

St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net



The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

August 27, 2023

10:30 a.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



Scan to fill out online 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 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. We do not offer staffed nursery care over the summer, but a changing table and couches are available in the Education Wing for parents to use as needed.

Cover art: This artwork, from Vibrant Church Communications, is on the backpack tags distributed at the Blessing of the Backpacks.



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Pastorale in F, BWV 590

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 427 When morning gilds the skies

LAUDES DOMINI

All stand and sing.

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 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. **Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

All sing.


1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from
 2 O Lamb of God, Lord Je - sus Christ, whom God the Fa - ther
 3 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One, who came for our sal -

hea - ven, and God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be
 gave us, who for the world was sac - ri - ficed up -
 va - tion, and on - ly you are God's true Son, who

to all peo - ple giv - en. We bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for
 on the cross to save us; and, as you sit at God's right hand and
 was be - fore cre - a - tion. You, on - ly, Christ, as Lord we own and,

your great glo - ry thanks and praise, O God, Al-might - y Fa - ther.
 we for judg - ment there must stand, have mer - cy, Lord, up - on us.
 with the Spi - rit, you a - lone share in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

Words: Nikolaus Decius (1490?-1541); tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1986), rev.;
 para. of *Gloria in excelsis*

Music: *Allein Gott in der Höh*, melody att. Nikolaus Decius (1490?-1541);

87, 83, 887

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

*Exodus 1:8-2:10**All sit.*

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live." Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 124

The people say the words in bold.

- 1 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 **If the Lord had not been on our side, ***
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 **Then would the waters have overwhelmed us ***
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 **Blessed be the Lord! ***
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

**8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 12:1–8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 379 God is Love, let heaven adore him

ABBOT'S LEIGH

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13–20

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

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

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 AND THE CONFESSION

The people say the words in bold.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our presiding bishop, for Jeff and Laura our bishops, and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence. The people may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. The people may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially Pawel Panek, Casper Roos, and Larry Ackley, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The people may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

All **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 & BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

All sit.

Celebrant Holy God, our friend, as we start the new school year, we bring our hopes and dreams and fears and joys to you so that we may feel your peace. We prepare our backpacks so that we have what we need for when we're in school. Now help us prepare ourselves for all the wonderful things in store this year. Hear now our prayers, Lord. **Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM As we gather at your table

Skinner Chavez-Melo (1944–1992)

Text: Carl P. Daw (b. 1944)

As we gather at your Table, as we listen to your Word,
 help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
 teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
 send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
 Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
 may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
 where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
 There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
 as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100TH*All stand and sing.*

**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, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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



Music: Land of Rest, arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889–1983)

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God.

Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at St. John's. To receive, please kneel or stand at the altar rail. You may choose to receive bread only, intinct (dip) your wafer in the wine, or drink from the cup.

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 HYMN 305 Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest

ROSEDALE

All remain seated and sing.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

All stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 HYMN IN PROCESSION 522 Glorious things of thee are spoken
All sing.

AUSTRIA

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Postlude in F

Eric Thiman (1900–1975)

*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 and Preacher: The Reverend Todd FitzGerald

Layreader: Jyothsna Diaz

The St. John's Summer Singers

Organist and Choirmaster: Scott Lamlein

Ushers: Robert Eikel, Wes Winterbottom

Healing Prayers: Annabel Clapp

Livestream Oversight: Scott Lamlein

Altar Guild: June Aziz, Buffy Ineson, Bill Lockery

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, and the George Beach Apartments, Allen Place, Hartford.

All those whose hurts, burdens, and fears are unspoken or unknown.

Those in need of healing, help, and comfort:

Kim Green	Susan	Ellie Brown	Paul Epstein
Janet Ray	Sue	Anita Winters	Wendy
Brad Babbitt	Whitney Lynch	Mary Jo Keating	Bob Norton
Ward Farrell	Tom Reichenbach	Robert Connolly	Sean Kuruvilla
Paul L. Peck	Tessa Trussell Wolf	Anne Beyersdorfer	Joseph
Virginia Skeelee	Gina Giusto	Alison Gillespie	Sarah Carroll
Grant Loevenbruck	Mima Esponda	Joyce Flynn	Greg Highland
John & Barbara Spannaus	The Yelland family	Steve Chambers	Jane Nelson
Jennifer Blean	Harry Barber	Rachel Boccio	Rachel
Tori	Doug Larson	Joan Ackley	Guy Russo
Deborah	Dennis Simoni	Guy Russo	Deborah Seid
Hale Walkoff	Brenda	Harriet Odlum	Joanna Jones
Rod Farrell	Nick Willke		

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton
Christian Dahlstrom

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Naomi Cipriano
Wes Winterbottom
Jx Eikel
Sloane Curtis
Jadzia Genece

Those who have died:

Pawel Panek, *brother of Joanna Worrell*
Casper Roos, *father of Pieter Roos*
Larry Ackley, *father of Beth Rocco*

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Kent School; South Kent School; Pomfret School; Salisbury School; Wooster School; Rectory School; St. Thomas Day School, New Haven; Trinity Academy, Hartford; the Episcopal Church at UCONN, Storrs; Berkeley Divinity School, New Haven; Trinity College, Hartford.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui.

Kick-off Sunday activities for youth and adults, Sunday, September 10. On September 10, we return to our program year schedule with two services at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., along with Sunday School, nursery care, choir, and adult education. To celebrate and prepare for a new year ahead, we have some special activities. During the education hour (starting at 9:30 a.m.), children and youth (kindergarten through high school) will attend Sunday School, and adults will gather in Hubbard Hall for a **Celebration of Ministry brunch** with short introductions to several core parish ministries. Immediately following the 10:30 service, we'll have an **acolyte training with pizza lunch**. Children and teens in 3rd grade and above, including those in the Choir School, are eligible to serve as acolytes, and we ask that both new and returning acolytes attend the training. **Then at 1:30 p.m., ALL children, youth, and parents/caregivers are invited for an ice cream social** and a sneak peek at the program year ahead.

Online St. John's book club to start in September. The brand new St. John's book club will meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. online (Zoom), starting in September. In the graphic below are the first three books we will read and discuss, so you can get a head start on reading over the summer! The Zoom link will be included in the e-newsletter on the Thursday before each book club meeting.

August staffing schedule. Margie Baker, assistant rector, is away for the rest of August enjoying vacation with her family on the New Jersey shore, where she also serves as a priest for a summer chapel in Longport. Please hold off on contacting her about non-urgent matters until she returns on August 31. Todd and the rest of the staff are available to respond to time-sensitive and pastoral issues that come up.



ST. JOHN'S BOOK CLUB

Join other book lovers on the first Tuesday of the month in Zoom (7-8pm) to discuss a novel with theological flair. We will read one book per month. Come prepared to chat, question, and wonder together!

Fall 2023 Novels

September 5 *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson

October 3 *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis

November 7 *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks

Look for the zoom link in our weekly e-news. Not on our email list? Sign up at sjparish.net.



St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net

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860 523 5201 office@sjparish.net



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Sunday: Holy Eucharist in the Cloister Garden

10:30 a.m. Sunday: Holy Eucharist in the church and livestreamed

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

Contact parish office for call-in details.

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

Ginger Gillespie	<i>Warden</i>
Stewart Murchie	<i>Warden</i>
Anne Harney and David McCary	<i>Co-Treasurers</i>

2021–23: Annabel Clapp, Robert Eikel, Julia O'Brien

2022–24: Lissie Brooks, Marcos Donnelly, Rosa Guzzo, Mary Honyotski

2023–25: Angela Allen-Peck, Eleanor Barnes, John Nowacki, Tom Oberholtzer