The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
FESTAL EUCHARIST
December 24, 2018
4:00 p.m.
**A Christmas Message from the Rector**

We gather together in the darkness of winter each year at this time to celebrate the light of God’s love coming into the world. We discover this divine light in Mary’s son, a tiny newborn babe who is the incarnation of God’s abundant and never-ending love for all the world, including you and me. With all the messiness and brokenness of our lives in this wounded world of ours, we are hungry for the love and hope we can only find in the Christ Child. We take great comfort in knowing that no matter how weary, overwhelming and complicated our lives may seem, God’s love dwells among us in the person we know as Jesus, God’s only Son. He is light of the world who has shattered the darkness, assuring us that we will not be overcome by it. This knowledge gives us the courage to hope and believe that God’s love has the power to transform the world because God is with us, Emmanuel!

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 CHORAL PRELUDE**

HYMN 102  *Once in royal David’s city*

*The choir sings verses 1 and 2, and all sing verses 3 through 6.*

**ANTHEM**  *No small wonder*

Small wonder the star,  
Small wonder the light,  
The angels in chorus,  
The shepherds in fright;  
But stable and manger for God –  
No small wonder!

Small wonder the kings,  
Small wonder they bore  
The gold and the incense,  
The myrrh, to adore:  
But God gives his life on a cross –  
No small wonder!

Small wonder the love,  
Small wonder the grace,  
The power, the glory,  
The light of his face;  
But all to redeem my poor heart –  
No small wonder!
ANTHEM  Nativity carol  
Words and music by John Rutter (b. 1945)

Born in a stable so bare,
Born so long ago;
Born ‘neath light of star
He who loved us so.

Wise men from distant far land,
Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare,
Hearts with his warmth he fills.

Cradled by mother so fair,
Tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky.

Far away silent he lay,
Born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day.

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The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

FESTAL EUCHARIST

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 83  O come, all ye faithful
All stand and sing.

ADESTE FIDELES

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

1. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. 2. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. 3. Lord Jesus...
THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray. O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.
People Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 62:6–12

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

Psalm 97

The people say the responses in bold and sing the Antiphon as indicated.

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.

Antiphon

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.

Antiphon

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 115** What child is this

*All stand and sing.*

**THE GOSPEL**

*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 Susan Pinkerton*

*All sit. The children are invited to come forward to sit on the steps in front of the altar and communion rail.*

**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;
his 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 joy and wonder, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

Increase the joy of God’s people who gather this night to celebrate the arrival of your Anointed One. Send us out to announce all that you have done for your people. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Raise our voices in the song of all creation. With earth and heavens, seas, fields and trees, lead us in proclaiming your salvation and declaring your glory throughout the world. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Bring glad tidings of peace to every nation. Break the rod of the oppressor. Cover the global community in the compassionate authority of your Son, our Sovereign. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Give birth to hope in the lives of those who are lost or without hope. Send your Spirit of healing and comfort to all who are in need, especially those on our parish prayer list and those whom we name now. [Pause for silent or spoken prayers.] Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

As you made yourself manifest in Christ, our Savior, make your salvation known also through us, his body. Shape us into a people who are zealous for good and righteous deeds. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

All the saints rejoice in the eternal light of your salvation. Inspire us to rejoice in all things trusting in your promises fulfilled, until you come among your people again. 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 ANTHEM Brightest and best

Words: Reginald Heber (1783–1826)
Soloists: Britt Emerick and Emma Evica

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield Him, In costly devotion
Odors of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart’s adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant  The Lord be with you.
People     And also with you.
Celebrant  Lift up your hearts.
People     We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People     It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues.
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you 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
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.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

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

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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 COMMUNION ANTHEM

Still, still, still

Austrian Carol

arr. Norman Luboff (1917–1987)

Words: Marilyn Keith, Alan Bergman

Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed,
The world is sleeping,
Holy Star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep,
‘Tis the eve of our Saviour’s birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
Close your eyes,
Let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
‘Tis the eve of our Saviour’s birth.

Dream, dream, dream,
Of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number,
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream,
Of the joyous day to come.

THE COMMUNION HYMN 101 Away in a manger Cradle Song

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 POST-COMMUNION HYMN 111 Silent night Stille Nacht
Please kneel. The ushers will come around to light candles on the aisles; please pass the flame until all candles are lit.

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

THE HYMN IN PROCESION 87 Hark! the herald angels sing Mendelssohn

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

THE VOLUNTARY Carillon-Sortie Henri Mulet (1878–1967)
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
Deacon: The Reverend Walter McKenney
Layreaders: David Beers, John Hardy
Psalterer: Britt Emerick

The St. John’s Youth & Alumnae Choir:
Britt Emerick, Head Chorister; Emma Evica, Prefect; Sahara Barrow, Naomi Cipriano, Elsa Ciscel, Dana Crocker, Gianna Duberek, Frances Eikel, Cate Emerick, Julia Foust, Maria Foust, Maddie Green, Lilah Lorenzo, Livvy Lorenzo, Daáé Ransom, Olivia Tummescheit, Philip Tummescheit
Organist/Choirmaster: Scott Lamlein
Organ Scholar: Ted Babbitt
Ushers: Matt Ciscel, Susan Clemow, Steve Crocker, Robert Eikel, Jeff Gostyla, Troy Gostyla, Jeff Verney
Acolytes: John O’Brien, Claire O’Brien, Dawson Biondi, Elise Biondi
Altar Guild: Bess Amamoo and Rosa Guzzo

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.

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:

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<td>Cheryl Trahan</td>
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Those celebrating birthdays this week:

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<td>Paul Shaker</td>
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<td>Winston Booker</td>
<td>Harriet Odlum</td>
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<td>Alycia Montas</td>
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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.
Christmas Day service
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.

Christmas Flower Offerings
The poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and:
In honor of our priests and choir.

In memory of:

Thomas Abraham
Earl and Mary Taylor Andrews
R. Marshall Barnes
Lois Newcomb Church
William Bowen Church, III
Damon B. Clemow
Janet “J.J.” Cochran
Wendy Wright Collins
Cyril and Mildred Connolly
Adrian Edward Crocker
John Frank Shears Crocker
Robert K. Dimmitt
Helen H. and John Paul Faude
John Paul Faude, Jr.
Wilson Hinsdale Faude
Alfred Haddad
Adla Hannon
Charles R. Harris
Orson H. Hart Jr.
Donald J. Hayes
Noble and Sara Hetherington
Robert and Margaret Jaques
Herbert J. Keating, Jr.
Arlene Simpkin Kingsley
Arthur Charles Kingsley
Beverly Ann Kingsley
William E. Knorr
Ann Koucky
Elsa M. Lattey
Erik F. Lattey

Mary P. Lawrence
Richard W. Lawrence
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Lawson
Lillian LeBlanc
Ida McKenney
Carol Montas
Jacques L. Montas
Edward and Eleanor d’Esté Mosehauer
Lewis P. Nelson III
Mr. and Mrs. L.P. Nelson, Jr.
Robert F. and Abbie V.S. Peterson
George and Edith Phillips
John and Grace Potter
Andrya Ramer
Robert Reiersen
Frank and Mary Reilly
Francis P. Reilly
Lillian M. Shaker
Rose Shaker
Sadie Shaker
Kate Chapman Simpkin
Oliver Henry Simpkin
Harvey and Daisy Spaunburg
Judith St. George
Thomas R. Tight
Shirley LaValley Uricchio
John Joseph Uricchio
George E. and Abbie Baxter Van Siclen
M. Searle Wright
Mr. & Mrs. Salnave Zamor
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 ..................................................................................................................... Organist-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