

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another in Christ

www.sjparish.net



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

December 24, 2022

4:00 p.m.

Welcome!

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 our online newcomer form by scanning the QR code or going to sjparish.net/newcomer-form.

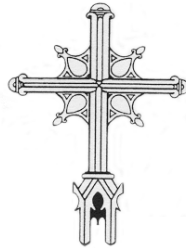
Our ushers are here to create a welcoming and safe space for worship; please let them know if you have questions, need assistance, or become aware of a health or safety concern. They have hearing assist devices available for those who need them. We're glad you're here!



Scan to fill out online newcomer form.

Children are always welcome to be in church with their families. We encourage you to sit up front, as children 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. Our nursery is not staffed this evening, but it has a changing table and rocking chair available should your child need to be changed, fed, or soothed.

Cover image: Holy Mary, Mother of God by Jen Norton



THE CHORAL PRELUDE

The St. John's Choir School

HYMN 102, vv. 1, 2, 4, 6 Once in royal David's city
The soloist sings verse 1, the choir sings verse 2, and all sing verses 4 and 6.

IRBY

ANTHEM In the bleak midwinter

Harold Darke (1888–1976)
 Text: Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)
 The text may be found at Hymn 112.

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ FESTAL EUCHARIST

THE OPENING HYMN 83 O come, all ye faithful
All stand and sing.

ADESTE FIDELES
 arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Title: *Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis*

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Copyright © Church Publishing, Inc

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2–7

All sit.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

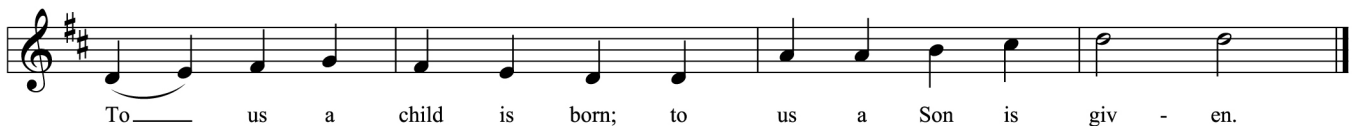
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 96

*The people say the responses in **bold** and sing the Antiphon as indicated.*



- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 **Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; ***
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ***
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

6 **Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! ***
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Antiphon

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
 ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; ***
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
 let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! ***
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy**
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

13 **He will judge the world with righteousness ***
and the peoples with his truth.

Antiphon

THE EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 115 What child is this

GREENSLEEVES

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in

bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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, who came among us in the birth of Jesus.

Gracious God, as a star arose and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ child: Draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you, that we might be the people you call us to be. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your presence: Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives, our faith, and our hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus's light, and kings to the brightness of his rising: Draw our nation, our president, and all in authority to his brightness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As angels sang "Gloria" to you, proclaiming peace on earth and goodwill among all people: Help us to share your peace with the world, and bring an end to terror and strife. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night: Draw us to greater knowledge and love of you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room in the inn: Be present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry, and inspire us to make room for them in our lives and communities. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the Holy Family gathered in Bethlehem, and traveled together to far-off lands: Bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of eternal life: Give to the departed eternal rest, and let light perpetual shine on them. We remember especially Bruce Hatch Lee. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially for those on our parish prayer list. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant O Lord our God, may the light and hope of this holy night remind us that you are among us, that you hear our prayers, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray,

People **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 Sweet was the song the virgin sang

Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang,
When she to Bethlehem Juda came
And was delivered of a son,
That blessed Jesus hath to name:
"Lulla, lulla, lullaby,
Sweet babe," sang she,
And rocked him sweetly on her knee.

"Sweet babe," sang she, "my son
And eke a Saviour born,
Who hath vouchsafed from on high
To visit us that were forlorn:
"Lulla, lulla, lullaby,
Sweet babe," sang she,
And rocked him sweetly on her knee.

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary, his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, 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: from *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).
Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 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.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power,
 and the glory
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

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, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady, rhythmic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

*Music: from Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).
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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, 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.

If you would like to pray with our healing prayer volunteer, go to the baptismal font at the back of the church after receiving Communion.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM Nativity carol

Words and music by John Rutter (b. 1945)

Born in a stable so bare,
Born so long ago;
Born 'neath light of star
He who loved us so.

Wise men from distant far land,
Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare,
Hearts with his warmth he fills.

Cradled by mother so fair,
Tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky.

Far away silent he lay,
Born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day.

THE COMMUNION HYMN 101 Away in a manger

CRADLE SONG

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 POSTCOMMUNION HYMN 111 Silent night

STILLE NACHT

Remain standing and sing. The clergy and acolytes will come around to light candles on the aisles; please pass the flame until all candles are lit.

THE BLESSING

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

THE CLOSING HYMN 87 Hark! the herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN

All sing.

arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Organ Sonata No. 1 in F Minor

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

IV. Allegro Assai Vivace

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

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant: The Reverend Todd FitzGerald

Preacher: The Reverend Margie Baker

Deacon: The Reverend Walter McKenney

Layreader: Jeff Verney

Psalterer: Cate Emerick

The St. John's Choir School:

Cate Emerick, *Head Chorister*; James Baker, *Prefect*

Mia Agosto, Eden Baker, Nkosi Barrow, Sahara Barrow, Benjamin Clapp,

Dana Crocker, Jayden Donnelly, Mason Donnelly,

Jx Eikel, Virginia Eikel, Livvy Lorenzo, Blythe Peck, Juliette Peck

Organist & Choirmaster: Scott Lamlein

Assisting Organist: Ted Babbitt

Organ Scholar: Yingying Xia

Acolytes: Dawson Biondi, Elise Biondi, Bradley Crocker

Ushers: Annabel Clapp, Steve Crocker, Robert Eikel, Ford Gillespie, Jeff Gostyla, Troy Gostyla

Healing Prayers: David Grimaldi

Altar Guild: Kate Eikel, Bill Lockery

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Psalm Antiphon from A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition ©2007 Carl P. Daw, Jr., and Kevin R. Hackett. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Weekly Offering Envelopes

If you requested weekly offering envelopes when you turned in your 2023 pledge, you may pick up your envelopes in Hubbard Hall. Please look for the envelopes with your name. If you did not request envelopes but would like them, please contact Ellen in the parish office.

Christmas Flower Offerings

The poinsettias and altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and:

In thanksgiving for:

Patricia A. Chambers

Darlene James

Craig, Kari, Jim, Maria, David, Marissa, Rowan, Pierce, Joshua, Michael, Chase & Lauren

In memory of:

Mr. & Mrs. Harry O. Bartlett

Mr. & Mrs. Harry R. Bartlett

Gerry Brooks

Murray Buttner

G. Huntington Byles

Carol H. Byrd

Elaine Byrd

Rob Carlisle

Charles H. Chambers

Mr. & Mrs. Seymour G. Clarke, Jr.

Damon B. Clemow

Wendy Wright Collins

Cyril and Mildred Connolly

Deane Connolly

Michael Connolly, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. A.B. Delano

Margaret E. Dimmitt

Robert K. Dimmitt

Helen H. and John Paul Faude

John Paul Faude, Jr.

Wilson Hinsdale Faude

Virginia Pfeil Gregory

Richard Harrington Gregory, Jr.

Marge Hardge

Charles P. Harris

Orson Henry Hart Jr.

Susan Moore Hart

Donald J. Hayes

Elizabeth Hetherington

Noble and Sara Hetherington

Andrew Jacques

Suzanne Jacques

Renee Jacques

Carolyn Jeanneret

Maurice Jeanneret

Robert W. Knorr

William E. Knorr

Ann Koucky

Edward Lamlein, Jr.

Paula F. Lammlin

Elsa M. Lattey

Erik F. Lattey

Kent Lawrence

Members of the Lockery, Marchion & Masse
Families

Sadie and Ernest MacLaughlin

Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Miller

Bill Moore

Edward and Eleanor d'Este Mosehauer

Frank J. Murphy, Jr.

Charles D. and Janet M. Peterson

Robert F. and Abbie V.S. Peterson

George and Edith Phillips

John and Grace Potter

Andrya Ramer

Robert and Sara Reiersen

Frank and Mary Reilly

Francis P. Reilly

Shirley Ann Roos

Thomas R. Tight

Shirley LaValley Uricchio

Joseph John Uricchio

George E. and Abbie Baxter Van Sicken

Guy Verney

Julie Verney

John E. Walton

Mr. & Mrs. H.W. Ward

M. Searle Wright

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
Kim Green	Sue	Anita Winters
Janet Ray	Whitney Lynch	Edie Tenen
Brad Babbitt	Don Cole	Mary Jo Keating
Ward Farrell	Tom Reichenbach	Robert Connolly
Paul L. Peck	Tessa Trussell Wolf	Alicia Leggett
Virginia Skeelee	Gina Giusto	Joan Renz
Marie Montas	Daisy	Karen Licht
Sam	Wendy	Joan Murphy

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton
Christian Dahlstrom

Those celebrating birthdays:

Carolyn Giliberto	Harriet Odlum
David Murphy	Paul Faude
Dorian Ciscel	Virginia Eikel
Alycia Montas	

Those who have died:

Bruce Hatch Lee, *nephew of Ross and Susie Hatch*

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Mark's, Bridgewater; Good Shepherd, Bristol/Plainville; St. Paul's, Brookfield; Trinity, Brooklyn; and for soup kitchens and food pantries, and all ministries that feed those who go without.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

The parish office will be closed from Monday, December 26 through Wednesday, December 28.

Annual Twelfth Night event, Friday, January 6, 5:30 p.m. Close out the Christmas season at St. John's outdoor Twelfth Night celebration! We'll have the ever-popular burning of Christmas trees and wreaths (with all fire safety precautions in place), and the youth group will be selling hot cocoa and snacks for their Dignity Grows fundraiser. Please come and bring a friend!

Young adults brunch at the Corner Pug, Sunday, January 8 at 12:15 p.m. All young adults (20s and 30s) are invited to this casual gathering—whether you're in school or working, single or partnered, a parent or not. Please RSVP to Margie (margie@sjparish.net) by January 6.

Anti-racism education at St. John's for adults and youth: *Sacred Ground* and *Dismantling Racism*. Todd Fitzgerald and Kara Hart will convene a *Sacred Ground* group starting on Tuesday, January 10 at 7 p.m. *Sacred Ground* is a film- and reading-based program developed by the national Episcopal Church to help people examine race and racism in American history and consider how it affects our world today. The group will meet on 12 Tuesday evenings from January to June (January 10, 17, 31; February 7, 28; March 7, 21; April 11; May 2, 16, 30, June 6). **Contact Todd (todd@sjparish.net) for more information and to sign up.** Starting on February 12, the youth group will be working through *Dismantling Racism*—a curriculum designed to help middle and high school students learn about racism and consider how they might engage in the work of reconciliation, healing, and justice. *Dismantling Racism* will be the focus of EYC meetings from 5 to 7 p.m. on February 12, February 26, and March 5, and an overnight lock-in at church March 17 (5 p.m.) to March 18 (3 p.m.). **Contact Margie for more information (margie@sjparish.net)**

Important 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. **To ensure that your year-end gifts and pledge payments are posted to our bank account by December 31 and appear on your 2022 year-end giving statement, please mail checks, put donations in the offering plate, or make online payments no later than December 25.** Contributions sent in after that date may not be posted by December 31, and will in that case appear on your 2023 statement, even if in payment of a 2022 pledge. **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.

Two opportunities to care for our neighbors: Dignity Grows and Journey Home. The EYC (youth group) is raising money between now and early February for Dignity Grows, a local organization that provides menstrual and hygiene supplies to women in need. The graphic on page 17 has a QR code for making a financial contribution to support this project. The youth group will also be taking cash donations at several upcoming events. Through Journey Home, we have been connected with a man named David who recently moved into a studio apartment and needs help furnishing it. See the graphic on page 17 for more information.



**TWELFTH NIGHT
TREE BURNING**

Friday, January 6, 2023 at 5:30pm

Join us as we bid farewell to Christmas. Come for the pyrotechnics, stay for the fellowship! Hot chocolate and sweets will be available for purchase as a fundraiser for Dignity Grows.

We follow fire safety regulations.




St. John's Church

**YOUNG ADULTS
BRUNCH**

Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 12:15 pm
The Corner Pug Restaurant

Are you in your 20s or 30s and looking to connect with other young adults from St. John's? Join us January 8 after church for food and fellowship! Whether you're in school or working, single or partnered, with or without kids, you are welcome!

RSVP to Margie by 1/6/23 (margie@sjparish.net)

Help furnish an apartment!

Items needed:

- one nightstand
- small dining table
- two chairs for dining table
- 8x10 area rug
- pots and pans
- linens (for queen-sized bed)
- small TV
- coffee maker
- dishes
- toaster
- wall mirror
- towels
- lamps
- space heater
- fan
- comfortable chair
- shelf for bathroom (small)
- bathroom cleaning supplies
- personal care products
- general cleaning products
- laundry detergent

St. John's is partnering with Journey Home—a community organization working to end homelessness in Connecticut—to furnish an apartment for their client David, who moved into a new apartment in Hartford this fall.

Here's how you can be part of this project:

- Donate one of the listed items in good (or new!) condition.
- Help with picking items up and bringing them to David's apartment.

The apartment is very small, so we are only collecting the specific items listed here. If you have items to donate, want to help with pick-up and drop-off, or have any questions, e-mail Mary Sypek of the Community Service Committee at marysypek@gmail.com. She and Laura Roche will also be available at coffee hour this Sunday, December 11.



dignity
grows

In collaboration with:



HYGIENE SUPPLIES PACKING PARTY

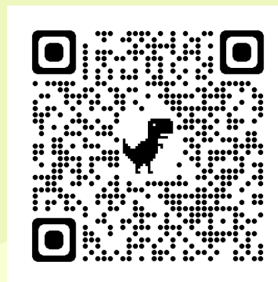
Together, let's help alleviate period poverty in our own community!

\$10 creates 1 tote with a month's worth of hygiene supplies for our neighbors in need!

WHEN:

February 5th, 2023!

DONATE:





Stay connected with your St. John's community by setting up your profile in Realm!

Realm is a cloud-based database for managing church membership records. With a computer or smartphone, church members can use Realm to access an online parish directory, manage their own individual and family information, pledge online, pay pledges online, keep track of pledges and gifts, communicate with parish ministry groups, register and pay for events, and more.

Realm will be most useful to both church staff and parishioners if EVERYONE who has online access signs up, whether or not you expect to use Realm regularly. **It is especially important that you set up your privacy settings**, as you will only be included in the parish directory if you select "Anyone in the church" in your privacy settings.

All adult church members for whom we have a working e-mail address should have received an e-mail invitation to set up login credentials and a profile in Realm. The e-mail subject line read **St. John's Episcopal Church: Join our online community!** The e-mail includes straightforward instructions for the set-up process, and a link to a PDF document with more detailed information.

If you did NOT receive an e-mail invitation, please contact Ellen in the parish office (ellen@sparish.net) with your preferred e-mail address.

If you previously set up login credentials for making online gifts/pledge payments and/or using the Church Life app, you may login to Realm at onrealm.org/sparish with those credentials (you will be prompted to reset your password). A document with step-by-step instructions for setting up your profile is available at either entrance to the church, or online at sparish.net/realmhowto. It's best to use a computer to set up your Realm account, and then download the Realm Connect app for use on your smartphone or tablet.

Coming up...

Two opportunities (one for adults, one for youth) to engage in dialogue and reflection on racism, reconciliation, and justice.

Sacred Ground

A program for adults from the national Episcopal Church, *Sacred Ground* is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. **The *Sacred Ground* group will meet on 12 Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in Hubbard Hall (January 10, 17, 31; February 7, 28; March 7, 21; April 11; May 2, 16, 30, June 6).** The group will be led by Todd FitzGerald and Kara Hart. Contact Todd for more information or to sign up (860-523-5201, todd@sjparish.net)

Dismantling Racism

Dismantling Racism is a curriculum designed to help middle and high school students learn about racism and consider how they might engage in the work of reconciliation, healing, and justice. ***Dismantling Racism* will be the focus of EYC meetings from 5 to 7 p.m. on February 12, February 26, and March 5, and an overnight lock-in at church March 17 (5 p.m.) to March 18 (3 p.m.).** Contact Margie for more information (860-523-5201; margie@sjparish.net).

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another in Christ

www.sjparish.net

679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut 06119

860 523 5201 office@sjparish.net



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8 a.m. Spoken Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Choral Holy Eucharist

The 10:30 service is also livestreamed at sjparish.net/services.

Choral Evensong or Celtic Eucharist at 5 p.m. on select Sundays.

Daily Morning Prayer by phone at 6:45 a.m. Monday through Friday

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>
Kara Hart	<i>Warden</i>
Anne Harney and John Roche.....	<i>Co-Treasurers</i>

2020–22: June Aziz, Annabel Clapp, Jyothsna Diaz

2021–23: Robert Eikel, Julia O'Brien

2022–24: Lissie Brooks, Marcos Donnelly, Rosa Guzzo, David McCary