



St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net

Christmas Day

HOLY EUCHARIST

December 25, 2020

10:00 a.m.

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE VOLUNTARY *In dulci jubilo* (In quiet joy)

Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)

THE OPENING HYMN 78, vv. 1, 2, 5 O little town of Bethlehem

FOREST GREEN

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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.**

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. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7–10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalms 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 GOSPEL

Luke 2:8–20

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

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

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 Margie Baker

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.

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.**

THE WELCOME

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.

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

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

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

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, vv. 1, 2, 4 Joy to the world

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 and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the word! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while field and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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 Fantasia on *Antioch*

Wilbur Held (1914–2015)

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THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Margie Baker

Organist: Scott Lamlein

Livestream Oversight: Ray Giolitto

Altar Guild: Buffy Ineson

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

Sunday, December 27

See details on page 11.

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. Skeelee
 Harvey L. Spaunburg, Jr.
 Mary Joan Spaunburg
 Guy & Julia Verney
 M. Searle Wright

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.

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 – New series on Women of the Bible begins on January 18

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.

*Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of
St. John's Renowned Austin Organ*

Pipes Alive!

Sunday, January 3, 2021 | 12:30 pm
livestreamed from www.reddoormusic.org

KARI MILLER
Organist



MUSIC AT THE RED DOOR

WWW.REDDOORMUSIC.ORG



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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)	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