

# St. John's Episcopal Church

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

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



## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II & CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 20, 2020

10:30 a.m.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

VOLUNTARY Noel: Quand le Sauveur Jesus Christ

Dandrieu, Jean-François (1682–1738)

INTROIT Ave Maria

David Conte (b. 1955)

*St. John's Schola: Anne Harney, Erica Maas Shippee, Nancy Eaton,  
Brendon Gallagher, Odanice Olibrice, John Church, John Nowacki*

*Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

*Benedicta tu in mulieribus,*

Blessed art thou among women,

*et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.*

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

*Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,*

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

*ora pro nobis peccatoribus,*

pray for us sinners,

*nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

THE OPENING HYMN 83 O come, all ye faithful (vv. 1, 3 &amp; 6)

ADESTE FIDELES

*All read or sing along.*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,**

**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;**

**come, and behold him, born the King of angels;**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

**Christ, the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**

**sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;**

**glory to God, glory in the highest;**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

**Christ, the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;**

**Jesus to thee be glory given;**

**Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

**Christ, the Lord.**

THE RECTOR'S WELCOME

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. Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN 56 O come, O come, Emmanuel (vv. 1 &amp; 2)

VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

*All read or sing along.*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine Advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

## VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Scenes 1–3: The Prophets Isaiah &amp; Micah, The Anunciation, and Mary Visits Elizabeth

HYMN 79 O little town of Bethlehem (vv. 1 &amp; 2)

ST. LOUIS

*All read or sing along.*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

## VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Scenes 4–7: The Road to Bethlehem, The Birth of Jesus, Angels Appear to the Shepherds,  
The Angel Chorus

HYMN 96 Angels we have heard on high (vv. 1, 2 &amp; 3)

GLORIA

*All read or sing along.*

Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their brave delight.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Scenes 8–10: Adoration of the Shepherds, Wise Men Follow the Star, Wise Men Worship Jesus

HYMN 128 We three kings (vv. 1 & 5)

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

*All read or sing along.*

**We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts, we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice;  
Heav'n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies.**

## VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Scene 11: The Prologue of John

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 PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

## 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.*

We give thanks to you all-holy God, for you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image and call us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. So we offer our praise to you, as we sing:

## 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).

Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc

Glory and praise to you, holy and living God. You sent your beloved child Jesus to enter our world as a baby. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and brought good news to the poor.

On the night before he died for us on the cross, he ate supper with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to God for it, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying: "Take and eat, this is my body, which is given for you. As you eat it, remember me."

After supper Jesus took a cup of wine, again gave thanks to God and gave the wine to his friends to drink, saying: "Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for the whole world for the forgiveness of sins. As you drink it, remember me."

And so we say our story of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

God of love, we offer you these gifts. Send your holy spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Grant that we, filled with your spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. All this we ask through your son Jesus Christ. **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

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

## 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.*

## THE CLOSING HYMN 100 Joy to the world (vv. 1 &amp; 4)

ANTIOCH

*All read or sing along.*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
 let earth receive her King;  
 let every heart prepare him room,  
 and heaven nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
 and makes the nations prove  
 the glories of his righteousness,  
 and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**THE DISMISSAL**

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

**THE VOLUNTARY** In dir ist Freude (*In thee is joy*), BWV 615 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

**THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**

**Celebrant:** The Reverend Margie Baker  
**Assisting:** The Reverend Susan Pinkerton  
**Organist:** Scott Lamlein  
**Cantors:** Britt and Cate Emerick  
**Assisting Organist:** Ted Babbitt  
**Livestream Oversight:** Ted Babbitt  
**Altar Guild:** Buffy Ineson

**VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**Scene 1:** The Donnelly Family  
**Scene 2:** The Crocker Family  
**Scene 3:** The Thaxton Family  
**Scene 4:** The Clapp Family  
**Scene 5:** The Eikel Family  
**Scene 6:** The Williams/Barrow Family  
**Scene 7:** The Peck Family  
**Scene 8:** The Ciscel Family  
**Scene 9:** The Baker Family  
**Scene 10:** The Biondi/Kemp Family  
**Scene 11:** Kiley Murphy  
**Director:** Margie Baker  
**Costumes:** Buffy Ineson

*The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons, except where noted, 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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**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	Fraz Lugalay
Janet Ray	Billy Ulrich	Chris	Patricia
Brad Babbitt	Jonah Dahlstrom	Ellie Brown	Enid
Robert E. Eikel	Whitney Lynch	Samira Rihani	Ann
Robin	William Bittinger	Peter Kieffer	Dan
Mary	Zachary	Juan	Alexa
Seamus Turco	Kimberley	Judy Gardiner	Susan Donaldson
Robin Gillespie			

**Those celebrating birthdays this week:**

Sherwood Willard	Winston Booker	Paul Shaker
Kent Byrd	David Murphy	Marshall Cook
Peggy O'Toole	Carolyn Giliberto	Jackie Wells
Alex Vance	Dorian Ciscel	

**Those who have died:**

Kavi Ruuskamen

**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.

**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**

**Sunday afternoon youth group (outdoors), 2 p.m.**

**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.**

**Stations of the Nativity walk, TODAY at 2 p.m.**

The Stations of the Nativity consist of large illustrated and illuminated banners lining our driveway, each telling a part of the Christmas story. Visitors may drive or walk through the stations, stopping at each one to read and reflect. We even have a dedicated radio station (90.3 FM) so that your journey through the stations can be accompanied by music from the St. John's choirs! **All are invited to come to St. John's today at 2 p.m. to walk the Stations of the Nativity together.** Please dress for the weather and wear a mask.

**Christmas flower memorials**

Though Christmas services will be online this year, we will still adorn the chancel with some poinsettias and lighted garlands. If you would like to remember or honor a loved one with a Christmas flower memorial, please send names to Ellen in the parish office no later than **Monday, December 21**. Names will be listed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. Note that because we have not purchased altar flowers most of the year, we do not need additional flower fund contributions to cover the cost. If you like, you may contribute instead to the rector's discretionary fund, which provides financial help to parishioners and others in need, or you may simply send in names without a contribution this year.

**Christmas online services at St. John's**

We will livestream the following services on our YouTube channel, web site and Facebook:

**Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. (music starts at 10:45)**

**Christmas Day at 10 a.m.**

**First Sunday after Christmas (12/27) at 10:30 a.m.** – This will be Susan Pinkerton's last Sunday at St. John's. Join us for livestreamed Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m., Zoom coffee hour until 11:45 a.m., and a drive-through at the church from 11:45 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. You're invited to drive to St. John's to wish Susan well from your car.

**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](mailto: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 2021.**

This list includes pledges received as of Thursday, December 17.

The names of *new pledgers* are in italics.



Merriol Almond, June & Emmy Aziz, Janet & Brad Babbitt, Mary & Bob Bainbridge, Beverley Baker, Margie & Jenn Baker, Eleanor & Jack Barnes, Wendy & Richard Bartlett, Ginny Kemp & Mike Biondi, Shirley Blean, Lissie & Lynn Brooks, Kim & Chris Byrd, Buffy Cech, Alina & Matt Ciscel, Annabel & Elijah Clapp, Susan & Brian Clemow, Kate Coley, Edith & Bob Connolly, Michele & Halsey Cook, Helen Cooke, Trig & Sam Cooley, Rosa Guzzo & Steve Crocker, Jyothsna & Carlos Diaz, Pamela Dimock, Martin Dodd, Hope & Bill Eakins, Kate & Robert Eikel, *Frances Eikel, Virginia Eikel, Bobby Eikel*, Karan & Geoff Emerick, Carole & Tony Erdman, Martha Fine, Ellen & Ben Flynn, Danielle Foint, Ginger & Colin Gillespie, Tim Goetz, Heidi & Jeff Gostyla, Anne & Craig Grant, Beth & Joel Grieco, Mary & John Hardy, Jane Harris, Ann Hanlon, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Anne Harney, *Cisalee Harrell*, Jane Harris, Susie & Ross Hatch, Patricia & Ronald Hensley, David Hrdlicka, Ann Hutchinson, Buffy & John Ineson, Dianne Jones, Carla Abdo-Katsipis & Iacovos Katsipis, Sarah Kieffer, Betty Knorr, Ann Krissinger, Mary Beth & Scott Lamlein, Pamela Lamlein, Cindy & Jim Lawler, Wendy & Tom Lincoln, Teresa & Joel Lohr, *Enid & William McBride*, Tina & David McCary, Jackie McCauley, Scott McIntyre, Lisa & Michael Mahoney, Patrick Miller, Marnie Mueller, Leah & Stewart Murchie, Elizabeth & Alex Nelson, Ann Newbury, *Lillian Nolan*, John Nowacki & Don Polk, Julia & Jim O'Brien, *Angela Allen-Peck & Caleb Peck*, Nancy Pedesen, Agnes & Billy Peelle, Maribelle Pellen, Susan Pinkerton, Sandy & David Pond, Ginny & Mark Proft, Laura & John Roche, Barbara & Pieter Roos, Nina & Duccio Rosselli del Turco, Mary Russell, Judy Schaffer, Paul Shaker & Cleveland Williams, Jim Sharp, Nancy Skeele, Mary & Spencer Sloan, Jacqueline & Paul Smith, Flora Speer, Mary Stoughton, Dale & Christoph Stretz, Lauren Mascola & John Swift, Susan & Paul Thaxton, Sera & Abraham Thomas, Calvert Thomas, Margaret Thomas, Pat & Alex Vance, Pam & Jeff Verney, *Gary Wait*, Lyn Walker & Tyler Smith, Audrey Walker, Anne & John Walsh, Marki Ware & Hal Rives, Joan Warner, Martin Wheeler & Deborah Ferrari, Ted Whittemore, Virginia Van Dyk & John Wilcox, Maggie & Sherwood Willard, Jeanne & Dennis Winkleblack, Wes Winterbottom, *Brenda Zanta*, Anonymous

**Note from the stewardship chairs**

We need your pledges ASAP to make important program and staff budget decisions for the year ahead. Please contact the church office if you need another pledge card, or submit your pledge online at <https://sjparish.net/pledge>

**Thank you so much to those of you that have already pledged.** St. John's is the vibrant and flourishing community it is because of your ongoing participation and financial commitment!

Together our faith and our commitment to one another will see us through these difficult times, while strengthening our community and our mission. We are grateful for everyone's contribution of whatever amount you are able to pledge, and feel blessed to be part of this wonderful community.

Kim Byrd and Matt Ciscel, Co-Chairs, Stewardship Committee

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www.sjparish.net

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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) ..... *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*  
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*

## VESTRY

Geoff Emerick ..... *Warden*  
Virginia Van Dyk ..... *Warden*  
Tim Goetz and John Roche ..... *Co-Treasurers*

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

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

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