: Eternal Loving One, accept the wishes of our hearts as we pray faithfully, saying: For God is love; and perfect love casts out all fear.

Gracious One, you have called us to abide in your life and to bear witness to Christ the lamb: Grant that the Church may reveal your love through Jesus, that we might live in him and so bear much fruit. For God is love; **and perfect love casts out all fear.**

Light of the Word, dominion belongs to you, for you rule over the nations: Raise up for your Church bold witnesses like Philip who will testify to the rich and powerful about God's good news, which is perfected in love, so that peace may abound in our time. For God is love; **and perfect love casts out all fear.**

Attentive Vinegrower, you tend the branches and fruit of your vine extending to the ends of the earth: Let your loving attention reach out to all people who live in suffering and threatening conditions, that they may be restored to life and fruitfulness. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list and those we name now [*pause for silent or spoken prayers*]. For God is love; **and perfect love casts out all fear.**

Gather into your banquet all who have died, especially Dennis Norris and those in whose memory the altar flowers are given; may their hearts live forever! For God is love; **and perfect love casts out all fear.**

Celebrant You have planted us in the nurturing ground of your steadfast love, O God, and grafted us into the life of your resurrected Son, Jesus our Savior: Keep us evermore abiding within your Spirit of love, that we may bear the fruit of reconciliation for all that is and is to come, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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 Thou God of truth and love

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)
Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Thou God of truth and love,
We seek thy perfect way,
Ready thy choice to approve,
Thy providence to obey:
Enter into thy wise design,
And sweetly lose our will in thine.

Why hast thou cast our lot
 In the same age and place?
 And why together brought
 To see each other's face?
 To join with softest sympathy,
 And mix our friendly souls in thee?

Didst thou not make us one,
 That we might one remain,
 Together travel on,
 And bear each other's pain;
 Till all thy utmost goodness prove,
 And rise renewed in perfect love?

O may thy Spirit seal
 Our souls unto that day,
 With all thy fulness fill,
 And then transport away!
 Away to our eternal rest,
 Away to our Redeemer's breast!

Malcolm Archer's setting of this Charles Wesley text contains a highly lyrical melody and emotional connection. Pay special attention to the dramatic treatment of the middle verse: "Didst Thou not make us one, that being one we must remain? Together, travel on, and bear each others' pain." The text and tune lift up a universal message of following Christ, serving others, and God being with us in times of trouble.

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100TH

All stand and sing.

**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. The People say the words in bold.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From A Community Mass; Richard Proulx (b. 1937); Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

All remain standing or kneel.

And so, God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Lord God of our Mothers: God of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

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.

3 *f* Forcefully

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ our Pass - o - ver has been
 sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast,
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Music: Jeffrey Rickard, 1986; used by permission.

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.

All are 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.

You are also welcome to light a candle, located near the baptismal font, in memory of a loved one or to lift a prayer to God.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM O taste and see Ralph Vaughan Williams (1822–1958)
Words: Psalm 34:8
Julia Foust, soprano

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant gives the blessing and the people respond, Amen.

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing SICILIAN MARINERS
All stand and sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Processional William Mathias (1934-1992)

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 and Preacher:** The Reverend Susan Pinkerton**Layreader:** Craig Wilkinson**The St. John's Adult Choir****Organist/Choirmaster:** Scott Lamlein**Acolytes:** Sophie Murchie, Ted Babbitt, Isabel Grant, Alice Murchie**Ushers:** John & Laura Roche, Paul Shaker, Susan Clemow, Lyn Walker,
Christoph Stretz, Don Polk**Healing Prayers:** Ginger Gillespie**Altar Guild:** Shirley Blean and Rosa Guzzo**At Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center****Layreader:** Lissie Brooks**Musician:** Hal Rives**The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in memory of Carol Montas and Anne Pease Carpenter.****In your prayers this week, please pray for:**

Peace in our world, for those serving our country in the 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.

Séminaire 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, help, and comfort:

Jim Evans	Cheryl Trahan	Jeff	Ida McKenney
Kim Green	Andrew Lee	Chas	Janis Milroy
Carol Grieco	Dorothy Nelson	Meg	Clark Hendley
Janet Ray	Susan	Waylon Mumma	Janet Cochran
Susan Murray	Helen Moore	Naomi Cipriano	Michael Scripko
Cait Semanie	Vicky	Emma Bass	Kent Lawrence
Kenneth			

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Julia Smith	Danielle Rucci	Brian Alemany
John Powell III	Sophie Murchie	Scarlett Curtis
Ezekiel Latif	Claire Lovas	

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Sonia Michel & Paul Bloomfield

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Andrew's, Milford; St. Peter's, Milford; Trinity, Milton; and for parishes in transition, transition teams, and interim clergy.

Happening Today

Faith Forum at 9:30 on a piece of St. John's history. Professor Kristine Larsen of Central Connecticut State University will share a unique piece of St. John's history. As author of *Women Who Popularized Geology in the 19th Century*, Professor Larsen studied the life of Delia W. Godding, St. John's first church school teacher as well as a poet, artist and science writer. Come learn more about Ms. Godding's legacy here at St. John's and beyond.

Christian Education roundtable, after the 10:30 service. The Christian education staff and clergy have been hosting a series of discussions, inviting parents and other interested parishioners to brainstorm and discuss the future of our programs for our youngest members. Two sessions remain, both focused on programs for children (birth through elementary school). All are invited to come to one or both of these sessions, to be held in the Education Wing immediately after the 10:30 service today and next Sunday, May 6.

Choral Evensong at 5 p.m. The final Choral Evensong for the 2017–2018 program year will feature our own St. John's Choirs. Evensong is an ancient form of worship in which the choir and clergy offer up songs and prayers in a peaceful, reflective atmosphere. It is a powerful way to finish up your weekend, and our parish program year. Please come and invite a friend.

Save the Date

Faith Forum with Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, 9:30 a.m. next Sunday, May 6

On Sunday, May 6 at 9:30 a.m., Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, head rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel until his retirement, will preach at both services and also speak at the 9:30 Faith Forum. His Faith Forum presentation will focus on his latest book *Who Created God? and Other Essays*. He will have books available to purchase and have signed.

Syrian Cookie Making Class, May 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. James's Episcopal Church

Syrian refugee Ghosoun Alansari will teach you how to make traditional ma'amoul cookies. A suggested donation of \$25 covers the class along with tea, a cookie mold and extra dough to bake at home. RSVP by emailing mamoullesson@gmail.com by May 2.

Grace Episcopal Church Dance Party, May 5 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Our Episcopal sisters and brothers at Grace Episcopal (55 New Park Avenue) are celebrating their 150th anniversary with a dance party on May 5 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The Ray Gonzalez Salsa Orchestra will provide music, and the Glastonbury Arthur Murray Dance Studio will provide dance instruction. All ages are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

Blessing of the Community Garden, May 6 after the 10:30 service

In collaboration with a local non-profit, Jessie's Community Garden, we are in the beginning stages of starting our own community garden. Using the ample space south of the sexton's home behind our church, we will be planting seedlings in six raised beds in mid-May. The beds are a generous gift from one of our parish families, for which we are most grateful. Congregation Beth Israel will be our partner in this project, and we hope to involve other community volunteers and organizations. We will have a garden blessing immediately after our 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, May 6. Whether you'd like to take on an ongoing job, such as scheduling volunteers or helping with publicity, or spend a few hours planting, weeding, watering and harvesting, we need your participation! Sign up to help at coffee hour (look for a clipboard with a sign-up sheet) or contact the parish office.

Youth Sunday and Parish Picnic, May 20

On Sunday, May 20, we will celebrate all that our young people contribute to the parish through the choir, acolyte and Christian education/youth programs. After the service we'll have the annual parish picnic, rain or shine. **Last name A–M:** Please bring a dessert or chips. **Last name N–Z:** Please bring a salad or fruit. Hamburgers, hot dogs and paper goods will be provided.



Blessing Bag donations: Blessing Bags are small bags of necessities that we offer to people in need who come to St. John's looking for help. We are always in need of the following:

- Small size toiletries: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, soap, deodorant, wet wipes
 - Non-perishable single-serving snacks: Fruit sauce, dried fruit, trail mix, granola bars, cookies, crackers, candy bars, small bottles of water or juice
 - Clothing accessories for both men and women: Durable socks, hats and gloves
- Please leave Blessing Bag donations in the marked bin in Hubbard Hall.

Food Pantry donations: While the first Sunday of the month is our "official" collection day for food donations, you may bring them in any Sunday. The food is delivered once a month to the Grace Seventh Day Adventist Food Pantry on Prospect Avenue. They particularly need protein sources (such as peanut butter and tuna), dry cereal, and canned fruit and vegetables. They also have limited refrigerated space for donations of fresh fruit and vegetables. If you'd like to donate fresh produce, please let Ellen in the parish office know so we can make sure that a St. John's volunteer can deliver it to the food pantry ASAP. Please leave non-perishable food donations in the wagon in the back of the church.



Spring 2018 Music at the Red Door Events

The St. John's Youth and Adult Choirs will sing Choral Evensong today at 5:00 p.m.

The Whiffenpoofs from Yale University, the world's oldest collegiate *a cappella* group, will perform on Friday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m.

The next Pipes Alive! organ concert on May 6 at 12:30 p.m. features Ezequiel Melendez from the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. A light soup lunch will be provided for those staying after church for the concert. The final Pipes Alive! concert of the year, on June 3, features Susan Carroll from Asylum Hill Congregational Church.

All Music at the Red Door events are free and open to the public, and donations are accepted. Please come and invite a friend.

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
4:30 p.m. Celtic contemplative service on the first Sunday of the month (Oct – June)
5:00 p.m. Evensong on selected last Sundays of the month
5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer each Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Christian Education at 9:30 a.m. September – May

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*
Tim Goetz and John Roche *Co-Treasurers*
Ellen Painter Dollar *Scribe*

2016-18: Bess Amamoo, Ginny Kemp, Will Smith

2017-19: Geoff Emerick, Douglas Hyland, Virginia Van Dyk, Andrew Worrell

2018-20: Steve Crocker, Ann Hutchinson, Sonia Michel, Alex Nelson