St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another www.sjparish.net



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

FESTAL EUCHARIST

December 24, 2020

4:00 p.m.

ORDER OF SERVICE

VOLUNTARY Meditation on Quelle est cette odeur agréable?

Dale Wood (1934–2003)

THE INTROIT The Lamb

Scott Lamlein, 2009

Words: William Blake (1757–1827)

Youth and Alumnae Choir, recorded Christmas Eve 2019

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.

THE OPENING HYMN 87 Hark! the herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN

All read or sing along.

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity. Please as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings, hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

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:

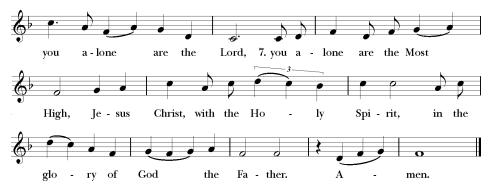
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly

love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE





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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true

Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory

everlasting. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 62:6–12

To pon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

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

THE PSALTER

Psalm 97

The people say the responses in **bold**.

- 1 The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice; * let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, * righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him * and burns up his enemies on every side.

- 4 His lightnings light up the world; * the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, * at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, * and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! * Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, * because of your judgments, O Lord.
- 9 For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; * you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
 he preserves the lives of his saints
 and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, * and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, * and give thanks to his holy Name.

THE SECOND LESSON

Titus 3:4–7

Then the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

THE GOSPEL Luke 2:1–20

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

THE NICENE CREED

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**.

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus.

Gracious God, as a star arose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ child: Draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you, that we might be the people you call us to be. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your presence: Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives, our faith, and our hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus's light, and kings to the brightness of his rising: Draw our nation, our president, our president-elect, and all in authority to his brightness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As angels sang "Gloria" to you, proclaiming peace on earth and goodwill among all people: Help us to share your peace with the world, and bring an end to terror and strife. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night: Draw us to greater knowledge and love of you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room in the inn: Be present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry, and inspire us to make room for them in our lives and communities. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

As the Holy Family gathered in Bethlehem, and traveled together to far-off lands: Bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of eternal life: Give to the departed eternal rest, and let light perpetual shine on them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially for those on our parish prayer list. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Celebrant O Lord our God, may the light and hope of this holy night remind us that you are among us,

that you hear our prayers, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In

the name of Jesus of Nazareth we pray.

People Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

THE WELCOME

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE ANTHEM Brightest and best

arr. Malcolm Archer (b. 1962) Words: Reginald Heber (1783–1826) Youth and Alumnae Choir, recorded Christmas Eve 2018 Soloists: Britt Emerick, Emma Evica

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

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

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

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.

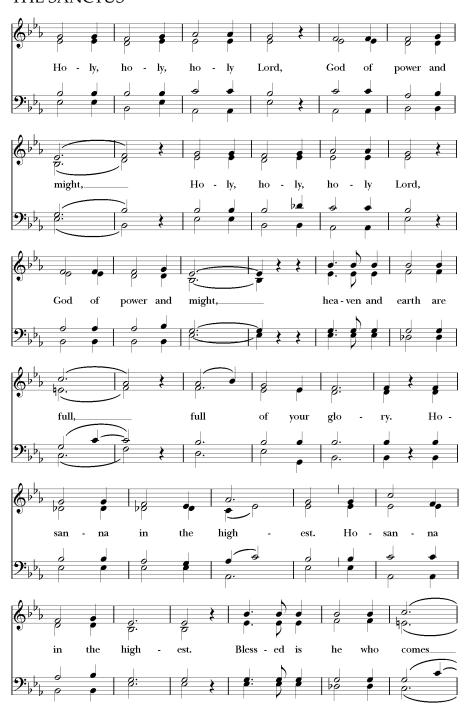
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

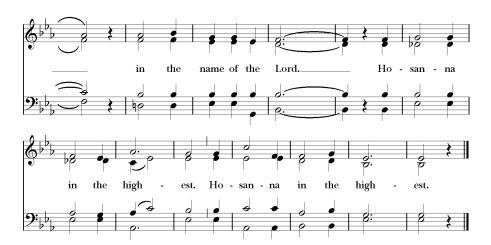
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man in the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS





Music: from Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc

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.



Music: from Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant

Gracious and Risen Lord, we desire to offer you our praise and thanksgiving. We believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament and we love you above all things. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we desire to receive you into our souls. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

People

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 this gathering of the community he formed. 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.**

HYMN 111 Silent night

STILLE NACHT

All read or sing along.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight. Glory streams from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet (1878–1967)

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

Assisting: The Reverend Margie Baker

Cantor: Daaé Ransom

The St. John's Youth Choir

Organist: Scott Lamlein

Livestream Oversight: Ted Babbitt

Altar Guild: Buffy Ineson **Cover Image:** Virginia Eikel

Join us online for the Reverend Susan Pinkerton's final Sunday at St. John's!

Sunday, December 27 See details on page 15.

Christmas Flower Offerings

The poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and:

In honor of:
Patricia Chambers

In memory of:

Lois Newcomb Church William Bowen Church III

Wendy Wright Collins

Cyril & Mildred Connolly

Michael Connolly

Robert K. Dimmitt

John Paul & Helen H. Faude

John Paul Faude, Jr.

Wilson H. Faude

Donald J. Haye

Noble & Sara Hetherington

Elizabeth Hetherington

Robert W. Knorr

William E. Knorr

Elsa M. Lattey

Erik F. Lattey

Bill Moore

Audre F. Morrison

Samuel P. Newbury

Charles D. and Janet M. Peterson

Robert F. Abbie V.S. Peterson

George & Edith Phillips

John & Grace Potter

Andrya Ramer

Robert & Sara Reiersen

Frank and Mary Reilly

Francis P. Reilly

Margaret Rehm Rothschild

Thomas R. Tight

George E. & Abbie B. Van Siclen

Robert B. Skeele

Harvey L. Spaunburg, Jr.

Mary Joan Spaunburg

Guy & Julia Verney

M. Searle Wright

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Go to our web site at http://www.sjparish.net/ for details and links.

Sunday School (elementary through middle school), 9:30 a.m. Sundays on Zoom

Sunday livestream service, 10:30 a.m. on YouTube, Facebook and the web site

Online Noonday Prayer, Monday through Friday at 12 p.m. on Zoom

Online Morning Prayer, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m. on Zoom

Online Family Happy Hour, Tuesdays at 5 p.m. on Zoom

Online Bible study, Mondays at 7 p.m. on Zoom - New series on Women of the Bible begins on January 18

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	Priscilla
Kim Green	Sue	Beth	Patricia
Janet Ray	Billy Ulrich	Chris	Enid
Brad Babbitt	Jonah Dahlstrom	Ellie Brown	Ann
Robert E. Eikel	Whitney Lynch	Samira Rihani	Dan
Robin	William Bittinger	Peter Kieffer	Alexa

Mary Zachary Juan Susan Donaldson Seamus Turco Kimberley Judy Gardiner Hope & Bill Eakins

Robin Gillespie Don

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Marshall Cook Jackie Wells Virginia Eikel
Winston Booker Harriet Odlum Genella Evans
David Murphy Alycia Montas Charles Sonne
Carolyn Giliberto Paul Faude Susan Clemow

Dorian Ciscel David Tweedie

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Tim Goetz & Neha Pande

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.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.

Important Note on Year-End Giving

For your contributions of cash or checks to appear on your 2020 year-end giving statement, they must be **received** in the St. John's office by December 28. Due to holiday staff schedules, contributions received after December 28 will get posted to St. John's bank account in January, in which case they will appear on your 2021 giving statement (even if they are in payment of a 2020 pledge).

If you would like to make an online pledge payment with your credit card and have it appear on your 2020 giving statement, please do so by December 24, 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.



Farewell to Susan Pinkerton Sunday, December 27

Livestreamed Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.

Coffee hour on Zoom until 11:45 a.m.

Drive-through at St. John's from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Drive to St. John's to say good-bye to Susan Pinkerton and wish her well.



St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another www.sjparish.net

679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut 06119 860 523 5201 office@sjparish.net



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. (livestream video only). Noonday Prayer online via Zoom at 12 p.m. every weekday. Morning Prayer online via Zoom at 8 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

STAFF

The Rev. Susan Pinkerton (susan@sjparish.net)				
The Rev. Margie Baker (margie@sjparish.net)	Curate			
Scott Lamlein (scott@sjparish.net)				
The Rev. Walter McKenney (walter@sjparish.net)	Deacon			
Ellen Painter Dollar (ellen@sjparish.net)	Parish Manager and Assistant to the Rector			
Dwight Latif (dwight@sjparish.net)				
Peggy O'Toole (peggy@sjparish.net)				
Christa Rakich	Organ Artist-in-Residence			
Ralph Valentine	Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus			
VESTRY				
Geoff Emerick	Warden			
Virginia Van Dyk	Warden			
Virginia Van Dyk				
2018–20: Steve Crocker, Ann Hutchinson, Alex Nelson				
2019–21: Ellen Flynn, David Grimaldi, Teresa Loh	r			

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