

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net



First Sunday of Advent

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

November 28, 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.

Cover image: VII: O Emmanuel by Robyn Sand Anderson, 2016



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE VOLUNTARY Three Settings of *Veni Emmanuel*
 Prelude
 Cortege
 Fantasy

Paul Manz (1919–2009)
 Pietro Yon (1886–1943)
 Wilbur Held (1914–2015)

THE OPENING HYMN 56, vv. 1, 2, 6, 7 O come, O come Emmanuel
All stand and sing.

VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

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 the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming. For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. A righteous Branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

People **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

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. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14–16

All sit.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

*Psalm 25:1–9**The people say the words in **bold** and sing the antiphon as indicated.*

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
**let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
**for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
**remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. *Antiphon*

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 61 “Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us

WACHET AUF

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

*Luke 21:25–36**Minister* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.*All* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Reverend Margie Baker

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, 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 There is no rose

Jessica Nelson (b. 1983)

Text: Anonymous, 14th century

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda. (Thing of wonder)

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Pares forma. (Equal in form)

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis deo: (Glory to God in the highest)
Gaudeamus. (Let us rejoice)

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus. (Let us follow)



Jessica Nelson holds degrees from Millsaps College and Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, as well as the Colleague Certificate from the American Guild of Organists. She currently serves as organist/choirmaster of St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Jackson, MS. She directs the Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy, which draws participants from all over the United States and from beyond the Episcopal Church. In 2015, she was appointed to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church in the United States, and also serves on the board of the Leadership Program for Musicians. Jessica has taught on the music faculties of the University of North Alabama and Northeast MS Community College and composes in her spare time.

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

Cantor, then all
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

Cantor:
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,

Cantor:
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. All: 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 sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,**

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory

for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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. have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. 3. 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.

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 Creator of the stars of night

Plainsong

The text may be found at Hymn 60

THE COMMUNION HYMN 601 O day of God draw nigh

ST. MICHAEL

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 57 Lo! He comes with clouds descending

HELMSLEY

All sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Fanfare on *Wachet auf*

Paul Manz (1919–2009)

*The closing voluntary is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for God's Word as it has been experienced this day. All are invited to say **Amen** at the end of the voluntary as a conclusion to our worship.*

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**Celebrant:** The Reverend Todd FitzGerald**Preacher:** The Reverend Margie Baker**Layreader:** Jyothsna Diaz**Psalterer:** Ann Hutchinson**The St. John's Adult Choir****Organist & Choirmaster:** Scott Lamlein**Organ Scholar:** Ted Babbitt**Acolytes:** James Baker, Genella Evans, Isabel Grant**Ushers:** Emmy Aziz, Matt Ciscel, Christoph Stretz**Healing Prayers:** Dave Grimaldi**Livestream Oversight:** Mary Sypek**Altar Guild:** June Aziz, Ginny Kemp**Nursery Workers:** Abigail Thaxton, Caroline 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	Susan Porta	Peter	

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Eleanor Taylor	Todd FitzGerald
Allison Branco Tichy	Susan Knapp Thomas
Rich Flinchbaugh	Claire O'Brien

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

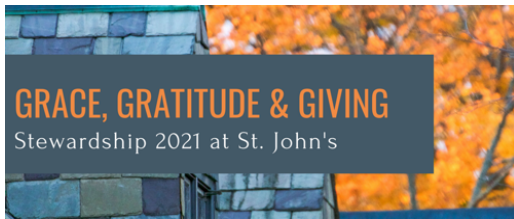
Pat & Alex Vance
Barbara & Al Lennox

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam, Christ Church, Bethany; and for postulants and candidates for Holy Orders; the Commission on Ministry and its members.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.



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 sparish.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 11/23/2021: 123

This list includes pledges received as of Tuesday, November 23.

The names of *new pledgers* are in italics.

Toby & Manny Aguiar, Bess & John Amamoo, Janet & Brad Babbitt, Margie & Jenn Baker, Eleanor & Jack Barnes, Wendy & Rich Bartlett, Mike Biondi & Ginny Kemp, Eloise Biscoe, Shirley Blean, Lissie & Lynn Brooks, Kim & Chris Byrd, 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, 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, Ginger & Colin Gillespie, Tim Goetz, Anne & Craig Grant, Beth & Joel Grieco, David Grimaldi, Ann Hanlon, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Mary & John Hardy, Anne Harney, Cisalee Harrell, Kara & Matthew Hart, Susie & Ross Hatch, Patricia & Ronald Hensley, Priscilla Hexter, 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 Krissing, 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, 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 Skeelee, Mary & Spencer Sloan, Jackie & Paul Smith, Margaret & William Smith, 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, 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, Maggie & Sherwood Willard, Akilah Williams, Jeanne & Dennis Winkleblack, Wes Winterbottom, Brenda Zanta

Abundant God, you made us in your image and breathed in us a spirit of generosity that is both gift and response. Move us, we pray, to give as we have received—abundantly, generously, and joyfully that our common ministry may ever bear witness to your unfailing grace. In the name of the Three in whom we are One, Amen

Christmas Festival: THIS 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, Christmas trees for sale (first come, first served on the day of the festival).

We still need lots of help!

- **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/christmasfestivaldonate
- **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 this 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 (wire cutters, 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/christmasfestivalhelp
- **Invite your neighbors, friends, and family to attend!**

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 second, third, and fourth Sundays of Advent, when Todd FitzGerald and a parishioner will explore the practice of rest from different perspectives: 12/5 – Paul Shaker on resting in community, 12/12 – Lissie Brooks on resting in vocation, and 12/19 – Bette-Jane Hardersen on resting in creation. Join us!

Candlelight Festival of Lessons & Carols, Sunday, December 12, 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.

Help us update the parish directory! We produce parish directories in-house using our membership database software and photocopier. Between now and January, we'd like to update contact information and parishioner photos, so we can print an updated directory after the new year. Here's what we need from you:

- **Send us updated contact info**, especially if you have moved, changed email providers, gotten rid of your landline to use a cell phone exclusively, etc. We also love to have birthday and anniversary dates so we can recognize those milestones in the bulletin each week.
- **Send us a current photo.** We do not have photos for many members, and many of the photos we do have are out of date. Take advantage of the holidays to take an updated family or individual photo and send it to us to include in the directory. Photos are useful for matching names and faces, especially now when we have many new members.

Send contact info and photos to Ellen at ellen@sjparish.net. Also, did you know that you can 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.



Give to our Blessing Box. Our Blessing Box, or “little free food pantry,” is one of the new additions to the mulched area in front of the church. We received a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to upgrade this space with plantings, benches, a community bulletin board, and a Blessing Box—all intended to welcome our neighbors and connect them with resources. 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 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 pageant, Sunday, December 19 at the 10:30 service – Sign up at sjparish.net/pageant if you/your child(ren) would like to participate in any way. The Christmas pageant will be in-person this year, with appropriate COVID protocols. Rehearsals will be during the Sunday School hour (9:30 to 10:15) on December 5, 12, and 19. The pageant itself is Sunday, December 19 during the 10:30 service. The middle school class has been working hard to write this year’s pageant script, which includes roles for Mary, Joseph, the donkey, Gabriel, angels, shepherds, farm animals, camels, camel drivers, and magi, as well as narrators, acolytes, lighting help, costumes, and more. If you/your child(ren) would like to participate in any way, please go to sjparish.net/pageant to sign up and indicate which roles you are interested in, on stage or behind the scenes. Margie Baker and Scott Lamlein will work together to create a cast based on your preferences.



Help local families in need this Christmas! – Deadline this Wednesday 12/1

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.

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

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 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	