

St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net



Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II & COMMITMENT SUNDAY

November 12, 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!

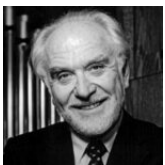
Children are always welcome to be in church with their families. We encourage you to sit up front, as children will be more engaged if they can see and hear what's going on. Children are welcome here just as they are; please don't feel you must leave every time your little one makes a sound! We have 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.

Cover art: Photo by Scott Lamlein



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY	Fantasy on <i>Cwm Rhondda</i> Chant de Paix (<i>Song of Peace</i>)	Paul Manz (1919–2009) Jean Langlais (1907–1991)
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Paul Manz was an American composer for choir and organ, and a champion of hymn singing. Manz was most famous for his celebrated hymn festivals. Instead of playing traditional organ recitals, he would generally lead a "festival" of hymns from the organ, in which he introduced each hymn with one of his famously creative organ improvisations based on the hymn tune in question. The congregation would then sing the hymn with his accompaniment.

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 690	Guide me, O thou great Jehovah	CWM RHONDDA
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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.

People **Amen.**

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
 might-y 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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *People* **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25

All sit.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.” But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

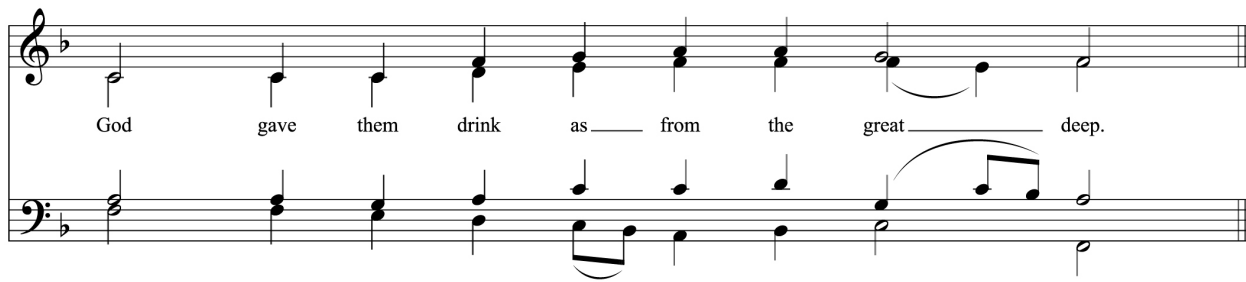
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 78:1–7

The people say the responses 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.
- 5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;
- 6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
- 7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

Antiphon

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 68 Rejoice! rejoice, believers

LLANGLOFFAN

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1–13

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

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Todd FitzGerald

All sit.

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people say the words in bold.

In the name of Jesus who is coming in glory, let us offer prayers to God for all the world, saying: God, in your mercy, 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 all who long for justice and the coming of God's kingdom may keep their lamps burning brightly. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this parish family, that our hearts may be the dwelling place of God and our lives show forth God's abundant love. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of the nations, that God will give them wisdom and courage to work diligently for peace and justice in the Holy Land, Ukraine, Sudan, and all places of conflict. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the Holy Land, birthplace of the Abrahamic faiths, and all its people, that God will bring healing, hope, and peace to their troubled land. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For veterans who have served their nation and those serving now, that God will watch over them, inspire them to serve with courage and integrity, and help them receive the care and honor they deserve from a grateful nation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this community of God's people, that we may be good stewards of God's gifts to us, and share them generously and wisely in the service of others. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in danger, the poor and the oppressed, and those who are sick or in need, remembering especially those on our parish prayer list, that God will bring healing and renewal to them in body, mind, and spirit. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all the departed, that they may be with the Lord forever. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Holy God, whose Son died and rose again, hear the prayers we offer this day and let your loving kindness be our comfort, for the sake of Jesus Christ your living word.

People **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

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

THE WELCOME

All sit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

During the Offertory, all are invited to come forward to place your 2024 pledge cards and/or regular weekly offerings in the basket on the chancel steps. If you have already submitted your pledge card or pledged online, you may instead bring up one of the "Token of my treasure" cards (there are several in each pew). These cards include space for writing an expression of gratitude if you wish. After you have come forward, return to your pew via the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward, please alert one of the ushers, who will come get your offerings from you.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM Nunc dimittis: Collegium Regale Herbert Howells (1892–1983)
Michael Mei, tenor

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word;
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

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

All remain standing or kneel.

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

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

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

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant 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 ANTHEM Swing low, sweet chariot Spiritual, arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925)

Swing low, sweet chariot
 Coming for to carry me home
 Swing low, sweet chariot
 Coming for to carry me home

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see
 A band of angels coming after me
 Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down
 Sometimes I'm almost to the ground



Alice Parker is a national treasure: America's reigning queen of choral music. – American Record Guide
My twenty-years' experience with Robert Shaw, an immersion in folk music of many kinds, has had a profound effect on my own understanding of song. I learned to see each tune as a small universe, setting up its own rules of pitch and rhythm, mood and dance. If I understand that universe, and work within it for my setting, the result is an organic whole that allows the original melody to flourish. – Alice Parker

THE COMMUNION HYMN 302 Father, we thank thee who hast planted RENDEZ À DIEU
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 Great is thy faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

All sing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)
 Music: William M. Runyan (1870-1957)
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THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Processional

William Mathias (1934–1992)

*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 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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THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**Celebrant:** The Reverend Margie Baker**Preacher:** The Reverend Todd FitzGerald**Deacon:** The Reverend Walter McKenney**Layreader:** Matteo Donnelly**Psalterer:** Tema Silk**The St. John's Adult Choir****Organist and Choirmaster:** Scott Lamlein**Assisting Organist:** Bruce Henley**Acolytes:** Elise Biondi, Jayden Donnelly, Alison Mani**Ushers:** David Grimaldi, Enid Oberholtzer, Don Polk, Laura Roche**Healing Prayers:** Chris Byrd**Livestream Director:** Jenn Baker**Altar Guild:** Nancy Pedersen, Carol Sonne**Sunday School Teachers:** Taffy Wilcox, Margie Baker**Nursery Staff:** Sheryl Simoni, Morgan Babbitt, Caroline Thaxton

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Alexander and Roselle Winterbottom, N. William Wawro, and Aileen Stoughton.

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	Joseph
Virginia Skeele	Gina Giusto	Joyce Flynn	Sarah Carroll
Grant Loevenbruck	Mima Esponda	Steve Chambers	Greg Highland
John & Barbara Spannaus	The Yelland family	Rachel Boccio	Rachel
Jennifer Blean	Harry Barber	Joan Ackley	Lucas
Tori	Doug Larson	Guy Russo	Amy Bittinger
Deborah	Dennis Simoni	Harriet Odlum	William Bittinger
Hale Walkoff	Brenda	Joan Warner	Emmy Aziz
Rod Farrell	Nick Willke	Jon Nelson	Ben Mabrey
Hillary Lord	Marnie Mueller	Dan Minster	Mike
G.F.			

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton
Christian Dahlstrom

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Madeline Patten	Jamie Baker	Rick Joslyn
Stanley Giliberto	Bill Eakins	Merriol Almond
Philip Nelson	Mason Donnelly	Erica Williams

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

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

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Igreja Anglicana de Moçambique e Angola.

Celtic Eucharist, Sunday, TODAY at 5 p.m. Celtic worship, held in Hubbard Hall, is somewhat less formal than Sunday morning worship, and includes music, prayer, silence, and chant. All ages are welcome. Afterward, all are invited to stay for a potluck supper. Celtic worship is at 5 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month, October through May (with no service in December).

Annual Christmas gift card collection for families in need. Deadline: November 27. We are once again collecting **gift cards in \$10 to \$50 denominations** to be distributed to families participating in Hartford Healthcare's Stronger Families/Stronger Futures program. The parents/caregivers appreciate being able to choose gifts, toys, clothing, and food that will make their family Christmas celebrations special. Please put gift cards in an envelope marked "Gift cards for families" and drop them off at the parish office or put them in the offering plate. **The deadline for donating gift cards is Monday, November 27.** We also welcome cash or check donations (with the purpose clearly noted), with which we will purchase cards. Questions? Contact Beth Kauczka at bkauczka@gmail.com.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist, Thursday, November 23, 10 a.m. Start your Thanksgiving Day by giving thanks to God at our annual Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist, with hymns and sermon.

New online Bible study series on Advent prophecies, starting Monday, November 27 at 7 p.m. The weekly online Bible study is on hiatus for a few weeks, and will resume November 27 through December 18 with a series on Old Testament Advent prophecies. All are welcome to attend one, several, or all sessions, which are held in Zoom. The Zoom link is included in the Thursday e-newsletter, or you may email Margie at margie@sjparish.net to be added to a special mailing list to receive a reminder email with the link every Monday.

Wreath decorating night, Thursday, November 30, 6:30 p.m. All parish adults are welcome to join in this festive annual tradition to make wreaths to sell at the Christmas Festival. We provide wreaths and some materials. If you're able, please bring scissors, pruning shears, hot glue guns, new or gently used decorations (ribbon, small ornaments, faux berries/flowers/greenery, etc.), and a snack or beverage to share. If you're not able to attend but have decorations to donate, please drop them off at the parish office.

St. John's Christmas Festival, Saturday, December 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Save the date for this beloved annual fundraising event! There are many ways St. John's parishioners can help before, during, and after the event, so please read on and sign up!

- **Volunteer to help for an hour or more on the day of the festival**, by staffing sales tables, taking payments, helping with set-up and clean-up, serving food, and more. Sign up at sjparish.net/christmasfestivalhelp
- **Volunteer to make/contribute items to be sold at the festival:**
 - **Attend the wreath-decorating night on November 30.** Details are above. Contacts: Barbara Roos and Jyothsna Diaz
 - **Donate goods or services to the online auction.** The auction will be open December 1 to 10. Contacts: Lissie Brooks and Marcos Donnelly
 - **Make sweet or savory baked goods, jams, and other treats** to be sold at the Country Kitchen bake sale. Sign up at sjparish.net/christmasfestivaldonate. Contacts: Ginger Gillespie and Beth Kauczka
 - **Make knit goods or other crafts** to be sold in the craft area. Sign up at sjparish.net/christmasfestivaldonate. Contacts: Olivia Thaxton and Kiley Murphy (knit goods and crafts), Cait Semanie (potholders)
 - **Make batches of soup (using our recipes)** to be sold at the Festival Café. Sign up at sjparish.net/christmasfestivaldonate. *We especially need people to make turkey chili and clam chowder.* Contact: Laura Roche
 - **Donate cash toward the annual themed basket raffle.** Emails have gone out to parish ministry groups asking members to give \$20 toward their group's themed raffle basket. Matteo Donnelly will shop for basket items with donated funds.. If you are a member of several groups, you are welcome to contribute to one or several baskets. **Donations of large wicker/woven/canvas baskets in new or gently used condition are also welcome.** Please drop them off at the church office. Contact: Matteo Donnelly

And of course, we hope everyone will attend the festival and invite friends, families, and neighbors! We will again sell special **St. John's Christmas ornaments** depicting Mary and infant Jesus as seen on one of our beautiful stained glass windows—an image captured by our wonderful resident photographer David McCary, and produced as tree ornaments by a local company. The ornaments will be on sale at the festival, as well as after 10:30 Sunday services in December and at other special events. A limited number of ornaments were produced, so make sure you buy a St. John's ornament to hang on your tree this year, and every year!

Wow! That was a lot of yuletide information to think about!! Thank you for reading to the end!! Questions? Please contact the Christmas Festival coordinator **Annabel Clapp** by email at annabeltrickett@yahoo.com or by text 860-808-6775.

Note that we will not be having a Chic Boutique, Attic Treasures, or book sale this year, so cannot accept donations of items for those sales areas as we have in the past.

Pipes Alive! with Mary Pan, Sunday, December 3, 12:30 p.m. The Pipes Alive! series continues with organist Mary Pan playing the St. John's organ. This event will be presented in person and by livestream. Mary Pan is an organist, pianist, and choral director based in Rochester, New York. A native of Connecticut, she is a graduate of the Hartt School of Music and Yale Institute of Sacred Music. Free admission, with donations gratefully received.

Candlelight Festival of Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 10, 3 p.m. It's an Advent favorite for a reason! Take a break from the holiday hubbub and prepare your soul for the Christmas miracle with this beautiful program of carols for choir and organ, in the tradition of King's College, Cambridge. This beloved event will fill the church, so arrive early to get a good seat. This event will be presented in person and by livestream, and will feature the St. John's Choir School and Adult Choir; Scott Lamlein, choirmaster; Floyd Higgins, organist. A reception will follow in Hubbard Hall. Free admission, with donations gratefully received.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ by coming to any of our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. On Christmas Eve, services are at 4 p.m. (featuring the St. John's Choir School, with music starting at 3:45 p.m.) and 10 p.m. (featuring the St. John's Adult Choir and a string quartet, with music starting at 9:30 p.m. — *note that the starting time is one hour earlier than in previous years*). On Christmas Day, there is one service at 10 a.m. with a sermon and carols.


Pledge statements and year-end giving. Statements were sent out last week to anyone with a balance remaining on their 2023 pledge. Most statements went out by email; if you didn't receive it, or would like a paper copy instead, please contact Peggy O'Toole at peggy@sjparish.net. For gifts and pledge payments to be included on your 2023 year-end giving statement for tax purposes, they must be received in the parish office by **Tuesday, December 26**, whether you are paying by check, cash, or online via credit card or bank withdrawal. Contributions received after that date may not be deposited and posted in time to be included on your 2023 statement, even if in payment of a 2023 pledge. Thank you!

Resources for responding to war in the Holy Land. The national Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations has a web page dedicated to resources for responding to the Israel/Gaza conflict, including prayers, information from Anglican/Episcopal people and organizations in the Holy Land, and more. Go to episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/ and click on the top link. Episcopal Relief & Development also has information and welcomes donations to their Middle East fund. Go to episcopalrelief.org.


 Thank you!


This list includes pledges received as of Wednesday, November 8.
The names of *new pledgers* are in italics.

Mary & Bob Bainbridge, Margie & Jenn Baker, Shirley Blean, Rachel Boccio, Betsy & Greg Chicares, Molly Cooper, *David Dangremond*, Carol Davis, Pam Dimock, Martin Dodd, Joe Duffy, Linda Dunakin, Hope & Bill Eakins, Nancy Eaton, *Susan Fay & Craig Ahmer*, Ginny & Rich Flinchbaugh, Tim Goetz, Anne & Craig Grant, *Nicole Douillet & Liana Guzman*, Ann Hanlon, Patricia & Ronald Hensley, Jenn & Ryan Hill, Dianne Jones, Mary Jo & Bert Keating, Bill Lockery, Lauren Mascola & John Swift, Jim Sharp, Bowie Thomas, Audrey Walker, Maggie & Sherwood Willard, Jeanne & Dennis Winkleblack, Brenda Zanta




CELTIC WORSHIP
 at St. John's
SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 12
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!




CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR FAMILIES

St. John's will once again support Hartford Healthcare's Stronger Families/Stronger Futures program by providing gift cards to families who participate in this program. The parents/caregivers appreciate being able to choose toys, clothes, and food that will make their families' Christmas special. We're collecting **gift cards valued at \$10 to \$50** from the following types of stores:

- Toys and clothing (Walmart, Target, Big Lots, Burlington, Kohl's, Marshall's, TJ Maxx, Savers, The Children's Place)
- Groceries (Shop Rite, Price Chopper, Stop & Shop, Aldi, Price Rite)
- Restaurants (Olive Garden, McDonald's, Chuck E. Cheese)

DEADLINE: MONDAY 11/27

Please put cards in an envelope marked "Gift Cards for Families" and drop off at the church office or in the offering plate.
Questions? Contact Beth Kauczka, bkauczka@gmail.com

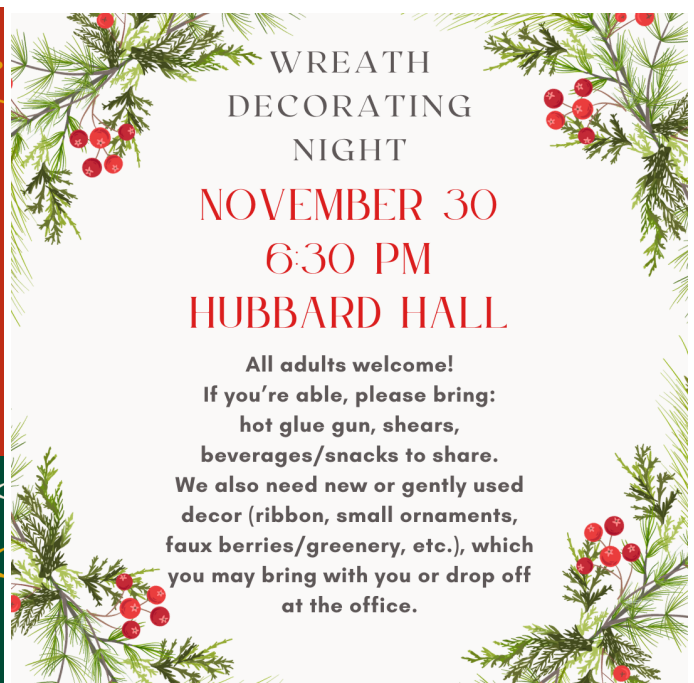


Donations needed for the fourth annual ONLINE AUCTION

We're once again holding an online auction to supplement funds raised at the Christmas Festival. The auction will be open for bidding from December 1 to 10, 2023. Help make it a success by donating goods or services to inspire spirited bidding! Popular auction items include quality holiday gifts (toys, accessories, electronics, etc.), baked goods, time in a vacation home, gift cards, and professional services.

Contact Lissie Brooks (lissiebrooks@gmail.com) or Marcos Donnelly (wpbjmar@gmail.com) to discuss what you'd like to donate!

DEADLINE: Please contact Lissie and Marcos with all of the information about your auction item(s) by Wednesday, November 22.



WREATH DECORATING NIGHT

NOVEMBER 30 6:30 PM HUBBARD HALL

All adults welcome!
If you're able, please bring:
 hot glue gun, shears,
 beverages/snacks to share.
We also need new or gently used decor (ribbon, small ornaments, faux berries/greenery, etc.), which you may bring with you or drop off at the office.

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

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