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

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
December 23, 2018
10:30 a.m.
An Advent Message from the Rector

Advent is a short season, only four weeks, that begins a new year in the church. Advent invites us into a space of quiet waiting and deep reflection. These darkened winter days provide a gentle reminder that we need to slow down a bit and simply allow ourselves time to be. In the dark and quiet, we have an opportunity to hear God’s still, small voice reminding us that we are loved beyond our wildest imagination, just as we are. We wait in the darkness for what we know will come. In the most humble and vulnerable of people and places — a tiny, frail newborn cradled in a manger of straw — we will receive an invitation to new life and new ways of being. In this season, St. John’s offers many ways of encountering God and one another anew, through worship, music, fellowship, and giving. 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.

The photo on the front of the bulletin, by parishioner Ginny Kemp, is of the Good Shepherd window, located in the Parish House corridor facing the Cloister Garden. It is dedicated to John Heron Brooks by his family. The window was installed in 1983, and designed by the Wilbur Burnham Studios of Boston, one of our nation’s premier stained glass makers. At the same time, Burnham was also designing many of our clerestory windows. Photograph © Virginia Kemp 2016.

ORDER OF SERVICE

VOLUNTARY Voluntary for two trumpets

THE CHORAL INTROIT Tota pulchra es Maria

Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

Tota pulchra es, Maria,
Et macula originalis non est in Te.
Tu gloria Jerusalem,
Tu laetitia Israel,
Tu honorificentia populi nostri.
Tu advocata peccatorum.
O Maria, Virgo prudentissima,
Mater clementissima.
Ora pro nobis,
Intercede pro nobis.,
Ad Dominum Iesum Christum.

You are all beautiful, Mary, and the original stain (of sin) is not in you. You are the glory of Jerusalem, you are the joy of Israel, you give honour to our people. You are an advocate of sinners. O Mary, Virgin most intelligent, Mother most merciful. Pray for us, Plead for us, To the Lord Jesus Christ.

Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986)

Words: Latin, 4th century
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! He abhors not the Virgin’s womb;
only begotten Son of the Father;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

THE RECTOR’S WELCOME

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Dear people of God, in the Christmas season, let it be our duty and delight to once more hear the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God’s loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against God until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of the world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which Christ died, and especially for the church in our country and in this city.

And because the Christ child particularly loves them, let us remember in His name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and the little children, as well as all who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God our Lord’s pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:
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, the power, and the glory, 
for ever and ever. Amen.

Narrator 2  Almighty God, bless us with His grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

THE ANNUNCIATION

All sit.

HYMN 56   O come, O come, Emmanuel (vv. 1, 4 & 7)  VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

All sing.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, 
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. 
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Branch of Jesse’s tree, free them from Satan’s tyranny 
that trust they mighty power to save, and give them victory o’er the grave. 
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; 
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace. 
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

ARRIVAL IN BETHLEHEM

HYMN 79   O little town of Bethlehem (vv. 1 & 2)  ST. LOUIS

All sing.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! 
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; 
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; 
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, 
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. 
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! 
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
SHEPHERDS KEEP WATCH

HYMN 94 While shepherds watched their flocks by night (vv. 1, 2 & 6) WINCHESTER OLD

All sing.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.”

“All glory be to God on high
and on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.”

THE ANGELS DANCE

ANTHEM Ding, dong, merrily on high arr. Charles Wood (1866–1926)

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav’n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv’n with angel singing
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

E’en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And “Io, io, io!”
By priest and people sungen
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers,
May you beautifully rhyme
Your eve’time song, ye singers
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

HYMN 96 Angels we have heard on high (vv. 1, 2 & 3) GLORIA

All sing.

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE MAGI AND THEIR CAMELS

OFFERTORY HYMN 109  The first Nowell (vv. 1, 2 & 3)
All sing. The ushers will receive your offerings at this time.

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
three wisemen came from country far,
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

HYMN 128  We three kings
All sing refrains after each verse, and verse 5.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice;
Heav’n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies.
SILENT NIGHT

HYMN 111  Silent night
All sing verses 2 and 3.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love’s pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,

THE BLESSING
The people respond, Amen.

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 100  Joy to the world
All stand and sing.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
and thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

THE DISMISSAL
The people respond, Thanks be to God.

THE VOLUNTARY  My spirit be joyful from Cantata 146
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
arr. E. Power Biggs

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.
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 missioner 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  Edward Shaker  Beth
Kim Green   Andrew Lee  Michael
Carol Grieco Susan        John Coghill
Janet Ray   Meg          Ann
Susan Murray Luther       Helen Cooke

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Paul Shaker Claire Brouillard
Marshall Cook Dorian Ciscel
Winston Booker Harriet Odlum
David Murphy Alycia Montas
Carolyn Giliberto

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Diocese of Kubwa, Abuja, 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 the children of the world, the Bishops’ Fund for Children, and all ECCT ministries for children at risk.
PAGEANT CAST

ACOLYTES:
John O’Brien, J.P. Evans, Sophie Murchie

NARRATORS:
Elise Biondi, Kylie Murphy, Claire O’Brien, Cate Emerick, Elsa Ciscel, John O’Brien, Meg Babbitt

MARY:
Olivia Tummescheit

ANGEL GABRIEL:
Britt Emerick

JOSEPH:
Philip Tummescheit

DONKEY:
Dorian Ciscel

INNKEEPER 1:
Genella Evans

INNKEEPER 2:
Frances Eikel

WIFE OF INNKEEPER:
Morgan Babbitt

SHEPHERDS:
Benjamin Clapp, Clara Tummescheit, Jacob Tummescheit

SHEEP AND FRIENDLY ANIMALS:
Sloane Curtis, Scarlett Curtis, Virginia Eikel, Bobby Eikel, Abigail Stretz, Ezekiel Latif

ANGELS:
Olivia Thaxton, Lead Angel; Sahara Barrow, Brielle Worrell, Dana Crocker, Lilah Lorenzo, Livvy Lorenzo

BABY JESUS:
Malcolm Latif

KINGS:
Emma Evica, J.P. Evans, Eddie Genece

CAMEL 1:
Bradley Crocker and Bobby Biondi
Driver – Natalie Puzzo

CAMEL 2:
Caleb Worrell and Ford Gillespie
Driver – Ethen Worrell

ST. JOHN’S CHOIR:
Youth: Britt Emerick, Head Chorister; Emma Evica, Prefect; Sahara Barrow, Naomi Cipriano, Elsa Ciscel, Dana Crocker, Gianna Duberek, Frances Eikel, Cate Emerick, Maddie Green, Lilah Lorenzo, Livvy Lorenzo, Olivia Tummescheit, Philip Tummescheit;

SOPRANO: Claudia Ayer, Helen Douglas, Nancy Hemstreet Eaton, Danielle Foint, Anne Harney, Kara Hart, Jackie McCauley, Barbara Roos, Cait Semanie;

ALTOS: Emily Bigger, Mariana Evica, Frisha Hugessen, Ann Hutchinson, Betty Knorr, Mary Beth Lamlein, Erica Maas, Janet Poisson, Evelyn Reidenbaugh, Nancy Skeele;

TENOR: Ted Babbitt, Lynn Brooks, Stephan Christiansen, Francis Lamlein, Michael Mei, Odanice Olibrice, Hal Rives, Paul Smith; BASS: Richard Barstow, John Church, Martin Dodd, Mark Field, John Nowacki.

ORGANIST/CHOirmaster
Scott Lamlein

ORGAN SCHOLAR:
Ted Babbitt

TRUMPETERS:
Tom Hintz, Jeff Higgins

USHERS:
John Amamoo, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Shirley Blean, Sarah Kieffer, Philip Chapman

STAR:
Ted Babbitt

LIGHTING:
Francis Lamlein and Benjamin Puzzo

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY:
Susan Murphy Thaxton, Caroline and Abby Thaxton

NARRATORS’ COACH:
Matt Ciscel

DIRECTOR:
David Beers

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:
Meg Babbitt

PRODUCER:
Buffy Ineson
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services
Two Christmas Eve services of Holy Eucharist will be held on December 24, at 4 p.m. (musical prelude starting at 3:45) and 11 p.m. (musical prelude starting at 10:30). A service of Holy Eucharist with hymns will be held on Christmas Day at 10 a.m.

Christmas week office hours
The parish office will be CLOSED from Monday, December 24 through Thursday, December 27, and again on Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1.

Twelfth Night Potluck, Friday, January 4, 6:30 p.m.
Bring the Christmas season to a festive close with good food and company at the annual Twelfth Night potluck supper. The evening closes with the spectacular burning of the St. John’s Christmas tree outside (with permits and safety precautions in place). St. John’s has welcomed many new people in the past few months — if you’re relatively new to St. John’s, please join us for this fun tradition, and if you’re not new, come help us welcome our newest members! Please bring a main dish, side, or dessert to share if you’re able.

Pipes Alive! with Diana Chou, Sunday, January 6, 12:30 p.m.
The Pipes Alive! concert series resumes the first Sunday in January. Pipes Alive! is an annual series of half-hour concerts by regional organists, on the first Sunday of the month January through June, immediately following the 10:30 service and coffee hour. Diana Chou, organ scholar at St. Paul’s-on-the-Green, Norwalk, and a graduate student at Yale, will present the first of this year’s concerts. A soup lunch will be provided between the service and concert.
Thank you to all who have pledged their support to St. John’s for 2019.
This list includes pledges received as of Thursday, December 20.
The names of new pledgers are in italics.

Thank you!

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www.sjparish.net
679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut 06119
860 523 5201 office@sjparish.net

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist each Sunday
5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer each Monday, Wednesday and Friday
4:30 p.m. Celtic contemplative service on the first Sunday of the month (Oct – June)
5 p.m. Choral Evensong on select fourth Sundays of the month (Sept – April)

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 J. Eakins* (bill@sjparish.net) ............................................................... Priest Associate
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
Christa Rakich ........................................................................................................... Organ Artist-in-Residence
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, Alex Nelson