



St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net

Christmas Day

HOLY EUCHARIST

December 25, 2018

10:00 a.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.



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE VOLUNTARY Pastorale on *Forest Green*

Richard Purvis (1913–1994)

THE OPENING HYMN 96 Angels we have heard on high

GLORIA

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.**

THE GLORIA

All remain standing and say in unison.

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7–10

All sit.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalms 98

The people say the responses in bold.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 **With his right hand and his holy arm ***
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, ***
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 **Sing to the Lord with the harp, ***
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 **Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, ***
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 **In righteousness shall he judge the world ***
and the peoples with equity.

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1–4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 78 O little town of Bethlehem
All stand and sing.

FOREST GREEN

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1–14

Minister The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

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

The people say the words in bold.

As we celebrate with joy the birth of Jesus, let us offer prayers to God, who gathers his sons and daughters in a holy family.

For Michael our presiding bishop, Ian and Laura our bishops, our parish clergy, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all believers who put their trust in the incarnate Son of God, and for this community of St. John's, that we may serve one another and God as the body of Christ. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, for peace and justice, and for those who work to usher in God's kingdom. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who seek healing, connection, inspiration and peace, that they may find what they seek in our Lord Jesus Christ and in his body, the church. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for the dying. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who rest in Christ, and for all the departed. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Remembering the blessed Virgin Mary, St. John, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

Celebrant God of all families and peoples, accept the prayers we offer in this joyful season. As we welcome this mystery of your love, may we delight in our joy as children and heirs of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE WELCOME

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY MUSIC Pastorale

Louis-James-Alfred Lefébure-Wely (1817–1869)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

All remain standing or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,**

thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power,
 and the glory
 for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
 and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at St. John's.
 Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the clergy at the communion rail.
 If you would like a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.*

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.
All **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

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

THE CLOSING HYMN 100 Joy to the world!

ANTIOCH

All stand and sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY In dulci jubilo (In quiet joy)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

Layreader: Jeff Verney

Organist: Scott Lamlein

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	Edward Shaker
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 Odium
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.

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.
 Arline 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'Este 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



St. John's
Twelfth Night
Potluck supper & bonfire
Friday, January 4
6:30 p.m.

Bring the Christmas season to a close with good food and company.

Meet someone new and reconnect with friends.

Bring a main dish, side or dessert to share.

Enjoy the spectacular burning of the St. John's Christmas tree, and bring your wreath to add to the bonfire!**

**Weather permitting, we will burn the tree outdoors with permits and safety precautions in place. If you bring an evergreen wreath to add to the fire, please remove ALL ornaments, ribbons, etc.



Pipes Alive!

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

2019 Artists:

January 6	Diana Chou
February 3	Kyle Swann
March 3	Nathan Lively
April 7	Scott Lamlein
May 5	Jackson Merrill
June 2	Christa Rakich

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



MUSIC AT THE RED DOOR



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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