

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net



Third Sunday of Advent

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

December 12, 2021

10:30 a.m.

KYRIE ELEISON

Cantor, then all: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Cantor, then all: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Translation: *Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

Music: Litany of the Saints, adapted by Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14–20

All sit.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

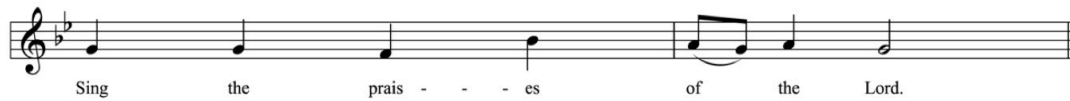
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

The people say the words in **bold**, and sing the antiphon as indicated.



Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

**And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

Antiphon

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Antiphon

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 66 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

STUTTGART

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

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

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has

food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Walter McKenney

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.

Let us pray to God of many names, God beyond all names, who is the beginning and the end of every story.

Blessed are you who join us together in the communion of Christ's body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of your providence. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

O Deliverer, you unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind, or spirit, especially those on our parish prayer list. Resurrect their hope, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illuminating all things with your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Shine your light on those who have died, especially Sue Porta, and bring comfort to all those who mourn. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Celebrant God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive you in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare you room. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All remain standing or kneel.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. 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 OFFERTORY ANTHEM People, look east

Christopher Steel (1938–1991)
Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100TH*All stand.*

**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 you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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

Cantabile, then all:
 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.
Cantabile:
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo -
 ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 ho - san - na in the high - est.
All:
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 ho - san - na in the high - est.

Canto:

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. Ho - san - na in the high -
est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

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 children; 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.

Cantor

1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:
 2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree; you take a - way the sins of the world,
 3. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

1.2. *All* have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. | 3. *All* grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc..

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.

You may choose to receive bread only, or receive both bread and wine, which is offered by intinction (dipping).

If you would like a blessing instead of bread and wine, cross your arms over your chest.

If you have mobility limitations and would like a priest to bring Communion to you in your seat, please let an usher know.

A healing minister is available to pray with you today; go to the baptismal font after you receive Communion.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM The Lamb

John Tavener (1944–2013)

Words: William Blake (1757–1827)

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.



*Sir John Kenneth Tavener was an English composer, known for his extensive output of religious choral works. Tavener first came to prominence with his cantata *The Whale*, premiered in 1968. Then aged 24, he was described by the *Guardian* as “the musical discovery of the year,” while the *Times* said he was “among the very best creative talents of his generation.” During his career he became one of the best-known and popular composers of his generation, most particularly for *The Protecting Veil*, which became a best-selling album, and *Song for Athene*, which was sung at the funeral of Princess*

*Diana. *The Lamb* was featured in the soundtrack for the film *The Great Beauty*. Tavener was knighted in 2000 for his services to music and won an Ivor Novello Award. He was awarded an honorary fellowship by Sarum College in 2001.*

THE COMMUNION HYMN Steal away

All remain seated and sing.

Refrain



Steal a-way, steal a-way, steal a-way to Je-sus!

Steal a-way, steal a-way home, I ain't got long to stay here.

Verses

1. My Lord, he calls me, He calls me by the thun-der; The
2. Green trees are bend-ing, Poor sin-ners stand a-trem-bling; The
3. My Lord, he calls me, He calls me by the light-ning; The

1-3. trum-pet sounds with-in my soul; I ain't got long to stay here. to Refrain

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 POSTCOMMUNION 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 436 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

TRURO

All sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Prelude in G Major, BWV 550

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

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 Walter McKenney**Assisting:** The Reverend Margie Baker**Layreader:** Paul Shaker**Psalterer:** Emma Evica**The St. John's Adult Choir****Organist & Choirmaster:** Scott Lamlein**Organ Scholar:** Ted Babbitt**Acolytes:** Elsa Ciscel, Genella Evans, Alice Murchie**Ushers:** Robert Eikel, Don Polk**Healing Prayers:** Chris Byrd**Livestream Oversight:** Elijah Clapp**Altar Guild:** Bill Lockery, Nancy Pedersen**Nursery Worker:** Abigail Thaxton, Olivia Thaxton

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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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	Ellie Brown	Kimberley
Kim Green	Sue	Anita Winters	Kent Lawrence
Janet Ray	Whitney Lynch	Marrion	Clark Hendley
Brad Babbitt	William Bittinger	Marie	Maria Ferreira
Ward Farrell	Seamus Turco	Heather Pelletier	Mary
Mary A. Looney	David Lerner	Tom Reichenbach	Edie
Joanne	Joan	Duccio Rosselli del Turco	Gary Wait
Margaret Thomas	Deb Christiansen	Peter	Bruce Bauer
L.B.			

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton

Those who have died:

Sue Porta, *friend of Danielle Foint*

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Michael Sheetz	Dave Pond
Vincent Williams	Tim Henning
Cameron Fulton	Morgan Babbitt
Elisabeth Russell	Carol Sonne
Claire Hart	Julia Grieco
Elsa Ciscel	Wendy Lincoln

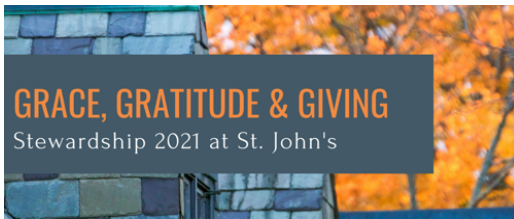
In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; and for those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Anglican Church of Canada.





Thank you so much to all who have supported our stewardship campaign for 2022 thus far! For those of you who have not yet submitted a completed pledge card, it's not too late!!! Please consider pledging your financial support to St. John's for the coming year. If you need a pledge card, they are on the tables at both entrances to the church, or you may pledge online at sjparish.net/pledge. You may also call the church office and ask us to mail you a card. We are grateful for

everyone's contribution of whatever amount you are able to pledge. St. John's is a vibrant, flourishing and caring community because of our ongoing participation and financial commitment to it. - *Kim Byrd and Matt Ciscel, co-chairs of the Stewardship Committee*


 Thank you!


Total pledges as of 12/7/2021: 138

This list includes pledges received as of Tuesday, December 7.

The names of *new pledgers* are in italics.

Toby & Manny Aguiar, Bess & John Amamoo, June & Emmy Aziz, Janet & Brad Babbitt, Mary & Bob Bainbridge, Beverley Baker, Margie & Jenn Baker, Eleanor & Jack Barnes, Wendy & Rich Bartlett, Mike Biondi & Ginny Kemp, Eloise Biscoe, Shirley Blean, Lissie & Lynn Brooks, Kim & Chris Byrd, Lindsey & Stuart Carlisle, Buffy Cech, Francine & Stephan Christiansen, Martha & John Church, Alina & Matt Ciscel, Annabel & Elijah Clapp, Susan & Brian Clemow, Kate Coley, Trig & Sam Cooley, Edith & Bob Connolly, Steve Crocker & Rosa Guzzo, Jyothsna & Carlos Diaz, Pamela Dimock, Martin Dodd, *Marcos & Matteo Donnelly*, Helen Douglas, *Joe Duffy*, Hope & Bill Eakins, Nancy Eaton, Kate & Robert Eikel, Jx Eikel, Virginia Eikel, Bobby Eikel, Karan & Geoff Emerick, Carole & Tony Erdman, *Amy & Todd FitzGerald*, *Ginny & Rich Flinchbaugh*, Ellen & Ben Flynn, Danielle Foint, *Kevin Gabriel*, Ginger & Colin Gillespie, Tim Goetz, Heidi & Jeff Gostyla, Anne & Craig Grant, Beth & Joel Grieco, David Grimaldi, Ann Hanlon, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Mary & John Hardy, Anne Harney, Cisalee Harrell, Jane Harris, Kara & Matthew Hart, Susie & Ross Hatch, Anne & Randall Hayes, Patricia & Ronald Hensley, Priscilla Hexter, Frisha Hugessen, Ann Hutchinson, Tita & Douglas Hyland, Buffy & John Ineson, Carla Abdo-Katsipis & Iacovos Katsipis, *Beth & John Kauczka*, Mary Jo & Bert Keating, Sarah Kieffer, Betty Knorr, Ann Krissinger, Pamela Lamlein, Mary Beth & Scott Lamlein, Cindy & Jim Lawler, Karen Licht, Wendy & Tom Lincoln, *Bill Lockery*, Teresa & Joel Lohr, Lisa & Mike Mahoney, *Liz & Andy Marchion*, Enid & William McBride, Tina & David McCary, *Sarah & Robert McQuilkin*, Patrick Miller, Jean Mitchell, Marnie Mueller, Leah & Stewart Murchie, Liz & Alex Nelson, Ann Newbury, John Nowacki & Don Polk, Julia & Jim O'Brien, Harriet Odlum, Angela Allen-Peck & Caleb Peck, Nancy Pedersen, Agnes & Billy Peelle, Levi Pellin, Ginny & Mark Proft, Jillian & Michael Puzzo, Christa Rakich & Janis Milroy, Laura & John Roche, Barbara & Pieter Roos, Nina & Duccio Rosselli del Turco, *Stacey Samuel & Kelsey Bannon*, Judy Schaffer, Paul Shaker & Cleveland Williams, Jim Sharp, *Nancy & Michael Sheetz*, Nancy Skeeel, Mary & Spencer Sloan, Jackie & Paul Smith, Margaret & William Smith, Carol & Charles Sonne, Flora Speer, *Keely & Mark Stater*, Reid Sterrett, Dale & Christoph Stretz, John Swift & Lauren Mascola, Susan & Paul Thaxton, Sera & Abraham Thomas, Calvert Bowie Thomas, Margaret Thomas, Bill Uricchio & Katy Hart, Pat & Alex Vance, Pam & Jeff Verney, Audrey Walker, Lyn Walker & Tyler Smith, Joan Warner, *Jackie & Michael Wells*, Martin Wheeler & Deborah Ferrari, Ted Whittemore, John Wilcox & Virginia Van Dyk, *Taffy Wilcox*, Maggie & Sherwood Willard, Akilah Williams, Jeanne & Dennis Winkleblack, Wes Winterbottom, Brenda Zanta

Advent adult forums, Sundays, 9:30 a.m. We will continue exploring the “Way of Love” — an Episcopal resource focusing on key Christian practices — on the Sundays of Advent, when Todd FitzGerald and a parishioner will explore the practice of rest from different perspectives: 12/12 – Lissie Brooks on resting in vocation, 12/19 – Bette-Jane Hardersen on resting in creation. Join us!

Online auction closes TONIGHT, December 12 at 10 p.m. For the second year, we’re holding an online auction as part of the Christmas Festival fundraiser. Bidding is open through 10 p.m. today. Get those last-minute bids in for some terrific items donated by members of our St. John’s community — holiday treats and special meals, professional services, artwork, handcrafted housewares created with wood from our beloved copper beech tree, gifts, and a Vermont vacation home (big enough for more than one family!) for the 2022 Presidents Day weekend. Bidders who are not St. John’s parishioners are welcome except when noted on specific items. Go to biddingowl.com/StJohnsWH. Happy bidding!

Candlelight Festival of Lessons & Carols, TODAY at 3 p.m. A holiday celebration of the return of choral music! An amazing start to the Advent season! In the tradition of King’s College, Cambridge, prepare your soul for the Christmas miracle with carols for choir and organ. This event is a long-standing tradition at St. John’s—a “must” to center your soul during the Advent season. Featuring the St. John’s Adult and Youth Choirs; Scott Lamlein, choirmaster; Floyd Higgins, organist.

Give to our Blessing Box. Our new Blessing Box, or “little free food pantry,” has been empty several times in the past few weeks, which is a good thing because it means our neighbors are coming to the box when they are in need of food. The Blessing Box encourages all to take what you need, and give what you can. Stop by any time to drop off a few non-perishable food items, from peanut butter and cereal to pasta and snack bars, or hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, or TP. The Blessing Box is designed to hold a small number of items. If the box is full, please hang onto your donations and try again another time. If you have large quantities of food to donate, please continue to put it in the wagon in the back of the church for delivery to the Grace Seventh Day Adventist Church food pantry on Prospect Avenue. Thank you!



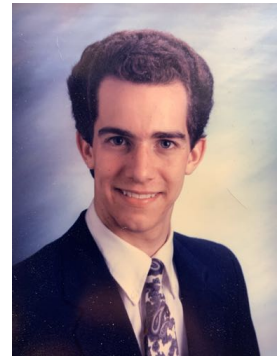
A note on year-end giving. We are so grateful for the pledge payments and other gifts that we receive in the final weeks of the year. **For your contributions of cash or checks to appear on your 2021 year-end giving statement, they must be received in the St. John’s office by Tuesday, December 28.** Due to holiday schedules, contributions received after December 28 will get posted to St. John’s bank account in January, and will appear on your 2022 giving statement (even if they are in payment of a 2021 pledge). **If you would like to make an online pledge payment with your credit card and have it appear on your 2021 giving statement, please do so by Friday, 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. Stock transfers can take up to two weeks. Thank you for your generous support of St. John’s.

Christmas flower donations. As is traditional, we will adorn the church with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve and Christmas services. We welcome donations in any amount in honor or memory of your loved ones, to help cover the costs of the poinsettias, and those names will be published in the Christmas Eve and Christmas bulletins. To donate, send in your contribution and names using the Christmas flower envelopes in the pews, which can be put in the offering plate, or by sending your contribution and names to the office. You may also email names to Ellen in the parish office at ellen@sjparish.net, and send in your contribution separately. **Names must be received by Monday, December 20.**

Help us replenish our Blessing Bag supplies. We’re running low on a few items for our Blessing Bags (bags of toiletries, snacks, and warm winter accessories that we give to people in need who come to the church asking for help). Please check out our Amazon Wish List and purchase an item or two, which will be sent directly to the church. Go to: <https://a.co/93wYVNa> — Thank you!

Can you guess which St. John's staff member this is? Hint: He always sits in the exact same seat at the 10:30 service. While we may reminisce fondly about our bygone days (and our really great hair), the parish directory is only useful when the photos match what we look like now, so we can get to know one another and match names with faces!

We produce parish directories in-house using our membership database software and photocopier. Between now and January, we are updating contact information and parishioner photos, so we can print an updated directory after the new year. In addition to **updated photos**, we need **updated contact info** (especially if you've moved, changed your email, or dropped your landline in recent years).



And did you know that in addition to listing birthdays in the bulletin, we have started sending birthday cards to parishioners this year? We can only send one to YOU if we have your **date of birth** in our database! We will never share your birth year or age. We also like to recognize **wedding anniversaries**, so please send those dates too!

Send info and photos to Ellen at ellen@sjparish.net.

You can also access our parish directory through a password-protected smartphone app! Download the "ACS Church Life" app and then contact Ellen, who will provide you with a user name and password. The app allows you to look up contact info and photos of other church members, and to update your own record.

REST
Adult education for Advent

Join Todd FitzGerald, priest in charge, and a member of the parish each week to talk about the practice of rest.

SUNDAYS IN ADVENT
9:30 A.M.



12/5
Rest in community
with Paul Shaker

12/12
Rest in vocation
with Lissie Brooks





12/19
Rest in creation
with Bette-Jane Hardersen

ST. JOHN'S ONLINE AUCTION

Part of our 2021 Christmas Festival fundraiser.



BID ON NEARLY 30 UNIQUE ITEMS!
Gifts, artwork, food, professional services, and a VT vacation home for Presidents Day weekend!

OPEN DECEMBER 3 AT 4 PM
THROUGH DECEMBER 12 AT 10 P.M.

Proceeds support St. John's ministries
in the parish and community.

biddingowl.com/StJohnsWH

Saint John's Choir
of Youth and Adults
Scott Lamlein, choirmaster
Floyd Higgins, organist

CANDLELIGHT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

In the tradition of
King's College,
Cambridge, England

- Free admission
- Donations welcome
- In-person and
livestreamed
- Reception to follow

**Sunday
December 12, 2021
3:00pm**

RedDoorMusic.org

Music at the Red Door
St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Ave (near Prospect)
West Hartford, CT 06119

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 19, 2021
10:30 am

Come hear the story of God Among Us,
as told by the children and youth of
the parish.

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



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8 a.m. Spoken Holy Eucharist

9:30 a.m. Christian formation for all ages

10:30 a.m. Choral Holy Eucharist

(also livestreamed at sjparish.net/services)

5 p.m. Choral Evensong on select fourth Sundays of the month

STAFF

The Rev. Todd FitzGerald (todd@sjparish.net).....	<i>Priest in Charge</i>
The Rev. Margie Baker (margie@sjparish.net)	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
Scott Lamlein (scott@sjparish.net).....	<i>Director of Music</i>
The Rev. Walter McKenney	<i>Deacon</i>
Ellen Painter Dollar (ellen@sjparish.net).....	<i>Parish Manager</i>
Dwight Latif (dwright@sjparish.net).....	<i>Sexton</i>
Peggy O'Toole (peggy@sjparish.net).....	<i>Financial Administrator</i>
Christa Rakich.....	<i>Organ Artist-in-Residence</i>
Ralph Valentine	<i>Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus</i>

VESTRY

Geoff Emerick	<i>Warden</i>
Virginia Van Dyk	<i>Warden</i>
Tim Goetz and John Roche	<i>Co-Treasurers</i>
2019–21: Ellen Flynn, David Grimaldi, Teresa Lohr	
2020–22: June Aziz, Jyothsna Diaz, Anne Harney	
2021–23: Robert Eikel, Kara Hart, Julia O'Brien, Martin Wheeler	