

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net



The Presentation of Our Lord

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

February 2, 2020

10:30 a.m.

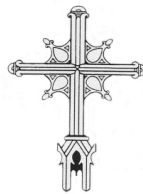
Welcome

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. 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.

This week's scriptures:

Each week we worship the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That God came to the world in human flesh—was born, lived, and died a Jew in a very real, earthly environment—is sometime hard for us to fully comprehend. Further, that God not only came to us in human form, but came into the world by way of a lowly working class family, and became “like his [human] brothers and sisters in every respect,” should give us pause. Today’s scriptures remind us of Jesus’ humanity, even while they so clearly point to his special divine calling and favor. This combination—human and divine—is what makes Jesus both “a merciful and faithful high priest” and “able to help those who are being tested.”



THE VOLUNTARY Prelude
 Prelude on *Picardy*

Robert Paoli (b.1991)
 James Southbridge (b.1969)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 324 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
All stand and sing.

PICARDY

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. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Title: *Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis* Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Copyright © Church Publishing, Inc

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; 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

Malachi 3:1–4

All sit.

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 24:7–10

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

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors.

7 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; * and the King of glory shall come in.

8 **“Who is this King of glory?” ***
“The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.”

9 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; * and the King of glory shall come in.

10 **“Who is he, this King of glory?” ***
“The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.” *Antiphon*

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 2:14–18

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 35 Christ, mighty Savior, Light of all creation
All stand and sing.

MIGHTY SAVIOR

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:22–40

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

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children are invited to go to Children’s Chapel, and will return at the Peace.

THE SERMON

Joel Lohr

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.

God of love, you refine silver and shelter the sparrow's nest. Accept the prayers we bring this day, for you know all that tests and troubles us.

For the holy catholic Church throughout the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this country, for all nations and their leaders, and for our community. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For your creation, and the wisdom to protect and guard it for future generations. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in danger and need: the sick and the suffering, especially those on our parish prayer list; prisoners, captives, and their families, the hungry, homeless, and oppressed. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who rest in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant God of steadfast love, you sent your Son to be the light of the world, saving people everywhere from sin and death. As Anna gave thanks for the freedom he would bring, and Simeon saw in him the dawn of redemption, complete your purpose once made known in him. Make us the vessels of his light, that all the world may glory in the splendor of your peace.

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 forward donated food and items for our Blessing Bags.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM Set me as a seal

René Clausen (b. 1953)

Text: Song of Solomon 8:6a; 8:7a

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love;
neither can the floods drown it.

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.

After the loss of his child, composer René Clausen wrote: "Normally, when I am asked about the 'inspiration' process, I laugh and deny inspiration in favor of work and effort. In this case, however, I just sat down and wrote the piece. I don't know what is wrapped up inside these few, simple notes. I can say actually very little about the piece. Whenever I return to it, however, I am struck by the phrase 'for love is strong as death,' because when I wrote it my actual feeling was 'for love is stronger than death'; abiding, all-encompassing love absorbs even the pain of death. If the piece is about anything, it is about the simple but

powerful conviction of permanent love that seeks to overflow the boundary between life and death. I can't imagine a choir singing it without open hearts."

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100TH

**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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have created a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

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.

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.

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

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.

If you would like to receive Healing Prayers, go to the baptismal font at the rear of the nave after receiving Communion.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM Nunc dimittis

Thomas Tallis (1505–1585)

Words: The Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29–32

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.
 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end, amen.

Thomas Tallis wrote choral music under four different monarchs with widely differing religious practices. Under Edward VI (1547–1553), it was decided that all sacred choral music should be in English and be succinctly composed.

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 436 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

TRURO

All stand and sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Processional

Robert Paoli (b. 1991)

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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Psalm Antiphon from A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition ©2007 Carl P. Daw, Jr., and Kevin R. Hackett. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant: The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

Preacher: Joel Lohr

Assisting: The Reverend Margie Baker

Deacon: The Reverend Walter McKenney

Layreader: Christoph Stretz

Psalterer: Kara Hart

The St. John's Adult Choir

Organist and Choirmaster: Scott Lamlein

Organ Scholar: Ted Babbitt

Ushers: John & Laura Roche, Paul Shaker, Susan Clemow, Don Polk

Acolytes: Elsa Ciscel, Britt Emerick, Caleb Worrel, Ethen Worrell

Altar Guild: June Aziz, Conny DeLuca, Buffy Ineson

Healing Prayers: Paul Shaker

Sunday School Teachers: Kate Eikel, Robert Eikel, Jen Evans,

Matt Ciscel, Carla Abdo-Katsipis, Colin Gillespie

Nursery Caregivers: Abigail Thaxton and Kiley Murphy

At Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center:

Layreader: Jeff Verney

Musician: Steve Metcalf

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	Edith Connolly	Chris	Daphne Lynch Fifield
Susan Murray	Linda Evans	Mary Stoughton	Paul
Brad Babbitt	Jane Bartlett	Ellie Brown	Graham
Billy Ulrich	Sue	Peter	Eliot Makan
Nicky	Jeannine	Gwain Gillespie	Lee

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Marie Montas	Cindy Lawler
Paul Thaxton	Maggie Willard
Nancy Eaton	Spencer Sloan

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Anglican Church of Burundi.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Epiphany, Durham; St. Gabriel's, East Berlin; St. Stephen's, East Haddam; and for Comite Hispano, Spanish-language Cursillo, and Latino/Hispanic ministry in Connecticut.

HAPPENING TODAY**"Episcopal 101" Faith Forum, 9:30 a.m.**

The February Faith Forums, at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays, will be devoted to "Episcopal 101" — an introduction to the beliefs and practices of the Episcopal Church. While this series is especially useful for newcomers or those considering baptism or confirmation, everyone is welcome to attend!

First Sunday Lunch & Pipes Alive!, starting after the 10:30 service

Our monthly series of half-hour organ recitals continues today with guest organist Cheryl Wadsworth, who will play works by Buxtehude, Demessieux, and Cook. All are invited to stay after the 10:30 service for our First Sunday Lunch before the Pipes Alive! recital begins at 12:30. Lunch and recital are both free, with donations accepted.

Celtic Service, 4:30 p.m.

The monthly Celtic service this afternoon will focus on the theme of "Love." All are invited to this ancient yet fresh way of connecting with God, which includes prayer, reflection, chant, meditation, and music. The service starts at 4:30 with an extended period of silence, and is followed by a reception in Hubbard Hall.

Save the Date

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.**

- February 2 – Super Bowl! No EYC
- February 9 – Duckpin bowling with WeHa Youth
- February 16 – No EYC (holiday weekend/winter break)
- February 23 – Shrove Tuesday prep and Loaves & Fishes sandwich making

Women Together Bible study

On February 11th, Women Together will begin a three-week series on the Biblical books of Ruth and Esther. Women from several different churches come to WT, and all women are welcome to attend this time of study, discussion and reflection. Meetings are held each Tuesday, 2:00-3:15 p.m. in the Reception Room. If you'd like more information, please see Sarah Kieffer.

Confirmation classes for youth in grades 8 to 12, February and March

Confirmation classes begin with an overnight lock-in at St. John's on **Saturday night, February 22 through Sunday morning, February 23**. Then classes will be held during the education hour (9:30 a.m.) on Sundays from February 23 through March 29. Each week, the class will look at different aspects of our baptismal vows and what it means to live them out. All youth in grades 8 to 12 are invited to join the class, even if you're not sure that you want to be confirmed (or even if you're already confirmed!). Those who wish to be confirmed may do so at the Easter Vigil at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday evening, April 11, or wait to be confirmed when St. John's has our next bishop visitation, which will be in the first half of 2021.

Celebrity Organ Concert with Simon Johnson, Friday, February 21, 7:30 p.m.

We welcome concert organist Simon Johnson to the mighty St. John's pipe organ on February 21 at 7:30 p.m. As the organist and assistant director of music at St Paul's Cathedral, he has been involved in all the national occasions that have taken place there since his appointment in 2008, including the funeral service of Baroness Thatcher, the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, and Her Majesty's 90th Birthday celebrations, for which he also arranged some of the music. The concert is free, with donations accepted. Suggested donation: \$20, with checks payable to *Music at the Red Door*. A reception will follow in Hubbard Hall.

Choral Evensong, Sunday, February 23, 5 p.m.

The February service of Choral Evensong will feature Voices of Concinnity, a 12-voice professional chamber ensemble, and Scott Lamlein, organist. Evensong is an ancient service of prayer, chant and music, and a wonderful way to prepare for the week ahead. All are welcome.

Interfaith group tour of a church (ours!), a synagogue and a mosque, Sunday, March 15

Mark your calendars for a special interfaith tour of several local faith communities on Sunday, March 15, organized by Joel Lohr and Susan Pinkerton, along with Rabbi Michael Pincus and Chaplain Aida Mansoor (our interfaith panelists for a Faith Forum back in November). We'll gather at St. John's after the 10:30 service for a light lunch, then have a tour of the church, walk to Congregation Beth Israel for a tour of the synagogue, and then carpool to the Berlin Mosque. The tour should end between 2:30 and 3 p.m.

Remember to bring nonperishable food and items for our Blessing Bags any Sunday!

During the Offertory, children of the parish bring these items forward as a symbol of offering our resources to God by sharing what we have with those in need. Nonperishable food goes to the Grace Seventh Day Adventist Food Pantry on Prospect Avenue. Needed items include pasta, rice, canned goods, cereal, peanut butter, and canned meat and fish. We are also always in need of items for the Blessing Bags we give to those in need, especially winter hats and gloves, socks, single-serve snacks, and basic toiletries.



Global Missions Task Force

Are you interested in how we can share the love of Christ with others across the globe through actions of compassion and service? Our warden Geoff Emerick is heading a new Global Missions task force that will explore different opportunities for global missions as we enter into a new passage in this important ministry. As a result of the ongoing volatile political instability in Haiti, we have had to put our mission work and financial aid for Saint Sauveur School in Les Cayes on hold for the time being. Therefore, we are considering other avenues for mission overseas and we want to hear your ideas for this good and important work. Please be in touch with the office (860-523-5201), Geoff or Susan for further information.

Join with our faith community neighbors to honor local police and firefighters.

Rabbi Michael Pincus of Congregation Beth Israel is organizing an event on May 17, 2020, in which Farmington Avenue faith communities will join together to honor our local first responders. He would like to have two lay representatives from St. John's to work with him and other faith community representatives to plan the event. If you are interested in helping, please contact the parish office.

Contribute to the 2020 St. John's Lent Devotional!

Each year, we publish a Lent devotional featuring *your* Lenten reflections. We invite parishioners (and family and friends too) to choose a particular day in Lent, reflect on the Gospel reading for that day, and produce something in response — a written reflection, a poem, a photo, a drawing. *All ages* are invited to participate. To contribute, look for the clipboards in Hubbard Hall that have a sheet of paper for each day of Lent. Choose a day, fill out the top portion of the sheet of paper for that day with your name and contact info, and take the bottom portion (which has the Gospel reading for that day and some instructions for what and how to contribute). Return your contribution to Margie Baker, in person or by e-mail, by **Wednesday, February 19**.

Help with Sunday evening youth group dinner and activities.

St. John's EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) has big plans for the winter! And we need your help, parents and friends. Most nights we need an extra adult to be present, and some nights we also need a dinner angel. This is a fun and relatively easy way to support the teenagers of St. John's. Please go to our online sign-up to choose a Sunday evening or two when you can help: <https://tinyurl.com/EYCHelpers>

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

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

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

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

2020–22: June Aziz, Jyothsna Diaz, Anne Harney