

# St. John's Episcopal Church

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

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



## *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

*December 19, 2021*

*10:30 a.m.*

## *Welcome!*

To ensure everyone's safety, please observe the following guidelines. We will continue to follow the latest recommendations and monitor our local public health situation, and will revise these guidelines as needed:

- **Masks are required for all attending indoor services, regardless of vaccination status.**
- **Practice social distancing (at least 3 feet) with members of other households.**
- **Greet one another from a distance** with a nod, wave, peace sign, etc.

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 in this bulletin and in the blue hymnals in each pew.

If you are new to St. John's, or have been attending a while but the parish office doesn't yet have your information, please fill out one of the pew cards and put it in the offering box, or hand it to an usher or one of our clergy. Or fill out our online newcomer form at [sjparish.net/newcomer-form](http://sjparish.net/newcomer-form).

Our ushers are here to 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. They have hearing assist devices available for those who need them. We're glad you're here!

Children are always welcome to be in church with their families. We encourage you to sit up front, as they will be more engaged if they can see and hear what's going on. Children are welcome here just as they are; please don't feel you must leave every time your little one makes a sound! We have children's bulletins, books, and other quiet activities available in the narthex (the entrance with the red doors) for children's use during the service. A nursery staffed by high school students is available on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon; it also has a changing table and rocking chair for parents to use. [Note: There is no nursery care today as our nursery staff are participating in the pageant.] Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday for all ages.



## ORDER OF SERVICE

VOLUNTARY Rigoudon *from* Idoménee

André Campra (1660–1774)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 83 O come, all ye faithful (vv. 1, 2, 3 & 6)

ADESTE FIDELES

*All stand and sing.*

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.

God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
 lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
 only begotten Son of the Father;  
 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 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**  
*Celebrant* We light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another. For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness, and renews us in his love. He exults over us with singing and turns our shame to praise.  
*People* **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Let us pray. O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
*People* **Amen.**

## SCENE 1: THE PROPHETS

*All sit.*

## SCENE 2: THE ANNUNCIATION

HYMN 56 O come, O come, Emmanuel (vv. 1, 4 & 7)

VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

*All sing.*

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 Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny  
 that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
 bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

### SCENE 3: THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

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

ST. LOUIS

*All sing.*

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.

### SCENE 4: THE ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS

HYMN 94 While shepherds watched their flocks by night (vv. 1, 2 & 6)

WINCHESTER OLD

*All sing.*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
 all seated on the ground,  
 the angel of the Lord came down,  
 and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread  
 had seized their troubled mind;  
 "Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
 to you and all mankind."

"All glory be to God on high  
 and on the earth be peace;  
 good will henceforth from heaven to men  
 begin and never cease."

### THE ANGELS DANCE

*The people say the words in bold.*

*Narrator* And suddenly there was a huge angel choir alongside Gabriel, who were singing:  
*People* **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!**

ANTHEM Ding, dong, merrily on high

arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

*Sung by the choir.*

Ding dong merrily on high,  
 In heav'n the bells are ringing;  
 Ding dong! verily the sky  
 Is riv'n with angel singing  
 Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,  
 Let steeple bells be swungen,  
 And "Io, io, io!"  
 By priest and people sung  
 Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime  
 Your matin chime, ye ringers,  
 May you beautifully rhyme  
 Your eve'time song, ye singers  
 Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

*Narrator* As the angels departed into the heavens, the shepherds were amazed at the news. They were shouting:

*People* **The Messiah is born! The Messiah is born! Let's go find him!**

#### SCENE 5: THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

HYMN 96 Angels we have heard on high (vv. 1, 2 & 3)  
*All sing.*

GLORIA

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.

#### SCENE 6: WISE MEN FOLLOW THE STAR

HYMN 128 We three kings  
*The people sing the refrain after all verses, and verse 5.*

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

*Refrain:*  
*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.

## SILENT NIGHT

HYMN 111   Silent night

STILLE NACHT

*The people sing verse 3 only.*

**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 WELCOME

*All sit.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM   Magnificat

Olivia Sparkhall (composed 2021)  
 after Amy Beach

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
 and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
 For he hath regarded  
 the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
 For behold from henceforth,  
 all generations shall call me blessed.  
 For he that is mighty hath magnified me,  
 and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him  
 throughout all generations.  
 He hath showed strength with his arm;  
 he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
 He hath put down the mighty from their seat,  
 and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
 He hath filled the hungry with good things,  
 and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,  
 as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
 and to the Holy Ghost;  
 As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be,  
 world without end. Amen.

## THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>*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.*

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 pow'r and God of might.  
 Heav - en and earth are 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: Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc.*

*All remain standing or kneel.*

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

*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.*

*If you would like a blessing instead of receiving Communion, 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 HYMN 112 In the bleak midwinter

CRANHAM

*All remain seated and sing.*

Descant: Jane Penfield, 1999

## 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 100 Joy to the world

ANTIOCH

*All sing.*

**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.**

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

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
and thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**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** My spirit be joyful *from* Cantata 146

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

arr. E. Power Biggs

*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 Margie Baker**Assisting:** The Reverend Todd FitzGerald**Deacon:** The Reverend Walter McKenney**Layreader:** Betty Knorr**The St. John's Youth Choir****The St. John's Schola:**

Catherine Barr, Rich Barstow, Candy Green, Anne Harney, Kara Hart, Michael Mei,

John Nowacki, Odanice Olibrice, Ram Tysoe, Abby White

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Scott Lamlein**Organ Scholar:** Ted Babbitt**Trumpets:** Tom Hintz, Jeffrey Higgins**Acolytes:** Dawson Biondi, Elise Biondi, Ford Gillespie, Alice Murchie**Ushers:** Ben and Ellen Flynn, Paul Shaker**Healing Prayers:** David Grimaldi**Livestream Oversight:** Ray Giolitto**Altar Guild:** Kate Eikel, Buffy Ineson

*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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## PAGEANT CAST

**NARRATORS:**

Dawson Biondi, Elise Biondi, Elsa Ciscel, Virginia Eikel, Genella Evans, Ford Gillespie, Alice Murchie

**ISAIAH:**

Mason Donnelly

**MICAH:**

Jayden Donnelly

**GABRIEL:**

Genella Evans

**MARY:**

Dana Crocker

**JOSEPH:**

Jx Eikel

**JESUS:**

Daniel Katsipis

**DONKEY:**

Eliana Wright

**INNKEEPER:**

Jayden Donnelly

**SHEPHERDS:**

James Baker, Nkosi Barrow, Mason Donnelly, Malcolm Latif, Zeke Latif

**ANIMALS:**

Maxom Goetz, Raphael Katsipis, Lincoln Latif, Savannah Marchion

**ANGELS:**

Eden Baker, Sahara Barrow, Brooklyn Marchion, Annabelle Stater, Brielle Worrell, Josie Wright

**HEROD:**

James Baker

**MAGI:**

Ted Babbitt, Cate Emerick, Sofia Jones

**CAMELS:**

Benjamin Clapp, Bradley Crocker, Blythe Peck, Juliette Peck

**CAMEL DRIVERS:**

Dorian Ciscel, Bobby Eikel

**ST. JOHN'S YOUTH CHOIR:**

Cate Emerick, *Head Chorister*; Sofia Jones, *Prefect*; Eden Baker, James Baker, Sahara Barrow, Isabel Castillo, Benjamin Clapp, Elsa Ciscel, Dana Crocker, Jayden Donnelly, Mason Donnelly, Jx Eikel, Virginia Eikel, Blythe Peck

**LIGHTING:**

Francis Lamlein, Benjamin Puzzo, Bobby Biondi

**SET:**

Brad and Ted Babbitt

**COSTUMES:**

Marcos Donnelly, Kate and Virginia Eikel, Buffy Ineson

**CHOREOGRAPHY:**

Susan, Olivia, Abby and Caroline Thaxton

**STAGE MANAGER:**

Dahlia Romanow

**PARENT ASSISTANTS:**

Matt Ciscel, Annabel Clapp, Marcos Donnelly, Kate Eikel, Colin Gillespie, Ginger Gillespie, Angela Peck

**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 Bitteringer	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.	Mary		

**Those serving in the military:**

Alex Thaxton

**Those celebrating birthdays this week:**

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

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; St. Mark'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 Church of the Province of Central Africa.



### Total pledges as of 12/15/2021: 143

This list includes pledges received as of Wednesday, December 15.

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, Marian & David Beers, 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, *Jennifer & Ryan Hill*, Frisha Hugessen, Ann Hutchinson, Tita & Douglas Hyland, Buffy & John Ineson, *Richard Jacques*, 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, Leah & Luis Lorenzo, Lisa & Mike Mahoney, *Liz & Andy Marchion*, Enid & William McBride, Tina & David McCary, *Sarah & Robert McQuilkin*, Patrick Miller, Jean Mitchell, Marie Montas, Marnie Mueller, Leah & Stewart Murchie, Liz & Alex Nelson, Ann Newbury, John Nowacki & Don Polk, Julia & Jim O'Brien, Harriet Odium, 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 Scheetz*, Nancy Skeelee, 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

#### Weekly Offering Envelopes

If you requested weekly offering envelopes when you turned in your 2022 pledge, you may pick up your envelopes in the narthex (the red door entrance). Please look for the envelopes with your name and address on them. If you did not request envelopes but would like them, please contact Ellen in the parish office.

**Covid safety at Christmas services:** We will continue to conduct services as safely as possible, and require masks for everyone attending services, regardless of vaccination status. Of our Christmas worship services, we expect the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service to have the highest attendance. If you would prefer to avoid worshipping in a full church, we encourage you to attend the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service and/or the 10 a.m. Christmas Day service instead. All services will also be livestreamed.

**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](mailto: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.

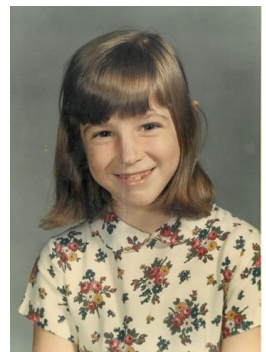
**Christmas flower donations.** As is traditional, we will adorn the church with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve and Christmas services. We welcome donations in any amount in honor or memory of your loved ones, to help cover the costs of the poinsettias, and those names will be published in the Christmas 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](mailto:ellen@sjparish.net), and send in your contribution separately. **Names must be received by TOMORROW, 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). We especially need full-size shampoo and warm winter gloves. 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?** And do you know why she's smiling? Because we just received another completed pledge card in the mail! Do you know what else makes us smile? An up-to-date parish directory!

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](mailto: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.

**Twelfth Night Tree Burning & Movie Night, Friday, January 7, 5:30 p.m.** It has become a unique and beloved tradition here at St. John's to mark the end of the Christmas season/beginning of Epiphany by burning a Christmas tree (or several) outdoors, following strict fire safety protocols, of course. Join us at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, January 7 for the tree burning, followed by a family movie night in Hubbard Hall. You are welcome to bring your own dinner or snacks. Everyone is invited — bring a friend!

# Christmas at St. John's

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## Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 19, 10:30 a.m.

## Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 24

\*4 p.m. with musical prelude at 3:45 p.m.

*with the St. John's Youth Choir*

11 p.m. with musical prelude at 10:30 p.m.

*with the St. John's Adult Choir and strings*

*\*We expect the 4 p.m. service to have the highest attendance of our Christmas services. If you would prefer to avoid worshipping in a full church, we suggest that you attend the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service and/or the 10 a.m. Christmas Day service. All services will also be livestreamed online.*

## Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

Saturday, December 25, 10 a.m.

## First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 26

8 a.m. Spoken Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Choral Holy Eucharist

*with Holy Baptism and healing prayers*



SAINT JOHN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

679 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford  
860.523.5201  
sjparish.net



# St. John's Episcopal Church

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

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

679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut 06119

860 523 5201 [office@sjparish.net](mailto: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](http://sjparish.net/services))

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

## STAFF

The Rev. Todd FitzGerald ( <a href="mailto:todd@sjparish.net">todd@sjparish.net</a> ).....	<i>Priest in Charge</i>
The Rev. Margie Baker ( <a href="mailto:margie@sjparish.net">margie@sjparish.net</a> ) .....	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
Scott Lamlein ( <a href="mailto:scott@sjparish.net">scott@sjparish.net</a> ).....	<i>Director of Music</i>
The Rev. Walter McKenney .....	<i>Deacon</i>
Ellen Painter Dollar ( <a href="mailto:ellen@sjparish.net">ellen@sjparish.net</a> ).....	<i>Parish Manager</i>
Dwight Latif ( <a href="mailto:dwight@sjparish.net">dwight@sjparish.net</a> ).....	<i>Sexton</i>
Peggy O'Toole ( <a href="mailto:peggy@sjparish.net">peggy@sjparish.net</a> ).....	<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