

St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net



The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

October 1, 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. Our professionally staffed nursery for children age 0 to 5 is open from 9 a.m. until after the 10:30 service; parents/caregivers are welcome to drop off their children in the nursery for part or all of the service. The nursery is also equipped with a changing table and rocking chair for parents/caregivers to use as needed.



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Fantasy on Nettleton*

Undine Smith-Moore (1904-1989)



Undine Eliza Anna Smith Moore, the “dean of Black women composers,” was an American composer and professor of music in the 20th century. Moore was originally trained as a classical pianist, but developed a compositional output of mostly vocal music—her preferred genre. Much of her work was inspired by Black spirituals and folk music. Undine Smith Moore was a renowned teacher, and once stated that she experienced “teaching itself as an art.”

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 477 All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine
All stand and sing.

ENGELBERG

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.

People **Amen.**

THE SONG OF PRAISE Dignus es

Benjamin Straley (b. 1986)

The refrain is introduced by the choir, then all repeat. The choir sings the verses, and all join in the refrain.



Splen-dor and hon-or and king-ly power are yours by right, O Lord our God.

For you created every thing that is,

and by your will they were created and have their being; **Refrain**

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,

for with your blood you have redeemed for God,

From every family, language, people, and nation,

a kingdom of priests to serve our God. **Refrain**

And so, to him who sits upon the throne,

and to Christ the Lamb,

Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,

for ever and for evermore. **Refrain**

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 17:1–7

All sit.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will

be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16

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

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

Antiphon

Antiphon

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:1–13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did

not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 686 Come, thou fount of every blessing

NETTLETON

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23–32

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

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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 offer our prayers for the church and for the world, as we pray to the God whose vineyard we tend and who has called us to walk in the Way of Jesus, saying: Holy One, hear our prayer.

For the Church and all its people, especially Michael, our presiding bishop; Jeff and Laura, our bishops; and the clergy and members of this parish, that we may more and more put on the mind of Christ and empty ourselves into God's loving care and the service of others. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

For this parish family, that we may not only speak of God's way of love, but sincerely commit ourselves to living that way as faithful disciples. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

For peace in all places of conflict, that God will touch the hearts and minds of leaders at every level and guide them to serve others with justice and love. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

For the healing of the earth, that God will inspire us to act boldly in addressing climate change and other abuses of the earth, so that generations to come may share in the bounty of God's creation. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

For the safety and well-being of migrants, refugees, and all who have fled violence, starvation, or persecution, that our nation and others will seek humane and sustainable ways to help them thrive. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

For those commended to our prayers, remembering especially those on our parish prayer list, that they may know God's love, mercy, and compassion through the ministry of others. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

For all the departed, that they may be exalted with Christ and dwell in the love of God forever. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant God of grace, hear our prayers and be at work in us, that we may do your will on earth with joyful and obedient hearts, and share in the consolation of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All remain standing or kneel.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

THE WELCOME

All sit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM Sing my soul

Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

Sing my soul, his wondrous love,
who from bright yonder throne above
ever watchful o'er his race,
still extends to us his grace

Heaven and earth by him were made,
all is by his scepter swayed,
what are we that he should show
so much love to us below,
so much love to us below?

God, the merciful and good,
bought us with the Savior's blood,
and to make salvation sure
guides us by his Spirit pure,
guides us by his Spirit pure.

Sing my soul, adore his name!
Let his glory be thy theme:
praise him till he calls thee to his love
for all to come, trust love for all to come.



Sarah Elizabeth Arwen MacDonald is a Canadian-born organist, conductor, and composer, living in the United Kingdom, and currently holds the positions of fellow and director of music at Selwyn College, Cambridge, and director of the girl choristers at Ely Cathedral. She has been at Selwyn since 1999, and is the first woman to hold such a post in an Oxbridge Chapel. In 2018, MacDonald was given the honorary award of Associate of the Royal School of Church Music (ARSCM).

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.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

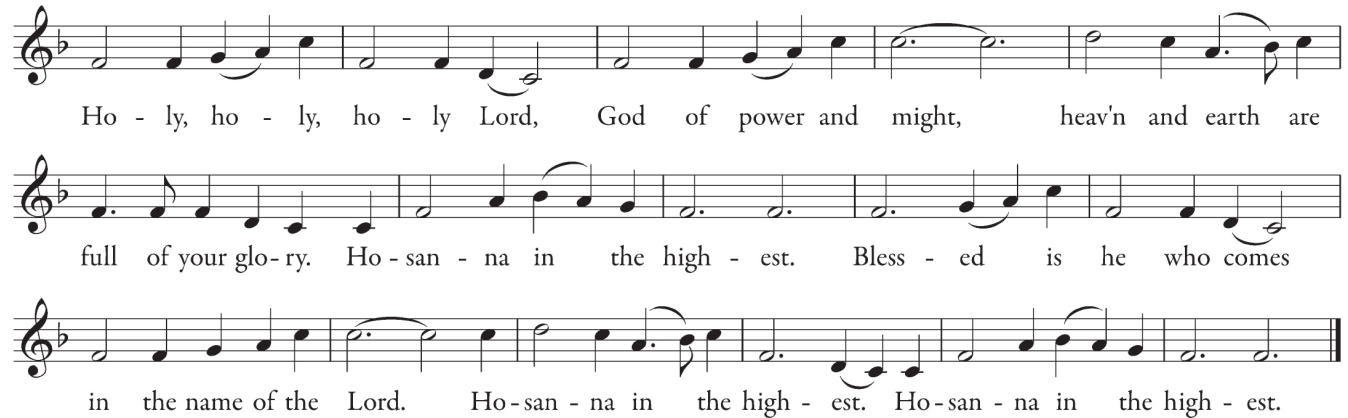
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are
 full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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

All remain standing or kneel.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

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 FRACTION ANTHEM Be known to us, Lord Jesus Gary James (b. 1957)

The refrain is introduced by the choir, then all repeat. The choir sings the verses, and all join in the refrain.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ. **Refrain**
 One body are we, alleluia, for though many, we share one bread. **Refrain**

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THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant Take this bread, share this wine. In these Christ comes to us with love from God. 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 MOTET Draw us in the spirit's tether Harold W. Friedell (1905–1958)
Text attributed to Percy Dearmer (1867–1936)

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name,
Two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluya! Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.

THE COMMUNION HYMN 325 Let us break bread together on our knees LET US BREAK BREAD
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 344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing SICILIAN MARINERS
All sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Voluntary on *Sicilian Mariners* Carson Cooman (b. 1978)

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:** Jane Harris**Psalterer:** Virginia Eikel**The St. John's Adult Choir & Choir School****Organist and Choirmaster:** Scott Lamlein**Acolytes:** Caleb Worrell, Brielle Worrell, Allison Mani**Ushers:** Annabel Clapp, Carlos Diaz, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Donielle Joslyn**Healing Prayers:** David Grimaldi**Livestream Director:** Ray Giolitto**Altar Guild:** Nancy Pedersen, Brenda Zanta**Sunday School Teachers:** Jenn Baker, Akilah Williams, Jeff Verney, Leah Lorenzo, Matt Ciscel, Angela Allen-Peck, Colin Gillespie**Nursery Staff:** Nichole Segar, Lilah Lorenzo, Olivia Thaxton**The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Wesley Dennis Wedemayer.**

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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EYC THIS WEEK

Global Philanthropy Leaders (GPL) returns this week! Join us for fellowship, Bible study, and micro-lending (and probably sardines). In Hubbard Hall.

Optional: bring a tablet, phone, or laptop for lending.

October 1, 5-7 pm. Dinner

Provided.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

www.sjparish.net



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	Robert Connolly	Bob Norton
Paul L. Peck	Tessa Trussell Wolf	Alison Gillespie	Sean Kuruvilla
Virginia Skeele	Gina Giusto	Joyce Flynn	Joseph
Grant Loevenbruck	Mima Esponda	Steve Chambers	Sarah Carroll
John & Barbara Spannaus	The Yelland family	Rachel Boccio	Greg Highland
Jennifer Blean	Harry Barber	Joan Ackley	Rachel
Tori	Doug Larson	Guy Russo	Deborah Seid
Deborah	Dennis Simoni	Harriet Odlum	Joanna Jones
Hale Walkoff	Brenda	Joan Warner	Jimmy
Rod Farrell	Nick Willke	Jon Nelson	Lisa Burke
Hillary Lord	Marnie Mueller	Dan Minster	Lucas

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton
Christian Dahlstrom

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Jen Evans	Natalie Puzzo
Alex Thaxton	Peyton Layfield
Jenifer Hartt	Jeff Gostyla
Ford Gillespie	Douglas Hyland
Joan Warner	Jerry Goetz

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Buffy & John Ineson
Margie & Jenn Baker
Laura & John Roche

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Trinity, Torrington; Christ Church, Trumbull; Trinity, Trumbull; and for all companion and service animals, all livestock, and all wild animals, great and small.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

St. John's Online Parish Directory



- **Our membership management software, Realm, includes an online directory** that members can access through the St. John's Realm web site (onrealm.org/sjparish) or the Realm Connect smartphone app.
- **The only people who can access this directory are other parish members** approved by the parish office who have set up login credentials.
- **If you do NOT want to be listed in the password-protected online directory**, please let Ellen in the parish office know ASAP.
- **You may receive an automated email from Realm informing you of a "privacy change."** This notification just means that Ellen has changed your profile settings to ensure that you are included in the directory. If it says that your information is available to "Anyone in the church," keep in mind that "anyone" refers only to people with login credentials who are known to the parish office. At no time is your information accessible online to those not affiliated with the church.
- **If you have not yet logged into Realm to see all it can do, give it a try!** With a Realm account, you can access the online directory, track your pledge progress, make a pledge, set up one-time or recurring pledge payments or gifts, see a list of previous pledge payments and gifts, communicate with your volunteer groups, register and pay for events (such as the annual Choir School camp), and more.
- **To be approved and set up login credentials, go to our St. John's Realm web site at onrealm.org/sjparish** and click the link to request login access. Once Ellen approves your access, you will receive an email invitation with instructions for how to set up your credentials. Set-up involves creating a password and verifying your email address, so make sure to complete all of the steps.
- **A link to Realm is always available on the main menu of our web site at sjparish.net.**
- **Once you have login credentials set up, download the Realm Connect app on your phone**, so you always have access to the directory and your own information on the go.
- **Please upload a recent photo of yourself/your family**, as the online directory is most useful when it includes photos to help everyone match names and faces.

Training for experienced and new layreaders, TODAY after the 10:30 service. All current layreaders, and anyone interested in learning more about this ministry, are invited to stay after the 10:30 service next today for an info session and training. Layreaders read scripture and the Prayers of the People at the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services, and share the chalice at communion (although the role is flexible should someone prefer not to do all of these tasks). Scheduling is done via an online sign-up, so volunteers can choose a schedule that works for them. Please join us!

Pet blessing in honor of St. Francis's feast day, TODAY at 4:30 p.m. Bring your furry (or scaled or feathered...) friends for a brief outdoor service of blessing and thanksgiving for God's creation and all of God's creatures, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi's feast day (October 4). The pet blessing will be brief to allow for those attending EYC (youth group) at 5 p.m. Please bring your pet on a leash or in a crate/cage to ensure everyone's safety.

Online Bible study continues on Mondays at 7 p.m. We are currently discussing the stories of Joseph in the Old Testament. You're welcome to attend all, some, or one session. No prep or homework needed. The Zoom link is included in the Thursday e-newsletter, or you may contact Margie (margie@sjparish.net) to be added to a dedicated email list to receive a reminder and link every Monday.

Coffee hour hosts needed! Coffee hour is an opportunity after each 10:30 service to greet one another over a cup of coffee. It is held each week either outdoors or in Hubbard Hall, and we need people to sign up as hosts. **Hosting is easy!** Your primary job as host is hospitality—staffing our Information Station cart and greeting people. You do not

have to make coffee, and providing food is welcome but optional. In addition, **any parishioner is welcome to bring food to any coffee hour to share**, with no sign-up required. Go to sparish.net/sundayvolunteers to sign up as a host.

HVAC project information sessions: Two sessions remain on October 22 at 9:30 a.m. and noon. Because our 30-year-old HVAC (heating/ventilation/air conditioning) system is long past its expected lifespan and not as efficient as it should be, the St. John's House Committee has spent more than a year researching options for installing a new, more efficient system. In addition, an HVAC Financing Committee has been exploring how we might pay for this major project via loans, donations, grants, and financial incentives. Parishioner support for and understanding of this project is vital. We're therefore encouraging all adult parishioners to attend at least one information session on this project. We will host two more sessions, both on October 22, at 9:30 a.m. (during the education hour) and at noon (after the 10:30 service).

Help a Simsbury mom furnish a new home for her family via Journey Home. We've received many of the smaller items, but still need a **twin bed** and several **dressers**. In addition, St. John's volunteers will be meeting at the church on one more Saturday morning (October 7) to deliver items. Contact Mary Honyotski at maryhonyotski@gmail.com if you have items to donate or can help with delivery.

The Altar Guild is looking for new members. The Altar Guild does "behind the scenes" preparation for all worship services at St. John's. Most of the Altar Guild's work happens on Sunday mornings; occasional weekday availability is helpful though not essential. To learn more and discuss whether this ministry is a good fit for you, please contact the Altar Guild chairperson, Buffy Ineson, at buffyineson@gmail.com.

Celtic Eucharist, Sunday, October 8 at 5 p.m., followed by a potluck supper. Monthly Celtic services resume on the second Sunday of the month from October through May (no service in December). Celtic services are less formal than Sunday morning worship, and take place in Hubbard Hall. They include simple music, prayers, chants, and Holy Communion. People of all ages are welcome! After the service, please stay for a potluck supper, and bring something to share if you are able.

DATE CHANGE: October online book club meeting, Tuesday, October 10, 7 p.m. The October meeting of the new St. John's online book club has been moved to October 10 (instead of October 3). We will discuss *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis. Book club meetings are in Zoom; the Zoom link is included in the e-news.

The Christmas Festival is coming up on December 2: Here are two ways you can help starting now! Annabel Clapp (Christmas Festival chair) is looking for one or more people to chair the **Chic Boutique** sales area, where we resell gently used, quality jewelry and accessories (scarves, bags, hats, belts, neckties, etc.). Chairing this area involves some work ahead of time to sort, price, and display the items for sale, and helping to staff the Chic Boutique on the day of the festival (with the help of additional volunteers). We are also recruiting **people to make large batches of soup**, to be served in the Festival Café and sold in quarts to take home. **To help with the Chic Boutique**, contact Annabel by email at annabeltrickett@yahoo.com or by text at 860-808-6775. (Note that we are not accepting donated items for the Chic Boutique until we have a chairperson in place.) **To help with soup making**, contact Laura Roche at ldakeroche@aol.com or 860-874-5335.

Ministry of Lay Readers Training Program



Sunday, October 01
After the 10:30 am service

VENUE: Start in Hubbard Hall and proceed to the Nave for various sections of the training

DURATION: Approx. 1 hr

TRAINING AGENDA:

- Role of a lay reader at St. John's
- How to be a good lay reader?

Join Our Lay Readers Ministry
and Illuminate Hearts and Minds
(Open to anyone 18 years and above)

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT:

Ellen Painter Dollar - ellen@sjparish.net
Jyothsna Diaz - jyothsna75@gmail.com

"Ask the beasts and they will teach you the beauty of this earth." - St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis Day Pet Blessing

Sunday, October 1
4:30 p.m.
at St. John's

In honor of St. Francis's feast day (which is October 4) pets of all kinds and their owners are invited to a brief outdoor service of blessing and thanksgiving for the gifts of creation and our animal companions.





CELTIC WORSHIP

at St. John's

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

5:00 PM

WITH POTLUCK SUPPER AFTER

Celtic Christian worship incorporates prayer, silence, music, and Holy Eucharist to nourish body, mind, and spirit.

Please bring something for the potluck if you are able (and come anyway if you're not!).

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!



A cool church in the summer, a warm church in the winter...

This is what we want and expect when we come to St. John's. But our 30-year-old HVAC (heating/ventilation/air conditioning) system is inefficient and long past its expected lifespan. Our House Committee has been working for more than a year to consider options for replacing the HVAC system with more efficient, environmentally sustainable equipment. An HVAC Financing Committee has been exploring how we can pay for this project through loans, donations, grants, and/or financial incentives. It's time for the parish to hear what these committees have learned, and how we can all support the project to ensure that our thriving parish and beautiful facilities will be cared for in a sustainable way for many more years.

New time added!

HVAC Project Updates

Sunday 10/22 at 9:30am OR noon

A stack of several books with various colored covers (red, blue, green, yellow) and a quill pen resting on top of them. The books are stacked diagonally from the top left towards the bottom right.

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

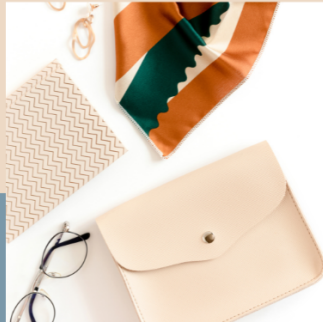
October 10 *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis

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.

Chic Boutique 2023

Chairperson/people needed!



What we need: One or two people to coordinate this sales area — sort, price, and display items before the festival, and help staff the boutique at the festival (December 2, 2023) with the help of additional volunteers.

What it is: The Chic Boutique is a popular sales area at the annual Christmas Festival fundraiser, at which we resell gently used fashion accessories: jewelry, scarves, handbags, belts, neckties, hats, etc.



To volunteer or for more info:

Annabel Clapp, annabeltrickett@yahoo.com or 860-808-6775

Soup makers needed!

For this year's Christmas Festival (12.2.2023), we need volunteers to cook large batches of soup to be served at the Festival Café and sold in quarts to take home.

- We provide the recipe (choose Turkey Chili, Clam Chowder, or Smoky Tomato).
- We provide quart containers. The recipes make about 10 quarts. You may make one batch or several.
- The church kitchen and large soup pots are available for cooks to use. Please contact the office to reserve a time, or arrange to borrow a soup pot to cook at home.
- This is a fun activity to do as a family or with a group of friends.
- Soup can be made ahead and stored in quart containers in the church freezer.

**TO SIGN UP, CONTACT LAURA ROCHE AT
LDAKEROCHE@AOL.COM OR (860) 874-5335**

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8 a.m. Sunday: Spoken Holy Eucharist

9:30 a.m. Sunday: Christian education for all ages

10:30 a.m. Sunday: Choral Holy Eucharist (also livestreamed)

5 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month (*October – May, no service in December*): Celtic Eucharist in Hubbard Hall

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

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