



St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net

Christmas Day

HOLY EUCHARIST

December 25, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Merry Christmas!

Our waiting comes to an end today as new hope is born within our hearts in the form of Jesus, the Savior of the World. How ironic that the world's salvation comes to us in the most unlikely way, in the form of a tiny and fragile infant. No matter how joyful or sad, excited or exhausted you may be this holiday season, take comfort in the knowledge that all things are made new by the tiny babe we find lying in a manger on Christmas morning. This is where we place our hope for new beginnings and a new world — in the Prince of Peace.

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. Nursery care for young children is available in the Education Wing, and children are also welcome to stay in the service with their families.

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.



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE VOLUNTARY The shepherds *from* Nativity Suite

Wilbur Held (1914–2015)

THE OPENING HYMN 96 Angels we have heard on high
All stand and sing.

GLORIA

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 9:2–7

All sit.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalms 96

The people say the responses in bold.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

THE EPISTLE

Titus 1:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 78 O little town of Bethlehem

FOREST GREEN

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

*Luke 2:1–20**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 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.**

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 The magi *from* Nativity Suite

Wilbur Held

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.*

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

Glory to you for ever and ever.

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

By your will they were created and have their being.

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

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

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

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

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

THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea-ven and earth are
 full, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. 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.

Music: from *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).
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All remain standing or kneel.

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

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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 Joy to the world *from* Nativity Suite

Wilbur Held

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THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Susan Pinkerton**Assisting:** The Reverend Margie Baker**Layreader:** Paul Shaker**Organist:** Scott Lamlein**Ushers:** Ellen Flynn and Sarah Kieffer**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 Byrd
Kim Green	Meg	Beth	Ann Marie
Janet Ray	Edward Shaker	Chris	Daphne Lynch Fifield
Susan Murray	Edith Connolly	Mary Stoughton	Paul
Brad Babbitt	Linda Evans	Daniel Flyntz	Graham
Michael Bruce	Sally	Ellie Brown	Julie
Amy Jones	Billy Ulrich	Wanda	Scott
Estrid	Nicky	Peter	Eliot Makan
Nonnie	Jane Bartlett		

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Alex Vance	Claire Brouillard
Paul Shaker	Dorian Ciscel
Marshall Cook	Jackie Wells
Winston Booker	Harriet Odium
David Murphy	Alycia Montas
Carolyn Giliberto	

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement.

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.

Save the Date

Christmas week office hours & end-of-year contributions

The parish office will be CLOSED from Tuesday, December 24 through Thursday, December 26, and again from Monday, December 30 through Wednesday, January 1. Once again, please note that year-end contributions received after December 25 will not post to the church bank account until after the new year, and will therefore appear on your 2020 giving statement, even if in payment of a 2019 pledge.

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

Upcoming EYC events are listed below. Dinner is provided, and more information will be shared about each meeting as it approaches. **Adult assistance is needed! If you are an adult who can help provide supervision or dinner, contact Margie at margie@sjparish.net.**

- December 29 – No EYC for Christmas break
- January 5 – WeHa Youth Group (with Westminster Presbyterian and First Church)

Margie Baker's ordination to the priesthood, Saturday, January 4 at 2 p.m.

All are welcome to participate in this wonderful day in Margie's life and the life of our parish. Following the service of ordination with the bishops of Connecticut and North Carolina, we will have a reception in Margie's honor; please sign up to help with the reception at <https://tinyurl.com/tmjf43q>. Everyone is invited to come celebrate!

First Sunday Lunch & Pipes Alive! with Scott Lamlein, Sunday, January 5

Music at the Red Door's popular organ recital series returns on the first Sunday of January, with our own Scott Lamlein presenting a half-hour concert. All are invited to stay after the 10:30 service for the **First Sunday Lunch** followed by the Pipes Alive! concert at 12:30 p.m. Both lunch and the concert are free, although donations are welcome.

Twelfth Night Potluck & Tree Burning, Friday, January 10, 6:30 p.m.

Bid farewell to the Christmas season and welcome the new year at this fun annual tradition (which is scheduled a bit later than usual this year because of Margie's ordination on January 4th). Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner, and then enjoy a bonfire outdoors with the burning of the church Christmas tree (weather permitting). All needed permits and fire-prevention measures will be in place. Everyone is welcome!

Holy Land Pilgrimage, Fall 2020

The Reverend Whitney Altopp of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Ridgefield is organizing a Holy Land Pilgrimage led by guide Iyad Qumri, who also led the St. John's pilgrimage in 2018. Any St. John's members who might like to join them are invited to contact Reverend Altopp at waltopp@ststephens-ridgefield.org or 203-438-3789 x13. The pilgrimage is August 28 to September 8, 2020, and the cost is \$3,699 per person, double occupancy.

Christmas Flower Offerings

The poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and:

In honor of:

Carol Bachand
Charlotte and Annika Roos

In memory of:

Thomas Abraham
Daniel N. Adams, III
Ira and Mary Bachand
R. Marshall Barnes
Ruth and Lawrence Buckner
Carol and Elaine Byrd
Lois Newcomb Church
William Bowen Church, III
Damon B. Clemow
Janet and Jamie Cochran
Wendy Wright Collins
Cyril and Mildred Connolly
Adrian Edward Crocker
John Frank Shears Crocker
Robert K. Dimmitt
Ruth and Bill Eakins
Helen H. and John Paul Faude
John Paul Faude, Jr.
Wilson Hinsdale Faude
Virginia Pfeil Gregory
Richard Harrington Gregory, Jr.
John and Carol Grieco
Orson Henry Hart Jr.
Donald J. Hayes
Elizabeth Hetherington
Noble and Sara Hetherington
Helen and Harold Howlett

Robert W. Knorr
William E. Knorr
Elsa M. Lattey
Erik F. Lattey
Mary and Richard Lawrence
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Lawson
Sadie and Ernest MacLaughlin
Edward and Eleanor d'Este Mosehauer
Lewis P. Nelson III
Mr. and Mrs. L.P. Nelson, Jr.
Charles D. and Janet M. Peterson
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
Mary Joan Jaques and Harvey L. Spaunburg, Jr.
Thomas R. Tight
Shirley LaValley Uricchio
Joseph John Uricchio
Sadie
Sidney Buford Scott
George E. and Abbie Baxter Van Sicen
Guy Verney
M. Searle Wright

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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