

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net



Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II & COMMITMENT SUNDAY
November 14, 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.

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. Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday for all ages.



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE VOLUNTARY Prelude in D Major, BWV 532

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

THE OPENING HYMN 48 O day of radiant gladness

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WLADVOGELEIN

All stand and sing.

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

THE SONG OF PRAISE Come Sunday

Duke Ellington (1899–1974)

arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925)

Madeline Green, soloist

Come Sunday, oh come Sunday, that's the day.

I believe that God put sun and moon up in the sky.
I don't mind the gray skies 'cause they're just clouds passing by.

Lord, dear Lord above, God almighty, God of love,
please look down and see my people through.

I believe God is now, was then, and will always be.
With God's blessing we can make it through eternity.

Lord, dear Lord above, God almighty, God of love,
please look down and see my people through.



Duke Ellington played a key role in elevating jazz to an art form on the same level as other traditional musical genres. The most recorded jazz composer of all time, Ellington was awarded a posthumous Pulitzer Prize in 1999 in recognition of his achievements. "Come Sunday" is taken from Black, Brown and Beige, a jazz symphony that debuted at Carnegie Hall on January 23, 1943.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Daniel 12:1–3

All sit.

The Lord spoke to Daniel in a vision and said, "At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 16

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

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are: "The LORD will show me the path of life." The words "LORD" and "path" are underlined in the original image. The music is in a common time signature and features a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
**I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."**
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; *
**in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

*Antiphon**Antiphon*

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:11–14, 19–25

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us

hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 686 Come, thou fount of every blessing

NETTLETON

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 13:1–8

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

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

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs."

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Todd FitzGerald

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.

As we wait for the day of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God through Jesus, who is our refuge and our hope, saying: *Hear us and help us, O Holy One.*

For the Church, especially for Michael, our presiding bishop; Ian and Laura, our bishops; and our parish clergy, that through our deeds of compassion and our faithful witness, we may be a light in times of confusion and turmoil. **Hear us and help us, O Holy One.**

For the people of St. John's, that we may recognize the signs of the times, and respond to God's presence and call each day. **Hear us and help us, O Holy One.**

For those who live daily amid bloodshed and violence, that they may be strong in the face of oppression, and work diligently for the establishment of peace and justice. **Hear us and help us, O Holy One.**

For the gift of hope, that no matter what challenges we face, we may remain confident that with God all things are possible. **Hear us and help us, O Holy One.**

For those experiencing anguish of body, mind, and spirit, remembering especially those on our parish prayer list, that they may find hope in Christ's words and help from Christ's followers. **Hear us and help us, O Holy One.**

For those who have died, especially Renee Corey, that they may awake to everlasting life, and shine like the stars for all eternity. **Hear us and help us, O Holy One.**

Celebrant God of all times and places, hear the prayers we offer this day, and grant us grace to hold fast to the confession of our hope, without wavering, in the assurance of your faithfulness, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **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

As we sing the Offertory Hymn, all are invited to come forward to place your 2022 pledge cards, gratitude cards, and/or regular weekly offerings in the basket on the chancel steps. Blank pledge and gratitude cards are in the pews. After you have come forward, return to your pew via the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward, please alert one of the ushers, who will come get your offerings from you. Thank you for your generosity.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN Great is thy faithfulness

All stand and sing.

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

1. There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;
 2. Sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 3. Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

1. Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not,
 2. Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness,
 3. Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

1. As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 2. To thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
 3. Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed,

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)

Music: William M. Runyan (1870-1957)

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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. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Title: *The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus*
 Music: *William Mathias (1934–1992) Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.*

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 FRACTION ANTHEM

Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy on
us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: Give us your peace.

Title: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God: Agnus Dei
Music: Gerard R. Near (b. 1942) Copyright © 1985 Aureole Editions, Dallas, Texas.

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 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 ANTHEM With what shall I come before the Lord Jane Marshall (1924–2019)
Text: Micah 6:6–8

With what shall I come before the Lord when I bow before the God on high?
Should I come to Him with burnt offerings, with year-old calves?
Would the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I present my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O man, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God?

THE COMMUNION HYMN 307 Lord enthroned in heavenly splendor BRYN CALFARIA
All remain seated and sing.

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 397 Now thank we all our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
All sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Great is thy faithfulness Mark Hayes (b. 1953)



Mark Hayes was raised in a creative musical environment, beginning piano lessons at age 10 and developing his improvisational skills at an early age. He earned a B.M. in piano performance, magna cum laude, from Baylor University. During his college years his dream of becoming a composer and arranger was born and nurtured. Now an internationally known writer, conductor, and concert pianist, his career has blossomed into international tours to Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, South Africa, and Canada.

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**Preacher:** The Reverend Todd FitzGerald**Deacon:** The Reverend Walter McKenney**Layreader:** Christoph Stretz**Psalterer:** Betty Knorr**The St. John's Adult Choir****Organist & Choirmaster:** Scott Lamlein**Assisting Pianist:** Pi-Hsun Shih**Organ Scholar:** Ted Babbitt**Acolytes:** Dawson Biondi, Elise Biondi, Alice Murchie**Ushers:** Don Polk, Laura Roche, Paul Shaker**Healing Prayers:** Chris Byrd**Livestream Oversight:** Elijah Clapp**Altar Guild:** Bette-Jane Hardersen, Carol Sonne**Sunday School Teachers:** Margie Baker, Matt Ciscel, Angela Allen-Peck, Susan Thaxton**Nursery Workers:** Caroline Thaxton, Olivia Thaxton

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Hester B. Carter, Erik F. Lattey, Elsa M. Lattey, Margaret Rehm Rothschild, and Alexander and Roselle Winterbottom.

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	
Margaret Thomas	Susan Porta		

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton

Those who have died:

Renee Corey, *aunt of Paul Shaker*

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Stanley Giliberto	Mason Donnelly	Stella Splettstoesser
James Baker	Jyothsna Diaz	Matt Ciscel
Philip Nelson	Bailey Proft	Scott Donofrio
Bill Eakins	Merriol Almond	
Lucas Branco	Erica Williams	

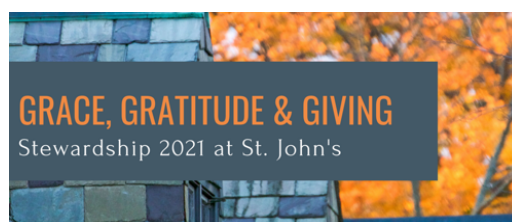
In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Paul's, Windham; Grace Church, Windsor; St. James', Winsted; All Saints', Wolcott; and for ministries with older adults, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and the Daughters of the King.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Anglican Church of Australia.

Today we celebrate the culmination of our stewardship campaign with **Commitment Sunday**. If you have not already sent in your completed pledge card or pledged online, please bring your completed pledge card up to the chancel during the Offertory. There will also be an opportunity to offer a prayer of gratitude. Extra pledge cards are in each pew.



We appreciate your consideration of financial support for St. John's in 2022. Thank you also for your overall contributions to our worship and ministries, as we work together to share the word of God among us and across our community. St. John's is a vibrant and flourishing community because of our ongoing participation and financial commitment to it.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of our annual giving campaign. We are grateful for everyone's contribution of whatever amount you are able to pledge. We feel blessed to be part of this wonderful community.

For more information, go to sparish.net/giving, and/or reach out to our stewardship chairs, Kim Byrd (kimberley.byrd@comcast.net) or Matt Ciscel (matt.ciscel@gmail.com).

A graphic for the EYC (Everyday Youth Center) event. It has a dark blue background with a wood-grain texture. On the left, the text "EYC THIS WEEK" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. On the right, the text "Service Project: We are making upcycled dog chew toys from t-shirts! Bring old t-shirts if you have any you don't need." is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "Sunday, 11/14 5-7pm" is also in white, sans-serif font.

St. John's to be part of tour of historic houses of worship, TODAY, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. St. John's is a featured site for the Noah Webster House's annual fundraiser, a tour of historic houses of worship in West Hartford. While the organizers are providing staff who will lead tours and share information (which we are providing to them), St. John's folks are also welcome to be on-site to welcome people. Please come for as long as you're able!

Donate items for college care packages. Our first college care package project last spring was a HUGE success, as St. John's members away at college were thrilled to receive treats and greetings from their parish home. The youth group will be packing another round of care packages on November 21, just in time for final exams. Go to tinyurl.com/sjpcollege to donate items from our Amazon Wish List.

Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist, Thursday, November 25, 10 a.m. Join us for a service of Thanksgiving, with hymns and the Reverend Todd FitzGerald preaching and presiding. All are welcome!

Christmas Festival, Saturday, December 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Rain/snow date: Sunday, December 5, noon to 4 p.m.). The annual Christmas Festival, which is a major fundraiser for St. John's, will take place outdoors again this year. In addition to unique evergreen wreaths, handmade crafts, and baked goods, we'll have a Festival Café serving cups of soup (with a roll), hot cider, and donuts, and for the first time this year, a small number of Christmas trees for sale (first come, first served on the day of the festival).

We need LOTS of help! Here are some of the ways you can make this year's festival a success:

- **Make** soup, crafts, or baked goods to sell, or **donate** rolls, cider, and donuts to be sold at the Festival Café. Sign up at sjparish.net/christmasfestival donate
- **Put a lawn sign in your yard to publicize the event.** Signs are available to pick up at either entrance to the nave.
- **Come to the annual wreath decorating night on Thursday, December 2, at 6:30 p.m.** We'll provide evergreen wreaths and an assortment of small ornaments and ribbons, along with some snacks and beverages. Bring additional wreath adornments and tools if you'd like (pliers, scissors, hot glue gun, etc.) All are welcome!
- **Help set up, staff, and clean up on the day of the festival.** Sign up at sjparish.net/christmasfestival help
- **Invite your neighbors, friends, and family to attend!**
- For the second year, we will offer a week-long **online fundraising auction** as part of the Christmas Festival. Please contact Ginny Kemp at virginialeekemp@gmail.com if you can donate items or services. Ideas include gift cards to local stores or restaurants, time in a vacation home, quality toys or other holiday gifts, or professional services.
- For the wreath decorating night on Thursday, December 2, we need **wide ribbon, bows, small ornaments, and other decorative items.** Supply chain issues mean that ribbon is in especially short supply at local stores, so if you have new or gently used ribbons or bows at home, please bring them in! You may drop them off at the church office or bring them with you on December 2. If you are an expert bow-maker, please let us know that as well!

College Care Packages

We're sending snacks and other goodies to our college students to let them know we care.

Want to help?

Shop our Amazon wish list (tinyurl.com/sjpcollege) or **pack bags** on Sunday, November 21 at 5pm. Pizza to follow




St. John's Church
CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Saturday, December 4
10am to 2pm

Rain/snow date:
December 5, 12 to 4pm

ALL ARE WELCOME - FREE ADMISSION

Wreaths ☆ Food ☆ Caroling
☆ Trees ☆ Gifts ☆



St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Avenue
at the intersection with South Highland

WEST HARTFORD
House Tour

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Sunday, November 14, 2021
12:30-4:30 p.m.

A FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT  NOAH WEBSTER HOUSE
WEST HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TICKETS AT NOAHWEBSTER.YAPSODY.COM



Help local families in need this Christmas!

St. John's is pleased to continue our Christmas tradition of sponsoring 60 children in the Stronger Future Stronger Families network again this year. Your contribution provides good cheer and lasting memories to the tiniest clients and their families, as they will receive holiday relief with your assistance.

To keep everyone safe again this year, we are asked to purchase gift cards to fulfill a family's wish list. We know that St. John's parishioners can make this Christmas brighter for many local families!

Here are suggestions for store gift cards to donate in amounts of \$10-\$50:

- Toy Stores (Disney, Lego, Build-A-Bear, Walmart, Big Lots, Job Lots)
- Grooming services (SuperCuts, Top Nails, Bath & Body Works)
- Affordable clothing stores (Marshalls, TJ Maxx, Burlington, Target)
- Groceries (Aldi, Stop&Shop, Shop Rite, Price Chopper)
- Car Service or Gas (AutoZone, Citgo, Sunoco, Cumberland Farms)
- Restaurants (Chili's, Olive Garden, Domino's, Dunkin' Donuts)

Please consider adding a gift card to your order when you are out shopping for your own family. If you prefer, you can make a financial contribution and we will shop for you (please note "Christmas Gift Card" on your check).

Donations are due by **Wednesday, December 1**. Place gift cards in an envelope marked "Christmas Gift Card" and:

1. Drop off at the church office during office hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday - Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday). Come to the office entrance and ring the bell; if no one answers or you come after hours, you may drop your envelope in the black metal mailbox.
2. Mail to the church office postmarked by Monday, November 22nd.
3. Bring to church on Sundays in November and place your envelope in the collection plate.
4. Contact Leah or Jillian to make arrangements to pick up your donation if you are homebound.

Thanks in advance for your generosity! Contact Jillian Puzzo at jillianpuzzo@gmail.com or Leah Murchie at murchlt@comcast.net with any questions.

**ABRAHAM'S WELCOME:
A NEW WAY TO CONNECT WITH OUR NEIGHBORS**



You may have noticed some new plantings that recently appeared where our beautiful old (but ailing) copper beech tree used to stand. This is the new site of Abraham's Welcome — a grant-funded project to provide hospitality and resources to our neighbors.

Abraham's Welcome is named after a story in Genesis 18: When Abraham sees three strangers approaching his house, he urges them to stay and rest, gives them a shaded place to sit, and offers them food. In modeling Abraham's hospitality, we aim to provide shelter and sustenance to any who may need it. The project was funded by a Faith Community Grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, with some additional donations from parishioners to help cover the cost of the trees and shrubs.

Abraham's Welcome includes two benches, which will eventually be shaded by the new cherry and cedar trees, along with a "Blessing Box" and a bulletin board.

The Blessing Box, or little free food pantry, operates the same way that little free libraries do, except with non-perishable food. All are invited to leave cans or boxes of non-perishable food in the pantry whenever you are able, and to take food when needed or direct others in need to the box.

The bulletin board will showcase free local resources, including services for those in need (mobile Foodshare deliveries, food pantries, job fairs, etc.) and St. John's events (Music at the Red Door concerts, Christmas Festival, Trunk or Treat, etc.). If you have a flyer that you think would be appropriate for the bulletin board, please send it to the parish office for consideration. (The bulletin board will not be used for advertisements, items for sale, real estate listings, tag sales, etc.)

ALL are invited to enjoy Abraham's Welcome. Come check it out! A special thank you to Dwight Latif and his three young helpers for installing the benches, Blessing Box, and bulletin board.



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 (dwight@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	