St. John's Episcopal Church

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



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

September 5, 2021 10:30 a.m.

Welcome!

To ensure everyone's safety, please observe the following guidelines:

- Masks are required for all attending indoor services and events, regardless of vaccination status. This policy update is based on increasing local Covid cases, the highly contagious delta variant, and the CDC's and our bishops' recommendations. We will continue to follow the latest recommendations and monitor our local public health situation, and will revise these guidelines as needed.
- **Practice social distancing with members of other households.** Greet one another from a distance with a nod, wave, peace sign, etc.
- Children must stay with their accompanying adult(s).
- We will not be passing the plate during the Offertory. You may leave your donation in the
 wooden offering box. We can also receive donations through the mail or online via our web site.
 Thank you!

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 need to participate in the service is found here in this bulletin.

Our ushers are here to help create a welcoming and safe space for worship; please let them know if you have questions, need assistance, or become aware of a health or safety concern. We're glad you're here!



ORDER OF SERVICE

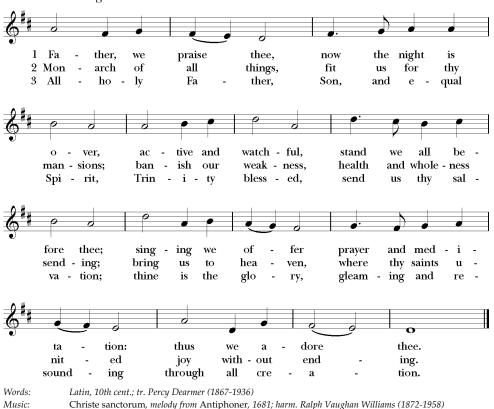
THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Partita on Christe Sanctorum

David Dahl (b. 1937)

Christa Rakich commissioned this piece from Tacoma composer David Dahl in 2017. The collection of eight variations includes Ethereal Chords and Duet for the Feet to Play. The finale honors the three angels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael.

THE OPENING HYMN 1 Father, we praise thee, now the night is over *All stand and sing*.

CHRISTE SANCTORUM



OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. 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 TRISAGION

All Holy God,
holy and mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the

proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through 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

Isaiah 35: 4–7a

All sit.

ay to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

THE PSALTER

Psalm 146

The people say the words in bold.

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul! *

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

- 2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, * for there is no help in them.
- When they breathe their last, they return to earth, * and in that day their thoughts perish.
- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! * whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; * who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, * and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; * the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

- 8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; * he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall reign for ever, * your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

THE SECOND LESSON

James 2:1–10, 14–17

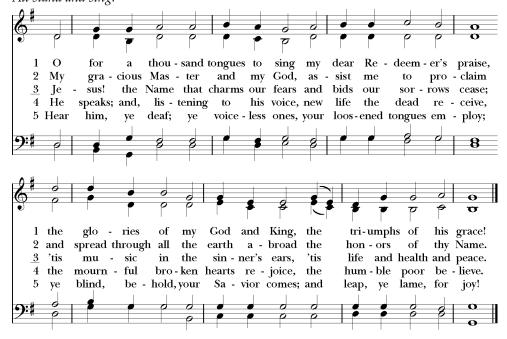
Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 493, vv. 1–3 O for a thousand tongues to sing *All stand and sing*.

AZMON



6 Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Azmon, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

THE GOSPEL Mark 7:24–37

Minister The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Lesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

All sit.

The Reverend Margie Baker

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**.

Let us pray to God for the poor in the world and for all in every danger and need.

For this holy gathering, for Michael, our presiding bishop; Ian and Laura, our bishops; our parish clergy; for the people of God in every place and all who seek the Lord. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the people of St. John's, that we may be blessed with vitality and growth. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all nations and their leaders, and for mercy and peace in the world, that the oppressed will know justice and the hungry will be fed. We pray especially for the people of Afghanistan. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For abundant fruits of the earth, and for safety from violent storms. We pray especially for those coping with power outages, floods, property damage, homelessness, health crises, and the loss of loved ones due to Hurricane Ida and the earthquake in Haiti. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick, the suffering, and the dying, especially those sick with Covid-19 and those who love them; and for prisoners, captives, and their families. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our community and those who live in it, and for our families, companions, and all we love, especially those on our parish prayer list. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

For those who rest in Christ and for all the departed. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Celebrant God of healing and salvation, hear us as we beg your mercy, open our ears to receive your word, and release our tongues to sing your praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

THE WELCOME

All sit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE ANTHEM Heal me, hands of Jesus

Michael A. Perry (1942-1996) Odanice Olibrice, soloist

Heal me, hands of Jesus, and search out all my pain; restore my hope, remove my fear, and bring me peace again.

Cleanse me, blood of Jesus, take bitterness away; let me forgive as one forgiven and bring me peace today.

Know me, mind of Jesus, and show me all my sin; dispel the memories of guilt and bring me peace within.

Fill me, joy of Jesus; anxiety shall cease, and heaven's serenity be mine, for Jesus brings me peace!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

All stand.

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

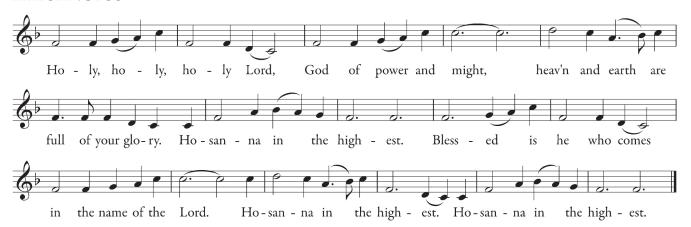
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in 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



Music: Land of Rest, arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889–1983)

All remain standing or kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at St. John's.

Exit your row when prompted by an usher, and form a single line in the middle aisle, maintaining social distance with your neighbors.

If you would like a blessing instead of Communion, cross your arms over your chest when you get to the altar rail. If you have mobility limitations and would like a priest to bring Communion to you in your seat, please let an usher know.

THE PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Those worshipping online are invited to offer this prayer silently or aloud.

Gracious and risen Lord, we believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. We love you above all things and we desire to receive you into our souls. Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace you and unite ourselves wholly to you. Never may we be separated from you. Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All stand.

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 the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant gives the blessing and the people respond, **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 493, vv. 4–6 O for a thousand tongues to sing *All sing. Music found on page 6.*

AZMON

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Finale – Fuga Angelorum 3 voci

David Dahl

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 PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant: The Reverend Todd FitzGerald **Preacher:** The Reverend Margie Baker **Deacon:** The Reverend Walter McKenney

Layreader: Betty Knorr
Cantor: Odanice Olibrice
Organist: Christa Rakich
Ushers: Emmy Aziz, Matt Ciscel
Livestream Oversight: Ray Giolitto
Altar Guild: Buffy Ineson

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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. Residents of the Caleb Hitchcock Center at Duncaster; the George Beach Apartments, Allen Place, Hartford; and the Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center.

All those whose hurts, burdens and fears are unspoken or unknown.

Those in need of healing, help, and comfort:

Jim Evans	Susan	Michael	Kimberley
Kim Green	Sue	Ellie Brown	Kent Lawrence
Janet Ray	Whitney Lynch	Anita Winters	Clark Hendley
Brad Babbitt	William Bittinger	Marrion	Maria Ferreira
Robert E. Eikel	Seamus Turco	Marie	Mary
Ward Farrell	David Lerner	Heather Pelletier	Shannon

Mary A. Looney Tom Reichenbach

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Jakob Montas	Joan Murphy
Troy Gostyla	Lonnie Burt
Julia O'Brien	Alexander Grieco
George Hicks	Benjamin Clapp

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Trig & Sam Cooley Katy Hart & Bill Uricchio Joan & David Murphy

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for L'Eglise de L'Epiphanie, Stamford; St. Andrew's, Stamford; St. Francis', Stamford; and for those involved in the ministry in Christian formation in parishes; church school and youth group directors, teachers, and mentors; for adult education leaders; and those who have been received into The Episcopal Church.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan.

Regular service schedule and Christian education for all ages resume next week. Starting September 12, we will hold two regular Sunday services in the nave: a spoken Eucharist at 8 a.m. and a choral Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. The Adult and Youth Choirs will alternate singing at the 10:30 service. We will continue to require universal masking and social distancing, and as always during this unpredictable time, may change plans in response to our local public health situation. **Christian formation and nursery care will also resume next week**, with Sunday school and the adult faith forum starting at 9:30 a.m., and the nursery staffed by high schoolers from 9 a.m. until after the 10:30 service.

Help distribute fresh veggies to our neighbors on Sunday mornings. Our community garden has produced bumper crops of fresh vegetables, which are distributed free to neighbors in need on Sundays. We need volunteers each Sunday to both prepare (sort and bag) the vegetables and oversee distribution. The distribution will take place at 11:45 a.m. each Sunday, after the 10:30 service. We ask that volunteers sign up to do *both* prep and distribution on a particular Sunday; you may do the prep any time between 9 a.m. and 11:45, depending on your service attendance plans. Sign up at sjparish.net/garden

Yard Goats baseball game, Sunday, September 19, 1:05 p.m. — DEADLINE for buying tickets coming up! We have 50 tickets for a Yard Goats game on Sunday, September 19 at 1:05 p.m. Our Youth Choir will sing *God Bless America* during the seventh inning stretch. Tickets are \$12 per person. Reserve your tickets by sending in payment (cash or check payable to St. John's) along with your name, your email address (so we can email you your tickets), and the number of tickets you need—put it in the mail or the Sunday offering box. Note that Youth Choir members who plan to sing do need to purchase a ticket. Attendees are responsible for your own transportation to and from the ball park. Tickets must be reserved by Sunday, September 12.

Women Together book discussion group resumes on Tuesday afternoons, starting on September 14.

Would you like an opportunity to meet with other women for reading, reflection, and discussion on matters of the Christian faith? If so, please consider coming to Women Together, which meets weekly on Tuesdays from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Women from St. Monica's, Trinity, St. John's, and friends currently participate, and all are welcome. For the first series of the program year, beginning September 14th and continuing through October, the featured book will be *Firstlight* by Sue Monk Kidd (available at Amazon). The meeting will take place in the Reception Room at St. John's (with all attendees wearing masks); however, if the Covid situation changes, the meeting will be via Zoom. Please contact Sarah Kieffer for more information. (kieffer2468@gmail.com).

How to help the people of Haiti, Afghanistan, and Louisiana. Episcopal Relief and Development seeks donations to support their work to help those affected by the Haitian earthquake and Hurricane Ida. Go to episcopalrelief.org to learn more and donate. Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) in New Haven is currently welcoming Afghan evacuees and are ready on 24-hour notice to receive as many as needed. They need donations of funds as well as goods such as winter coats and school supplies. Go to irisct.org for more information about how to donate.

Yard Goats Game!



Sunday, September 19 1:05 p.m.

Join your St. John's friends for a baseball game!

The Youth Choir will sing at the 7th inning stretch.

Tickets: \$12 per person

Cash or check payable to St. John's - mail to the church or put in the offering box on Sunday. Clearly label your payment as being for Yard Goats tickets, and include your name, e-mail address, and number of tickets needed. Tickets must be reserved by September 12.



The Way of Love

Christian formation for all ages 2021-2022

9:30 a.m. on Sundays at St. John's Starting September 12

The Way of Love is a resource from the national Episcopal Church. More than a program or curriculum, it is a commitment to follow Jesus through seven core practices: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest.

This year, St. John's Christian formation programs for both children and adults will focus on each practice for several weeks at a time.

For children & youth

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday

Nursery care for infants to pre-K from 9 a.m. until after the 10:30 service

For adults

Faith Forum at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday

September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 10 - LEARN

October 17, 24, 31 - BLESS

November 7 - Forum with Bishop Laura Ahrens

November 14, 21 - BLESS

November 28 - Advent Wreath Making for all ages

December 5, 12, 19 - REST

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



SUMMER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday services of Holy Eucharist at 9 a.m. (outdoors) & 10:30 a.m. (indoors and livestreamed)

STAFF

The Rev. Todd FitzGerald (todd@sjparish.net)	Priest in Charge
The Rev. Margie Baker (margie@sjparish.net)	
Scott Lamlein (scott@sjparish.net)	Director of Music
The Rev. Walter McKenney	Deacon
Ellen Painter Dollar (ellen@sjparish.net)	Parish Manager
Dwight Latif (dwight@sjparish.net)	
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
2019–21: Ellen Flynn, David Grimaldi, Teresa Lohr	
2020–22: June Aziz, Ivothsna Diaz, Anne Harney	

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

2021-23: Robert Eikel, Kara Hart, Julia O'Brien, Martin Wheeler