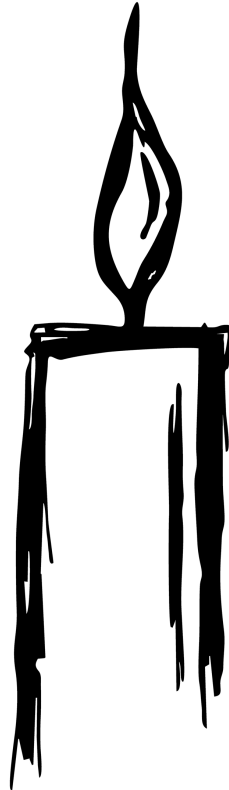


# St. John's Episcopal Church

*A place to discover connections with God and one another*

[www.sjparish.net](http://www.sjparish.net)



*First Sunday of Advent*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

*December 1, 2019*

*10:30 a.m.*

## *Welcome!*

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 racks. Hearing assist devices are available from the ushers.

**Our ushers are here to help create a welcoming and safe space for worship. Please speak to an usher if you have questions, need assistance, or become aware of a health or safety concern. Again, welcome.**

### *This week's scripture readings: Living between what is and what will be*

The "Long Green Season" is over, the part of the church year when we heard stories of Jesus teaching and healing. Advent has begun, the season of expectation when we wait in joyful hope for the babe in the manger to be born, and we also wait with the pain of knowing that Love will be crucified. The Scriptures appointed for today tell us how to live in the between times, how to keep hoping when life looks bleak, how to keep trusting in God's goodness and presence and care for us. Isaiah tells us that since God's judgment is nigh, we had better start walking in God's ways. Life is too short to spend it in fighting, says the prophet; spend your time instead in reconciliation and peace. Swords shall be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks; nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. In the second reading, Paul tells the Christians in Rome that the night is far gone and the day is near, so they are to live honorably and keep the Commandments and love one another. Jesus is emphatic. "Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on which day your Lord is coming," he says. Look up and see the possibilities of life and love and joy that abound. Jesus tells us not to put things off, because our time is limited in this world, and if we get hampered by our fears and wait too long, we may never have another chance.



## ORDER OF SERVICE

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY    *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*    Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)  
*Sleepers, awake! A voice is crying*

THE ADVENT RESPONSORY    Michael McCarthy (b. 1966)  
*Sung by the choir.*    Text: Matin responsory for Advent I

I look from afar: and lo, I see the Power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another, Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 57    *Lo! He comes with clouds descending*    HELMSLEY  
*All stand and sing.*

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Sera and Abraham Thomas*

*Reader #1* We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

*Reader #2* For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. A righteous Branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

*People* **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God's 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.**

## KYRIE ELEISON

*Cantor, then all:* Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. *Cantor, then all:* Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

*Cantor, then all:* Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Translation: *Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

Music: Litany of the Saints, adapted by Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

## THE FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 2:1–5*

*All sit.*

**T**he word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of

the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALTER

*Psalm 122*

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



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, \*  
**"Let us go to the house of the Lord."**
- 2 Now our feet are standing \*  
**within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
**that is at unity with itself;**
- 4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, \*  
**the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.**
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, \*  
**the thrones of the house of David.**
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
**"May they prosper who love you.**
- 7 Peace be within your walls \*  
**and quietness within your towers.**
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, \*  
**I pray for your prosperity.**
- 9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, \*  
**I will seek to do you good."**

*Antiphon*

## THE SECOND LESSON

*Romans 13:8–14*

**O**we no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 68 Rejoice! rejoice, believers

LLANGLOFFAN

*All stand and sing.*

THE GOSPEL

*Matthew 24:36–44*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

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

**J**esus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Children are invited to go to the Education Wing for Children's Chapel, and will return at the Peace.*

THE SERMON

The Reverend Hope Eakins

*All sit.*

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.*

Almighty and gracious God, we see our broken world and yearn to make it whole, yet we know our vision is small and our efforts are weak. In your mercy, O Lord, **come into our darkness, and bring light.**

Enlighten your Church. Save us from weak compromise and lifeless habits; fill us with grand dreams and new hopes, keep us from rushing toward Christmas and help us wait with longing for your birth. **Come into our indifference and bring expectation.**

Enlighten our world. Restore our passion for justice and drive resignation and division from our politics; persuade us to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks; open our minds and hearts to work together for what is true and good and right. **Come into the enmities of this world and bring peace.**

Enlighten us. Take away our prejudice, give us grace to see the stranger as our brother and sister; bless those who mourn and bring healing to those who are ill. We remember those who have died, especially Thomas McCary. **Come into places of suffering and bring strength and comfort.**

*Celebrant* Merciful Father, hear our prayers in the name of your Son, for whose coming we wait in joyful hope.

*People* **Amen.**

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All remain standing or kneel.*

*All* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.  
**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

*During the Offertory, children are invited to bring donated food and winter accessories up to the chancel steps.*

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM While all things were in quiet silence Ned Rorem (b. 1923)  
Text: *from Antiphon of Matins, Christmas I*

While all things were in quiet silence,  
And that night was in the midst of her swift course,  
Thine Almighty Word, O Lord,  
leaped down out of thy royal throne. Alleluia.

*Time Magazine called Ned Rorem "the world's best composer of art songs," When speaking of his passion for writing art songs, Rorem states, "it has to do with being obsessed with poetry as well as music." Although best known for his art songs, Rorem has also composed ten operas, four symphonies, chamber works, choral works, ballets, and has also written sixteen books, many of them diaries. Rorem has received many awards for his works including a Pulitzer Prize in 1976 for his suite Air Music, and was chosen as Composer of the Year by Musical America. He currently resides in New York.*

## THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

*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.*

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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to

judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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

*Cantor, then all:*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

*Cantor:*

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est,

ho - san - na in the high - est.

*All:*

Ho - san - na in the high - est,

ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Cantor:*

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name

of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the

high - est. *All:* Ho - san - na in the high -

est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Music: Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc.*

*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.

*All*     **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,**

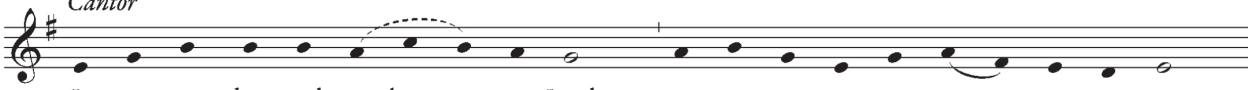
**and the glory**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

*Cantor*



1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:  
 2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you take a - way the sins\_\_ of the world,  
 3. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

1.2. *All* have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. | 3. *All* grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Music: Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc..*

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

*Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at St. John's.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the clergy at the communion rail.*

*If you would like a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.*

*If you would like to receive Healing Prayers, go to baptismal font in the back of the church after receiving Communion.*

## THE COMMUNION ANTHEM Jesus Christ the apple tree

Elizabeth Poston (1905–1987)

Text from *Divine Hymns of Spiritual Songs*,  
 compiled by Joshua Smith, 1784

The tree of life my soul hath seen  
 Laden with fruit and always green  
 The tree of life my soul hath seen  
 Laden with fruit and always green  
 The trees of nature fruitless be  
 Compared with Christ the apple tree

His beauty doth all things excel  
 By faith I know but ne'er can tell  
 His beauty doth all things excel  
 By faith I know but ne'er can tell  
 The glory which I now can see  
 In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought  
 And pleasure dearly I have bought  
 For happiness I long have sought  
 And pleasure dearly I have bought  
 I missed of all but now I see  
 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil  
 Here I will sit and rest a while  
 I'm weary with my former toil  
 Here I will sit and rest a while  
 Under the shadow I will be  
 Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit does make my soul to thrive  
 It keeps my dying faith alive  
 This fruit does make my soul to thrive  
 It keeps my dying faith alive  
 Which makes my soul in haste to be  
 With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

### 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 HYMN IN PROCESSION 61 "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us

WACHET AUF

*All stand and sing.*

### THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Paul Manz (1919–2009)

*Sleepers, awake! A voice is crying*

*The closing voluntary is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for God's Word as it has been experienced this day. All are invited to say Amen at the end of the Voluntary as a conclusion to our worship.*

The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.

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**THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY****Celebrant:** The Reverend Susan Pinkerton**Preacher:** The Reverend Hope Eakins**Assisting:** The Reverend Margie Baker**Deacon:** The Reverend Walter McKenney**Layreader:** Lissie Brooks**The St. John's Adult Choir****Organist/Choirmaster:** Scott Lamlein**Organ Scholar:** Ted Babbitt**Acolytes:** Claire O'Brien, Britt Emerick, Alice Murchie, Dorian Ciscel**Ushers:** Geoff Emerick, Ben & Ellen Flynn, Wes Winterbottom**Healing Prayers:** Paul Shaker**Altar Guild:** June Aziz, Nancy Pedersen, Kate Eikel**Nursery Caregivers:** Abigail Thaxton and Sophie Hart**At Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center****Layreader:** Bess Amamoo**Musician:** Natalie Giana**HAPPENING TODAY****Intergenerational Advent Workshop, 9:30 a.m.**

Parishioners of all ages are invited to an intergenerational Faith Forum to make an Advent wreath, color Advent calendars, and get other Advent resources and ideas. For the wreaths, we will provide faux evergreen wreaths, candles, and decorations (ribbons, small ornaments, pinecones, etc.). If you have a wreath from a previous year, feel free to bring it in to freshen it up and get new candles. Suggested donation: \$10 for a wreath and candles, \$5 for candles only. One wreath per family, please. We will also have a variety of Advent devotionals and other material to support your observance of Advent at home.

**Coffee hour after the 10:30 service**

Join us in Hubbard Hall after the 10:30 service for coffee, snacks, and a chance to meet someone new. Thank you to the Branco family for hosting today!

**Celtic contemplative service, 4:30 p.m.**

All are welcome for the monthly Celtic service, which features poetry, prayer, a spoken reflection, music from many traditions, and chant. The service begins with an extended period of silence at 4:30.

**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.

All those whose hurts, burdens and fears are unspoken or unknown.

**Those in need of healing, help, and comfort:**

Jim Evans	Susan	Michael	Mary Smith
Kim Green	Meg	Beth	Karen Licht
Janet Ray	Edward Shaker	Chris	Ann Marie
Susan Murray	Edith Connolly	Mary Stoughton	Daphne Lynch Fifield
Brad Babbitt	Linda Evans	Blanca Rodriguez	Paul
Michael Bruce	Sally	David Agahigian	Ellie Brown
Byron	Billy Ulrich	Daniel Flyntz	Sean
Amy Jones			

Saint Sauveur School & the people of Les Cayes, Haiti

**Those celebrating birthdays this week:**

Allison Branco Tichy	Ann Hutchinson
Susan Knapp Thomas	Bobby Biondi
Claire O'Brien	Easton Swift
Lissie Brooks	

**Those celebrating anniversaries this week:**

Barbara & Albert Lennox

**Those who have died:**

Thomas McCary, father of David McCary

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for mission agencies and their work throughout the Anglican Communion.

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam; and for postulants and candidates for Holy Orders, the Commission on Ministry and its members.

## Save the Date

### **Men's Bible Study, Thursdays at 6:30 a.m.**

We meet every Thursday, 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. in the Reception Room. This fall, we are studying the life and story of David in 1 and 2 Samuel. Gentlemen, start your day out right; join us!

### **St. John's EYC (Episcopal Youth Community), Sundays from 5 to 7 p.m.**

The EYC calendar for the next few weeks is as follows. Dinner is provided. **Adult assistance is needed! If you are an adult who can help provide supervision or dinner, contact Margie at [margie@sjparish.net](mailto:margie@sjparish.net).**

- December 1 – Thanksgiving weekend, no EYC
- December 8 – WeHa Youth Group hosted by St. John's, making items for those who are homeless and in need in our community
- December 15 – No EYC, but all are encouraged to attend the Festival of Lessons & Carols at 3 p.m.

### **Wreath Decorating Night for the Christmas Festival, Thursday, December 5, 7 p.m.**

This is an extremely fun and social night, and there is no decorating talent required, so please consider coming if you don't have plans. If you do have earlier plans, we sometimes are still working on wreaths past 9 p.m., so feel free to call Lindsey Carlisle if you are thinking of stopping by (860-280-6812). We will have nibbles and refreshments to keep everyone going! We do have a decent supply of scissors, glue guns and glue sticks, wire cutters, and extension cords, but more are always welcome! Please label any supplies that you bring so you can collect them at the end of the evening. Lastly, a gentle reminder that this is NOT an event for children, and there will not be babysitting available. Looking forward to seeing you then! If you have questions you can e-mail Lindsey at [smclbc@comcast.net](mailto:smclbc@comcast.net).

### **Women Together fellowship and study group, Tuesdays, December 10 & 17, 2 p.m.**

George MacDonald's novel, *The Princess and the Goblin*, will be the featured book for Women Together's gatherings on December 10 and 17. It was chosen because of the way it explores themes of Celtic Christian spirituality. Women Together, which brings together women from several Greater Hartford Episcopal churches, meets from 2 to 3:15 p.m. in the Reception Room at St. John's, and all are welcome. For more information, please contact Sarah Kieffer at [kieffer2468@gmail.com](mailto:kieffer2468@gmail.com).

### **Candlelight Festival of Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 15, 3 p.m.**

A favorite tradition and a wonderful way to find peace in a busy season, the annual Candlelight Festival of Lessons and Carols tells the story of God's redeeming work through scripture and song. Child care will be provided. Mark your calendar, and invite a friend.



St. John's Annual  
**Christmas Festival**  
 Saturday,  
 December 7  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wreaths and greenery, gifts, food, books, jewelry, accessories, art, furniture, caroling, tours of our historic building and stained glass, and more.

Come have a bite to eat, shop for unique gifts and goodies, and enjoy this favorite annual tradition. All are welcome!

  
 SAINT JOHN'S  
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 679 Farmington Avenue  
 West Hartford  
[www.sjparish.net](http://www.sjparish.net)

The annual St. John's Christmas Festival is coming up on **Saturday, December 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** There are lots of ways you can participate — many hands are needed! For more information about what help is needed and to volunteer, please contact Karen Licht ([karen\\_licht@yahoo.com](mailto:karen_licht@yahoo.com)), Ellen Flynn ([ellenflynn517@gmail.com](mailto:ellenflynn517@gmail.com)), or Carla Abdo-Katsipis ([cabdo28@gmail.com](mailto:cabdo28@gmail.com)).

**We especially need people to make soup to be sold at the Festival, and people to grocery shop for and staff the Festival Café.** We can provide soup recipes, and you're also welcome to come cook in the St. John's kitchen to use our large stock pots. Quart containers for the soup can be picked up from the office during office hours. Please contact any of the people listed above if you can help with these needs!

**Please pick up a lawn sign** in Hubbard Hall this morning to spread the word to our neighbors about this favorite annual event where they can purchase unique Christmas décor and gifts, along with delicious food!

**If you have items to donate to any of the Festival sales areas (see area descriptions below),** you may bring them to the church during office hours or on Sunday mornings. Items should be dropped off in the open closet area next to the elevator. During office hours, please call ahead so we can unlock the back door for you. If you have large items to donate and need help, please call the office at 860-523-5201 so we can designate a time when someone is available to assist you with transporting items from your vehicle.

- **Jewelry & Accessories:** Once again we will be selling used jewelry, handbags, scarves, neckties and other accessories in the Chic Boutique. So please go through your closets and drawers and see what you might have to donate! A great opportunity to clean out your closets, donate what you are no longer using and let someone else enjoy these items! Donations can be left at the church (in a box/bag marked Chic Boutique) or contact Kim Byrd at 860-558-9916 and she will arrange to pick them up.
- **Art & Antiques:** St. John's loves your art and antiques...even when you have grown tired of them! Make room for something new — Donate your framed art, prints, antiques, or interesting furniture. Contact Colin Gillespie at [gillespiecolinh@gmail.com](mailto:gillespiecolinh@gmail.com).

- **Books:** Looking to pare down your collection of most any kinds of books? We need your donations of fiction, biography, history, crafts, cookbooks, travel, children's books, and coffee table books (art, photography, etc). In fact, just about anything! Hard cover or soft cover. (Please, no periodicals, dated items or text books.) We also accept quality CDs and DVDs. Mark your bagged or boxed donations with "Book Sale" and leave them in the closet across from the restrooms. For more information, contact John Hardy at johndwardhardy@yahoo.com.
- **Items for wreath decorating:** It's that time again, to look through your closets, attics and basements for any bows, ornaments, faux flowers and fruits, and any other items that can be repurposed for this year's wreath decorating. We always need to purchase some new supplies, but the more we can repurpose, the more money we save! Please start dropping any supplies by the office clearly marked for GREENERY. Thank you!
- **Donate baked goods or other kitchen specialties to the "Country Kitchen" sale.** Bakers, cooks, chefs, everyone! Please think of the Country Kitchen as you are preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Sweet and savory treats are appreciated and needed. If you wish to donate and need more information, suggestions and recipes can be provided. Also, we could use your help "behind the table" at the festival. Ginger Gillespie would love to hear from you, 860-985-3697 or virginia Gillespie1@gmail.com.
- **Hand-knitted goods.** If you're a knitter who would like to help make accessories and other items to sell at the Festival, contact Heidi Gostyla at heidigostyla@snet.net.

### Important Note on Year-End Giving

For your contributions of cash or checks to appear on your 2019 year-end giving statement, they must be received in St. John's office/offering plate by December 25. Due to holiday staff schedules, contributions received after December 25, 2019, will get posted to St. John's bank account in January, in which case they will appear on your 2020 giving statement (even if they are in payment of a 2019 pledge).

If you would like to make an online pledge payment with your credit card and have it appear on your 2019 giving statement, please also do so by December 25, so there is plenty of time for your contribution to clear the merchant account and our bank account in December.

If you plan to donate stock to St. John's, please contact Financial Administrator Peggy O'Toole at peggy@sjparish.net or 860-523-5201 x311, before you or your broker initiate the stock transfer.



**Thank you to all who have pledged their support to St. John's for 2020.**

This list includes pledges received as of Wednesday, November 27, and will be updated weekly.

The names of *new pledgers* are in italics.



Bess & John Amamoo, June & Emhart Aziz, Janet & Brad Babbitt, Mary & Bob Bainbridge, *Beverley Baker*, *Margie & Jenn Baker*, Eleanor & Jack Barnes, Wendy & Richard Bartlett, Marian & David Beers, Mike Biondi & Ginny Kemp, Shirley Blean, *Carlos & Allison Branco*, Lissie & Lynn Brooks, Kim & Chris Byrd, Francine & Stephan Christiansen, Alina & Matt Ciscel, Annabel & Elijah Clapp, Susan & Brian Clemow, Edith & Bob Connolly, Michele & Halsey Cook, Helen Cooke, Trig & Sam Cooley, Steve Crocker & Rosa Guzzo, Conny DeLuca, *Jyothsna & Carlos Diaz*, Pamela Dimock, Martin Dodd, Susan & James Donaldson, Hope & Bill Eakins, Kate & Robert Eikel, Karan & Geoff Emerick, Britt Emerick, Carole & Tony Erdman, *Jennifer & Jim Evans*, Mariana Evica & Dan Traut, Martha Fine, Linda & John Fiske, *Jessica & Paul Fletcher*, Ben & Ellen Flynn, Danielle Foint, Giselle & Edwin Genece, Carolyn & Stanley Giliberto, Ginger & Colin Gillespie, Timothy Goetz, Heidi & Jeff Gostyla, David Grimaldi, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Anne Harney, Susie & Ross Hatch, Anne & Randall Hayes, Patricia & Ronald Hensley, Priscilla Hexter, Ann Hutchinson, Tita & Douglas Hyland, Buffy & John Ineson, Dianne Jones, *Carla Abdo-Katsipis & Jacob Katsipis*, Sarah Kieffer, Betty Knorr, Ann & Richard Krissinger, Mary Beth & Scott Lamlein, Cindy & Jim Lawler, Barbara & Albert Lennox, Karen Licht, Wendy & Thomas Lincoln, Teresa & Joel Lohr, *Leah & Luis Lorenzo*, Lisa & Mike Mahoney, Tina & David McCary, Jacqueline McCauley, Patrick Miller, Jean Mitchell, Marie-Jose Montas, Marnie & Bob Mueller, Leah & Stewart Murchie, Elizabeth & Alex Nelson, Ann & Samuel Newbury, John Nowacki & Don Polk, Julia & Jim O'Brien, Harriet Odlum, Nancy Pedersen, Agnes & Billy Peelle, *Maribelle Pellen*, Susan Pinkerton, Joy Pond, Ginny & Mark Proft, Jillian & Michael Puzzo, Robin Resin, Hal Rives & Marki Ware, Laura & John Roche, Barbara & Pieter Roos, Nina & Duccio Rosselli Del Turco, Mary Russell, Judy Schaffer, Paul Shaker & Cleveland Williams, Jim Sharp, Nancy & Bob Skeele, Mary & Spencer Sloan, *Reid Sterrett*, Mary Stoughton, Dale & Christoph Stretz, Pat Struglia, *Sera & Abraham Thomas*, Calvert Thomas, Margaret Thomas, Pat & Alex Vance, Pam & Jeff Verney, Audrey Walker, Lyn Walker & Tyler Smith, Anne & John Walsh, Joan Warner, *Jackie & Michael Wells*, Martin Wheeler & Deborah Ferrari, Brooke & Ted Whittemore, John Wilcox & Virginia Van Dyk, Janet Willard, Maggie & Sherwood Willard, *Akilah Williams*, Jeanne & Dennis Winkleblack, Wes Winterbottom, Anita Winters

### Christmas gifts for children in need due by TOMORROW

St. John's is continuing the tradition of sponsoring 60 children with Christmas gift bags in the Stronger Families, Stronger Future program (formerly known as the Nurturing Families Network). If you picked up a gift tag, please shop and place *unwrapped* items in a gift bag, then return your gift bag to St. John's by Monday, December 2. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity! For more information, contact Jillian Puzzo at [jillianpuzzo@gmail.com](mailto:jillianpuzzo@gmail.com) or Leah Murchie at [murchlt@comcast.net](mailto:murchlt@comcast.net).

### Donate food and cold weather accessories

Every Sunday, parish children bring donations of nonperishable food up to the chancel during the Offertory. They've also recently started bringing forward donations of cold weather accessories (hats, gloves, heavy socks, and umbrellas). Please bring in any of these items when you are able, on any Sunday!

- **Nonperishable food donations** go to the Grace Seventh Day Adventist Church food pantry on Prospect Avenue. They are always in need of high-protein foods (such as peanut butter, legumes and tuna), along with cereal, canned goods, rice, pasta, and other staples. With the holidays approaching, stuffing mix, baking mixes, canned veggies, jarred gravy, dried fruits and nuts, and other items for special meals are also welcome.
- **Cold weather accessories** are given to people in need who come to the church looking for help. We need heavy insulated or fleece gloves, warm socks (such as wool boot socks), winter hats, and umbrellas. Items for both men and women are needed, but we tend to see more men in need, so larger sizes are especially helpful.

### Donate snacks for Trinity Academy students

St. John's has been supporting Trinity Academy for the past two years. Trinity Academy serves 40 students at its Hartford location on Sigourney Street (at Trinity Episcopal Church). Trinity is seeking support for its students with a snack drive. Please consider helping Trinity Academy by donating the following snacks: Nutri Grain granola bars, pretzels, animal crackers, graham crackers, Honey Nut Cheerios cereal, Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal, Goldfish crackers, applesauce, fruit cups. The easiest way to donate is to order directly from Trinity Academy's Amazon wish list: <https://tinyurl.com/wr54ppw>. Orders will be sent directly to Trinity Academy. Or, you may bring your donations to St. John's and leave them in the box marked "Trinity Academy" in the Education Wing by **December 15**.



**Welcoming All to St. John's**  
*A note from our Hospitality Chairperson*

Dear St. John's Family:

How many of you remember your first morning at St. John's? Or perhaps it was a Music at the Red Door concert? Or our annual Christmas Festival? Whenever your first step through the front or back doors of St. John's was, I hope (and assume) you were met by a warm welcome.

But then what kept you coming back? What helped you to feel a part of the St. John's community? Did someone invite you to coffee hour? Ask you to serve on a committee? Remind you to come for the Sunday morning Faith Forum? Ask you to go in with them on a Spring Food Fling auction item? Whatever it was, the invitation pulled you in. It got you to come back. It got you to participate more fully and by doing so, began to make you feel a real part of our church community.

This is what we want to do for all who pass through our doors. This effort is not new — all of us greet each other warmly at the Peace and our ushers say hello to all.

What we'd like to do is be even more intentional about making those who are new, and even those who have been at St. John's for many years, feel even more welcome, more a part of our community, more like St. John's is their home "wherever they are in their spiritual journey," as Susan says so often.

So, I invite you to think about what you can do. If you are part of a certain ministry, can you ask someone to join? Can you ask someone to join you for coffee hour? Can you invite someone to join you for the Sacred Circle meeting? Can you simply strike up a conversation with someone you've never met? It doesn't take much, but it does take a bit of thought and intentionality.

As the season changes toward Christmas, and as we move into 2020 with a renewed sense of energy with the wonderful addition of Margie and her family, think about what you can do to make those around you feel even more welcome at St. John's.

If you have ideas, thoughts or suggestions around how to do this in the activities, groups, ministries and committees that you are a part of at church, please reach out to me or Susan so we can help make those ideas happen. My e-mail is [jpowellob@comcast.net](mailto:jpowellob@comcast.net).

Thank you,  
Julia O'Brien  
Chair, Hospitality at St. John's

# St. John's Episcopal Church

*A place to discover connections with God and one another*

www.sjparish.net

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860 523 5201 office@sjparish.net



## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist each Sunday

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
The Rev. Margie Baker (margie@sjparish.net) .....	Curate
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

Virginia Van Dyk .....	Warden
Wes Winterbottom .....	Warden
Tim Goetz and John Roche .....	Co-Treasurers
Ellen Painter Dollar.....	Scribe

2017-19: Geoff Emerick, Andrew Worrell

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

2019-21: Ellen Flynn, David Grimaldi, Teresa Lohr