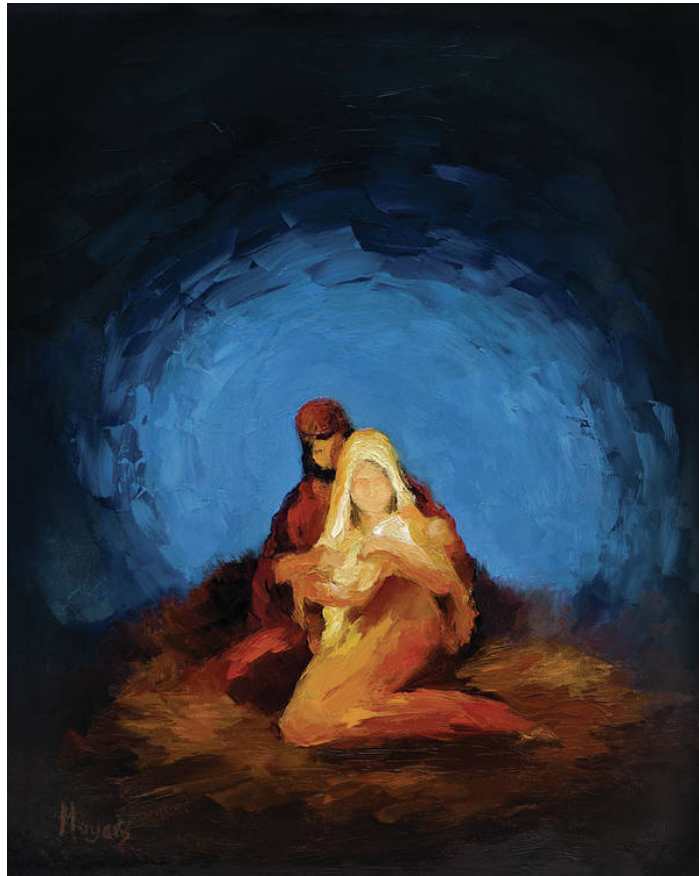


St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

FESTAL EUCHARIST

December 24, 2023

4:00 p.m.

Welcome!

It is our custom to be silent before the service, so as you take some time to pray, please turn off all electronic devices. All you need to participate in the service is found in this bulletin and in the blue hymnals in each pew.

If you are new to St. John's, or have been attending a while but the parish office doesn't yet have your information, please fill out our online newcomer form by scanning the QR code or going to sjparish.net/newcomer



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 is open this evening;** 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.

Cover art: The Nativity by Mike Moyers



THE CHORAL PRELUDE

The St. John's Choir School

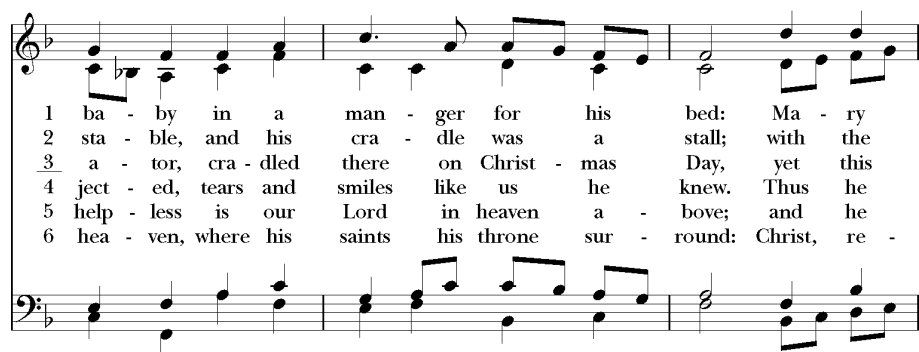
HYMN Once in royal David's city

IRBY


The soloist sings verse 1, the choir sings verse 2, and all sing verses 3 through 6.

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
 *3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
 *5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in



1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -



1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Words: Sts. 1-2 and 4-6, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.; st. 3 James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)
 Music: Rby, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

ANTHEM I wonder as I wander

Appalachian folksong
 arr. John Jacob Niles (1892–1980)

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
 How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
 For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
 I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
 With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
 But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall,
 And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
 A star in the sky or a bird on the wing.
 Or all of God's Angels in heaven to sing,
 He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
FESTAL EUCHARIST

THE OPENING HYMN O come, all ye faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

All stand and sing.

arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

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

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

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

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

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2–7

All sit.

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

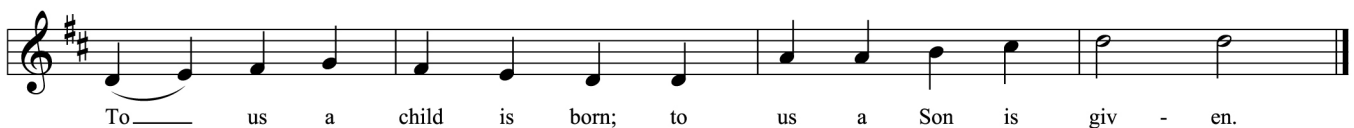
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalms 96

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



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

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

Antiphon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Antiphon

THE EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

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

Reader The Word of the Lord.


People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN What child is this

GREENSLEEVES

All stand and sing.

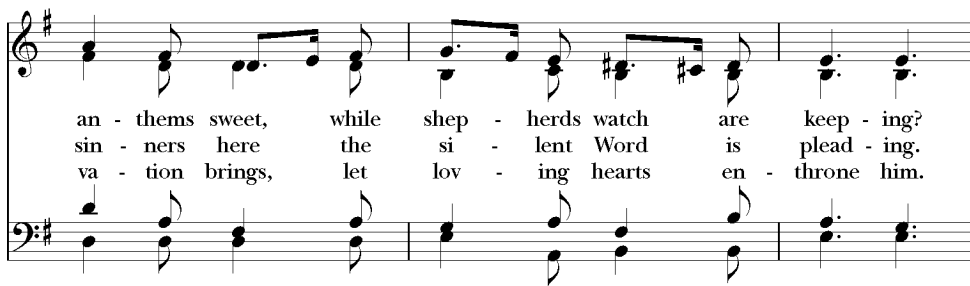
Unison or harmony



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,



Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

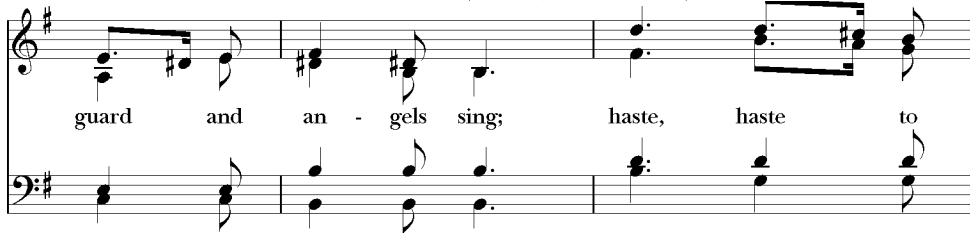


an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

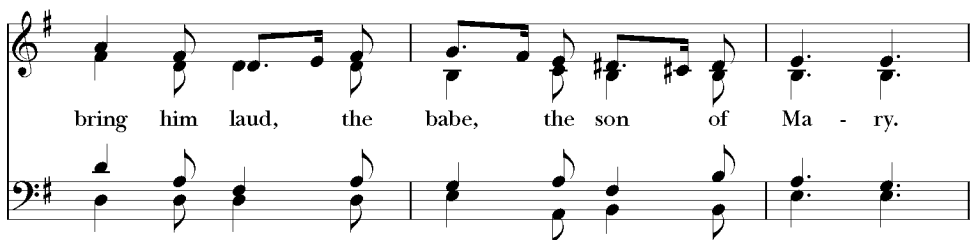
Refrain



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds



guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to



bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

THE GOSPEL

*Luke 2:1–20**Minister* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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**.*

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into marvelous light.

Christ born for us, Son of God given for us: Help us to know you, to worship you, and to serve you.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Wonderful counselor, you order all things with your wisdom: Help the Church reveal the mystery of your love and be filled with the Spirit of truth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: Guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your reign of justice and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: Protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families, and renew our communities. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: By your healing power give to all who suffer, especially those on our parish prayer list, your gift of wholeness and peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord Jesus Christ, in you heaven is come down to earth and earth is raised to heaven: Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom, especially Marnie Mueller. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Celebrant God of love, who has come to us in Jesus, our Emmanuel: Open our hearts, that he may be born in us today. Hear our prayers, receive our praises, and fill our lives.

People **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

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM Nativity Carol

Words and music by John Rutter (b. 1945)

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

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

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

Love in that stable was born
 Into our hearts to flow;
 Innocent dreaming babe,
 Make me thy love to know.

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

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

The first system of musical notation for 'The Sanctus' consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music is in a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and' are written below the notes.

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It features a long note with a fermata over the word 'might,' in the upper staff, followed by the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,'.

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

The third system of musical notation continues with the lyrics 'God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are'.

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

The fourth and final system of musical notation concludes the piece with the lyrics 'full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -'.

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

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

Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc

All remain standing or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

We await his coming in glory.

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

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line in G major (one sharp) and a piano accompaniment in D major (two sharps). The second system continues the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.'

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

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant Come, God's people, come receive Christ's heavenly food.

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 Who would think that what was needed

English traditional
arr. John Bell, 1990

Who would think that what was needed
To transform and save the earth
Might not be a plan or army,
Proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision,
That a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven,
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,
Monarchs scorn and angels sing;
Such a place as none would reckon
Hosts a holy helpless thing;
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers
Watch a baby laid in hay:
God surprises earth with heaven
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Centuries of skill and science
Span the past from which we move,
Yet experience questions whether,
With such progress, we improve.
While the human lot we ponder,
Lest our hopes and humour fray,
God surprises earth with heaven
Coming here on Christmas Day.

THE COMMUNION HYMN Away in a manger

CRADLE SONG

All remain seated and sing.

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 *3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

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 POSTCOMMUNION HYMN Silent night

STILLE NACHT

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

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Music: Stille Nacht, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

THE BLESSING

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

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION Hark! the herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN

All sing.

arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet (1878–1967)

*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**Old Testament Reader:** Bill Lockery**New Testament Reader:** Jane Harris**Intercessor and Chalice Bearer:** Jeff Verney**Psalterer:** Jx Eikel**The St. John's Choir School****Organist and Choirmaster:** Scott Lamlein**Assisting Organist:** Ted Babbitt**Acolytes:** Elise Biondi, Bradley Crocker, Atticus Finkell**Ushers:** Eleanor Barnes, Annabel Clapp, Steve Crocker, Robert Eikel**Healing Prayers:** David Grimaldi**Livestream Director:** Elijah Clapp**Altar Guild:** Buffy Ineson, Bill Lockery**Nursery Staff:** Nichole Segar, Christine Babbitt**Weekly Offering Envelopes**

If you requested weekly offering envelopes when you submitted your 2024 pledge, you may pick up your envelopes in Hubbard Hall. Please look for the envelopes with your name. If you did not request envelopes but would like them, please contact Ellen in the parish office. Envelopes that are not picked up by December 31 will be mailed (and picking them up in person saves us more than \$2 in postage!).

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	Wendy
Janet Ray	Sue	Anita Winters	Bob Norton
Brad Babbitt	Whitney Lynch	Alison Gillespie	Joseph
Paul L. Peck	Tessa Trussell Wolf	Joyce Flynn	Sarah Carroll
Virginia Skeelee	Gina Giusto	Rachel Boccio	Greg Highland
Grant Loevenbruck	The Yelland family	Joan Ackley	Rachel
John & Barbara Spannaus	Harry Barber	Guy Russo	Lucas
Jennifer Blean	Doug Larson	Joan Warner	Amy Bittinger
Tori	Dennis Simoni	Jon Nelson	William Bittinger
Deborah	Brenda	G.F.	Emmy Aziz
Hale Walkoff	Nick Willke	Ned	Ben Mabrey
Rod Farrell	Toby & Manny Aguiar	Louis Nuechterlein	Mike
Hillary Lord	Jeff Lewi	Kimberly Ward	Dan Minster
Madeline	Miranda		

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton
Christian Dahlstrom

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Winston Booker	Dorian Ciscel
Carolyn Giliberto	Paul Faude
David Murphy	

Those who have died:

Marnie Mueller, *member of St. John's*

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; St. Mark's, Bridgeport; and for the children of the world, the Bishops' Fund for Children, and all ECCT ministries for children at risk.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

Christmas Flower Offerings

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

Margaret & R. Marshall Barnes	Andrew Jacques
Mr. & Mrs. Harry O. Bartlett	Robert W. Knorr
Mr. & Mrs. Harry R. Bartlett	William E. Knorr
Robin Wawro Bataillon	Ann Koucky
Frank S. Berall	Edward W. Lamlein, Jr.
Mildred Buttery	Elsa M. Lattey
Carol Hunger Byrd	Erik F. Lattey
Elaine K. Byrd	Kent Beckwith Lawrence
Mary Gehringer Byrd	Susan Lockery
Thomas C. Carey	Helen Lockery
Elizabeth K. Carey	Robert Lockery
Mr. & Mrs. Seymour G. Clark, Jr.	Fred Marchion
Damon B. Clemow	Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Miller
Wendy Wright Collins	Frank & Susan Murray
Cyril & Mildred Connolly	Janet Myers
Deane Connolly	Lewis P. Nelson, III
Robert Connolly	Paul, Sarah, & Gretchen Oberholtzer
Michael Connolly	Charles D. & Janet M. Peterson
Adrian E. Crocker	Robert F. & Abbie V.S. Peterson
Dr. John F.S. Crocker	George & Edith Phillips
Robert K. Dimmitt	John & Grace Potter
Margaret Dimmitt	Andrya Ramer
Edward & Eleanor d'Este Mosehauer	Members of the Reardon Family
Bill & Teeny diNicola	Robert & Sara Reiersen
John Paul & Helen H. Faude	Mary & Frank Reilly
John Paul Faude, Jr.	Francis P. Reilly
Wilson H. Faude	Joan Renz
Donald Gavin	Luz Rivera
Steven Goldstein	Noel Sears
Virginia Pfeil Gregory	Oscar & Doris Sodergren
Richard H. Gregory, Jr.	David St. George
Alberto Guzman	Walter Szwez
Russ Harris	Thomas R. Tight
Donald J. Hayes	George E. & Abbie B. Van Siclen
Elizabeth Hetherington	Jean Walters
Noble & Sara Hetherington	David W.R. Wawro
Toni Hutchinson	N. William Wawro
Robert & Marsha Jacobson	George Weinstock
Suzanne Jacques	Carl Weis, Jr.
Renee Jacques	Members of the Woolley Family
	M. Searle Wright

Christmas Day worship. Tomorrow morning there will be one service of Holy Eucharist with sermon and carols at 10 a.m. Kids are welcome to attend in their PJs!

Deadline for year-end giving. 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!

Twelfth Night tree burning and EYC fundraiser, Friday, January 5, 5:30 p.m. Join us for this uniquely festive tradition, when we bid farewell to the Christmas season by burning Christmas trees and wreaths (safely!) outdoors. The EYC (youth group) will be selling hot cocoa and snacks as a fundraiser for their annual project to support Dignity Grows, a local nonprofit that provides hygiene supplies to people in need in the Greater Hartford area. Come on out for this fun event!

Pipes Alive! featuring Kyle Swann, Sunday, January 7, 12:30 p.m. The first Pipes Alive! organ concert of 2024 will be on January 7 at 12:30 p.m. Organist Kyle Swann has played with numerous orchestras and opera companies around the world, and has worked with the Connecticut Opera and the Yale School of Music. Free admission, with donations gratefully accepted.

PIPES ALIVE!



Kyle Swann

January 7, 12:30pm

St. John's Episcopal Church, West Hartford

MUSIC AT THE RED DOOR

Events are also available livestreamed
at www.reddoormusic.org



TWELFTH NIGHT TREE BURNING

**Friday, January 5, 2024 at
5:30pm**

**Join us as we bid farewell to Christmas.
Come for the pyrotechnics, stay for the
fellowship!**

**Hot chocolate and sweets will be available for
purchase as a fundraiser for Dignity Grows.**

We follow fire safety regulations.

**St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Ave, West Hartford**



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