

St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net



The First Sunday after the Epiphany:

Baptism of Our Lord

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

January 7, 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 located in the Education Wing is open on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; parents/caregivers are welcome to drop off children in the nursery for part or all of the service. The Education Wing and nursery also have changing tables and seating that parents/caregivers may use as needed.

Cover art: The Baptism of Jesus by Mike Moyers



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE VOLUNTARY The peace may be exchanged *from Rubrics* Dan Locklair (b. 1949)



The inspiration for Dan Locklair's five-movement suite, Rubrics, was the italicized rubrics (instructions) found within the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Finding power within these simple instructions, Dan brings them to life in music. The peace may be exchanged is a beautiful, lyric peace prayer, using the warm string and diapason sounds of the organ.

THE OPENING HYMN 119 As with gladness men of old DIX
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 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. Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

*Genesis 1:1-5**All sit.*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

*Psalm 29 (paraphrase)**All remain seated and sing.*

1 Let all the heaven-ly be - ings yield praise to God a - lone,
 2 God's voice re - sounds like thun - der a - bove the wa - ters' roar;
 3 En - throned a - bove cre - a - tion, God reigns for ev - er - more

as - crib - ing strength and glo - ry much great - er than their own.
 with widen - ing power and splen - dor, it ech - oes from the shore.
 where all are cry - ing "Glo - ry!" to hon - or and a - dre.

God's Name de - mands their rev - erence, their wor - ship, and their praise,
 It breaks the state - ly ce - dars, wield's light - ning like a scythe,
 God's peo - ple will find bless - ing in strength that does not cease,

a - mid the roy - al beau - ty God's ho - li - ness dis - plays.
 sends trem - ors through the des - ert, and makes the oak trees writhe.
 and God will grant the faith - ful the pre - cious gift of peace.

THE EPISTLE

Acts 19:1–7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 112 In the bleak midwinter

CRANHAM

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:4–11

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

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

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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.

Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light, as we pray for our needs and those of others.

Lord Jesus, who brings forgiveness to all who repent, teach us to be dependent on your grace as we strive anew each day to become the people you created us to be. God of light and love, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, who baptized with the Spirit and with fire, strengthen us to withstand the trials of life and help us to love one another in all circumstances. God of light and love, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, beloved Son, anoint those in positions of power with the gifts of the Spirit, that they may lead with humility, wisdom, and compassion, and foster peace and justice. God of light and love, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, who welcomed little children, watch over Donielle and Ricky Joslyn and their newborn daughter, Margaret Valerie, as they rejoice in their newly expanded family. God of light and love, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of old, give hope to all who are sick, suffering, lonely, or afraid, especially those on our parish prayer list. God of light and love, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope, share with all the faithful, especially Tom Cloherty, Joan Warner, and Don Hughlett, the riches of eternal life. God of light and love, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Lord Jesus Christ, in you God makes us and all things new. Transform us by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory. **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

THE OFFERTORY MUSIC The three kings

Healy Willan (1880–1968)

Text: Laurence Housman (1865–1959)

“Who knocks tonight so late?”
the weary porter said.
Three kings stood at the gate,
each with a crown on his head.

The serving man bowed down,
the Inn was full, he knew.
Said he, “In all this town
is no fit place for you.”

A light in the manger lit;
there lay the Mother meek.
This place is fit.
Here is the rest we seek.

Come, come. They loosed their latchet strings,
so stood they all unshod
“Come in, come in, ye kings,
and kiss the feet of God.”



James Healey Willan was an Anglo-Canadian organist and composer. He composed more than 800 works including operas, symphonies, chamber music, a concerto, and pieces for band, orchestra, organ, and piano. He is best known for his church music. The Three Kings is typical of his straightforward, modal, lyrical style. For the first half of the anthem, a three-part men's chorus—symbolically the three kings—is in dialogue with a three-part women's chorus, representing the holy manger scene.

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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
 might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

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

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

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

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

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

Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc

All remain standing or kneel.

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

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

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

We await his coming in glory.

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

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,**

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory

for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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.

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 The gifts of God for the people of God. 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 Shall we gather at the river?

AT THE RIVER

All remain seated and sing.

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod; ___
 2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver spray, ___
 3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down; ___
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease, ___

1. With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?
 2. We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py gold - en day.
 3. Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.
 4. Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of peace.

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

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 616 Hail to the Lord's anointed ES FLOG EIN KEINS WALDVOGELEIN

All sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Fantasia in G minor, BWV542a Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

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 Todd FitzGerald

Preacher: The Reverend Margie Baker

Deacon: The Reverend Walter McKenney

Layreader: Robert Eikel

The St. John's Adult Choir & Choir School

Organist and Choirmaster: Scott Lamlein

Acolytes: Elise Biondi, Allison Mani, Atticus Finkell

Ushers: Enid Oberholtzer, Don Polk, John Roche, Laura Roche

Healing Prayers: Chris Byrd

Livestream Director: Elijah Clapp

Altar Guild: Eti Akpan, Carol Sonne

Sunday School Teachers: Jenn Baker, Akilah Williams, Jeff Verney, Leah Lorenzo,

Matt Ciscel, Angela Allen-Peck, Colin Gillespie

Nursery Staff: Nichole Segar, Lilah Lorenzo, Caroline Thaxton

Poinsettias for Homebound Parishioners

We'd like to share the beautiful poinsettias that have adorned the church for Christmas with some of our parishioners who can no longer get to church regularly. Please stop by Hubbard Hall after the service to pick up a card with the name and address of one of these parishioners, and drop off the card and a poinsettia after church today, or at your convenience over the next day or two. Thank you!

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 Lewis	Kimberly Ward	Dan Minster
Madeline	Miranda	Craig W.	Ryan W.

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton
Christian Dahlstrom

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Linda Schatz	John Church
Lucy Adams	Buffy Cech
Lad Pfeifer	Bobby Eikel

We rejoice with Donielle and Ricky Joslyn on the birth of their daughter, Margaret Valerie, on December 31.

Those who have died:

Joan Warner, *member of St. John's*
Tom Cloherty, *member of St. John's and husband of Sue Harrison*
Don Hughlett, *devoted supporter of Music at the Red Door and husband of Helen Hughlett*

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Peter's, Cheshire; Holy Advent, Clinton; Trinity Church, Collinsville; and for all immigrants, refugees and the ministries that serve them.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Vestry Nominees for 2024

Below is the slate of nominees to be presented for election at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024, at 9 a.m. Bios and photos are provided for first-time nominees for a particular position. If you would like more information about any of the nominees up for re-election, please contact Ellen in the parish office.

Nominated as co-wardens (one-year term; can serve up to three consecutive terms)



Eleanor Barnes (nominated for her first one-year term)— Eleanor and her family have been members of St. John’s since they moved to West Hartford more than 25 years ago. Involvement at St. John’s has been important to Eleanor and Jack as well as their two children, Marshall and Cricket. Eleanor has served on the Outreach Committee and as a Sunday School teacher, Rite 13 leader, stewardship co-chair, vestry member, and usher. She looks forward to serving our parish community in this important way, especially to listen and learn what current opportunities and challenges we face. Eleanor grew up in the Episcopal Church (St. Paul’s) in Richmond, VA. She graduated from Washington & Lee University and began her career at CNN Business News in New York City. She also earned her M.B.A. in NYC at Columbia University. After taking a few years off to raise her children, Eleanor re-entered the workforce in 2007 with a focus on fundraising for nonprofits, including The Ethel Walker School and the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts. In 2014, she joined her husband, Jack, working as a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley. In 2020, Eleanor earned her Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®) designation. She enjoys skiing, hiking, swimming, gardening, reading, and time with family, friends, and her two Golden Retrievers!

Stewart Murchie (nominated for his second one-year term)

Nominated as co-treasurers (one-year term; can serve up to three consecutive terms)

Anne Harney (nominated for her third one-year term)

David McCary (nominated for his second one-year term)

Nominated for a three-year term on the vestry



Ginger Gillespie — After serving a one-year term as co-warden, Ginger is nominated to continue serving the parish as a member of the 2024 vestry class. Raised as an Episcopalian and member of a few parishes before moving to West Hartford, she and her husband joined St. John’s more than 20 years ago. At St. John’s, she has enjoyed serving with fellow parishioners in a collection of committees and programs that support our church. At this time, she teaches Sunday school, offers healing prayers, and shares responsibility for counting and depositing the weekly offering. In the past Ginger has chaired the Christmas Festival and Parish Life committees, was the secretary of the rector’s search committee, and participated in the women’s group and friendly callers group. In our parish missions outside the walls of St. John’s, she has contributed as a monthly volunteer serving at Loaves and Fishes, worked to support our ministry with Journey Home, and visited with fellow parishioners. She is married to Colin Gillespie, a former warden and vestry member, and mother of Cat and Ford Gillespie, who were baptized at St. John’s and have participated as choristers, acolytes, and youth group members. Professionally, she works for West Hartford Public Schools at Hall High School as a tutor. She is looking forward to this opportunity to serve and work with and for our clergy, staff, congregation, community, and mission.

Lauren Mascola — Lauren and her family have been members at St. John’s since 2012. She is honored to be nominated for a vestry position. Lauren is an “8 o’clocker” and has been a layreader for the last two years. She and her husband have enjoyed volunteering for the Spring Fling and Christmas Festival fundraisers as well as assisting on sandwich-making Sundays. Lauren was also the most recent guest at St. John’s Faith@Work adult education series, where she discussed how her faith has influenced her career as a veterinarian. Lauren has practiced veterinary medicine for 27 years and has been the owner of Petcare Veterinary Services in West Hartford since 2004, after relocating from Jamestown, RI. Previously, she practiced at Newport Animal Hospital. While in Jamestown,



her family were members at St. James Episcopal Church, where she also served on the vestry as the clerk for five years. Professionally, Lauren serves as an Advisory Board Member of Our Companions Animal Rescue and sits on the CT Board of Veterinary Medicine. In her free time, Lauren is a “hockey mom” who travels frequently to cheer on her three sons. She is also a proud member of The Best Running Group and enjoys practicing yoga. Lauren looks forward to serving St. John’s in her new capacity as a vestry member.



Linda Schatz — Linda has been a parishioner at St. John’s for the last couple of years, returning to the “home” where her parents married and she was baptized. She is honored to be considered as a nominee for the vestry. Born in Hartford, Linda grew up in Trumbull and attended the University of Connecticut, obtaining a degree in business administration/finance with a minor in Spanish. Linda started her career in accounting before moving into the insurance sector, where she currently works at The Hartford as a director of process and governance to create efficient and effective workstreams across the organization. Linda has two adult children, Caroline and Casey, and a three-year-old Irish Terrier dog, Oliver. She is also a certified yoga instructor. At St. John’s, she has volunteered as a layreader and served on the committee formed in 2023 to consider options for financing the replacement of St. John’s HVAC system.

Brenda Zanta — Brenda was baptized and attended St Mark’s Episcopal Chapel in Storrs, CT as a young girl, serving as an acolyte and an active member of the youth group. She started attending St John’s in 2019 and immediately felt right at home. She soon joined the Altar Guild and enjoys being a part of this important mission. Brenda spent her career working in higher education administration, including as the registrar at the University of St. Joseph for several years, and as a functional analyst for the community college system under the Board of Regents for many years. Brenda has lived in West Hartford for more than 20 years and, along with her husband Mike, raised her son Joseph, stepson Sam, and stepdaughter Lily here. She enjoys cooking and gardening (she is known for her green thumb!) and spending time with her dog Daisy. Brenda is honored to be nominated to serve on the vestry and to continue to help the church in any way she can.



Pipes Alive! featuring Kyle Swann, TODAY at 12:30 p.m. The first Pipes Alive! organ concert of 2024 will be today 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.

New online Bible study series to begin this Monday, January 8, at 7 p.m. On Monday evenings through February 5, we will meet in Zoom at 7 p.m. to talk about the three letters of John in the New Testament. You are welcome to attend one, several, or all sessions, and no preparation or homework is required. The Zoom link is provided in the Thursday e-newsletter, or you may email Margie at margie@sjparish.net to be added to a dedicated email list to receive the link every Monday.

New Women Together book discussion to begin this Tuesday, January 9, at 2 p.m. Women Together is a group that gathers weekly to explore our Christian faith and practice through book discussion, prayer, and fellowship. We meet on Tuesdays from 2 to 3:15pm in the Reception Room at St. John's. On Tuesday January 9, we will begin discussing *Life in Light: Meditations on Impermanence* by Mary Pipher. In this book, the author "explores what she's learned about how to balance despair with joy, utilizing and sharing with readers every coping skill she has honed during her lifetime to remind us that there is a silver thread of resilience that flows through all of life, and that despite our despair, the light will return." We will start by reading the foreword and the first 30-40 pages. Don't worry if you haven't received your book yet, just come and enjoy the conversation. The books we choose are usually available at libraries and at Amazon and other booksellers. The group has been attended by women from St. John's, Trinity, St. James's and St. Monica's. Please contact Sarah Kieffer at kieffer2468@gmail.com if you would like additional information.

Celtic worship, Sunday, January 14 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).

Service commemorating the 175th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in Connecticut, Sunday, January 14 at 3 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral. This service will be a liturgical observation at Christ Church Cathedral that creates sacred space and allows us to reflect on the sins of our past and the ways in which our faith calls us to seek justice, reconciliation, and repair. As we commemorate the abolition of slavery in our state, we cannot ignore the fact that our forebears were complicit in a system that perpetuated grave injustice and suffering. It is a moment for us to repent and to recommit ourselves to the Gospel call of love, justice, and equality.

St. John's Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 28, 9 a.m. At the Annual Meeting, we elect vestry members for the coming year, reflect on the year just past, and look ahead to the new year. All teens and adults age 16 and over are strongly encouraged to attend. Child care will be provided for younger children. The meeting will end in time for the 10:30 service, and a light potluck breakfast will be served (we will share an online sign-up soon where you can volunteer to bring food or beverages).

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



Monday Night Bible Study

LETTERS OF JOHN

Mondays at 7pm in Zoom

January 8-February 5

John's three letters, along with the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation, make up the Johannine tradition. Join us in the season of Epiphany as we explore the setting, symbols, and significance of these three letters. As always, no preparation or homework required.

Come wonder with us!



Questions? Email margie@sjparish.net



Spring Bible Study Retreat

Friday, April 19 to Saturday, April
20 (5pm-3pm)

Camp Washington (Morris, CT)

Cost: \$185 single room & three
meals (payment due 3/1)

Come explore the Holy Spirit at Camp Washington! God's indwelling, animating Spirit is present throughout Scripture: from Genesis 1 and God's breath, through the prophets, to Jesus' baptism and the fiery wind of Pentecost. What can the witness of Scripture teach us about how the Holy Spirit is present in our lives today? Join us Friday evening to Saturday afternoon, as we gather, pray, eat, and wonder.

Reserve your spot by 1/21 by emailing margie@sjparish.net



CELTIC WORSHIP

at St. John's

SUNDAY,
JANUARY 14
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!

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