

# St. John's Episcopal Church

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

[www.sjparish.net](http://www.sjparish.net)



*The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

*September 29, 2024*

*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](http://sjparish.net/newcomer)

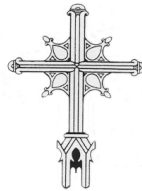


Scan to fill out online newcomer form.

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.

Photo credit: David McCary



## ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Prelude *on Rhosymedre*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 583 O holy city, seen of John

MORNING SONG

*All stand and sing.*

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

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

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

THE SONG OF PRAISE Glory to you

All sing.



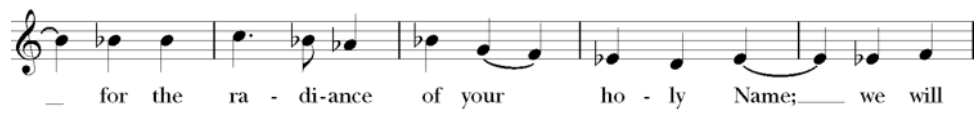
1. Glo - ry to you, Lord



God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of praise;



glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you



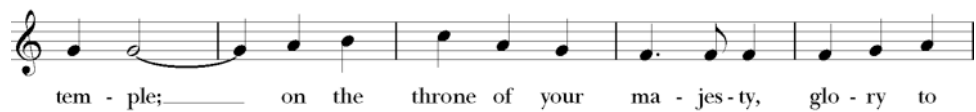
for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; we will



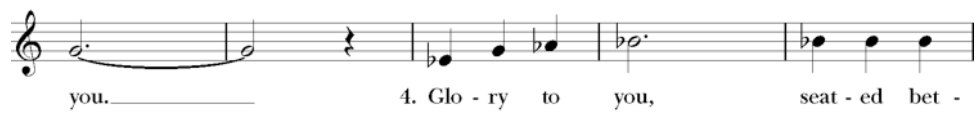
praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.



3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your



tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to



you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -



ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and



high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

*Descant*



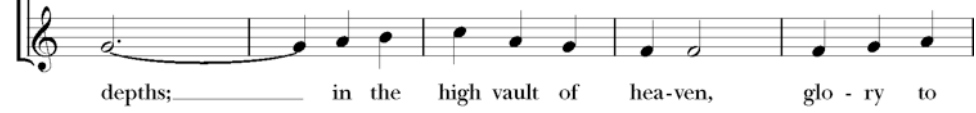
5. Glo - ry to you, be -



5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the



hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of



depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to

hea - ven, 6. Glo - ry to you, you. 6. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will praise you and high-ly ex - alt you Glo-ry to you! high-ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

Setting: John Rutter (b. 1945)

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE FIRST LESSON

*Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22*

*All sit.*

**T**he king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent

letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM

*Psalm 124*

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

Our help is in the Name of the LORD.

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

*Antiphon*

## THE SECOND LESSON

*James 5:13–20*

**A**re any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the

truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 709    O God of Bethel

DUNDEE

*All stand and sing.*

THE GOSPEL

*Mark 9:38–50*

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

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

**J**ohn said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

*Minister*    The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

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.*

God of mercy and healing, you who hear the cries of those in need, receive these petitions of your people that all who are troubled may know peace, comfort, and courage.

We pray for the church, that we might show forth our faith in action, regard all with impartiality, and be quick to listen and slow to anger. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our nation, especially in this election year, that whenever trials may befall us, God may grant us endurance, understanding, and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world, that those who are persecuted and excluded may be raised up, and that mercy may fall on us all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, the injured, the vulnerable, and those undergoing all forms of adversity, especially those on our parish prayer list, that they will be healed and comforted. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our search for a new music director, that God will grant us wisdom, faithfulness, patience, and joy, and that we may hear God's voice in all our deliberations as we seek a faithful director who will nurture our music ministry and further God's mission at St. John's. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died, that they would draw near to God, and that God would draw near to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* Life-giving God, heal our lives, that we may acknowledge your wonderful deeds and offer you thanks from generation to generation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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

*All remain standing or kneel.*

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

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

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

## THE WELCOME

*All sit.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM Eternal light

Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)

Words: Alcuin Albinus Flaccus (c. 735–804)

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts,  
Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil,  
Eternal Power, be our support,  
Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,  
Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us;  
that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength  
we may seek thy face  
and be brought by thy infinite mercy to thy holy presence;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



*Leo Sowerby began to compose at the age of 10, and to teach himself organ at the age of 15. He studied and taught at the American Conservatory of Music; received the 1946 Pulitzer Prize for Music for his cantata, the Canticle of the Sun; and was the first composer to receive the Rome Prize from the American Academy. His substantial output includes more than 500 works in every genre but opera and ballet. After his retirement as organist and choirmaster from St. James Episcopal Cathedral in Chicago, he was called to Washington National Cathedral to become the founding director of the College of Church Musicians, a position he held until his death.*

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

*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

*All stand.**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. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven 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.

*Setting: From New Plainsong, David Hurd (b. 1950)**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 AND FRACTION ANTHEM

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

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Setting: From New Plainsong, David Hurd (b. 1950)*

## 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 volunteers, go to the baptismal font at the back of the church after receiving Communion.*

## THE COMMUNION MOTET Ave verum corpus

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

*Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine,  
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine,  
cuius latus perforatum fluxit aqua et sanguine:  
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.*

Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary,  
which having truly suffered, was sacrificed on the cross for mankind,  
whose pierced side flowed with water and blood:  
May it be for us a taste of things to come in the trial of death.

## THE COMMUNION HYMN 609 Where cross the crowded ways of life

GARDINER

*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 546 Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve

SIROË

*All stand and sing.*

## THE DISMISSAL

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

## THE VOLUNTARY Prélude-Toccatà, op. 29, no. 1

Gabriel Pièrre (1863–1937)



French composer and organist Gabriel Pièrre studied at the Paris Conservatoire, gaining first prizes for solfège, piano, organ, counterpoint, and fugue. He won the French Prix de Rome in 1882, with his cantata Edith. His teachers included César Franck (for the organ) and Jules Massenet (for composition). He succeeded César Franck as organist at Sainte-Clotilde Basilica in Paris from 1890 to 1898. A member of the Académie des Beaux Arts in 1924, Pièrre gave first performances of most of the major works of his contemporaries: Saint-Saëns, Debussy, Roussel, Ravel, Schmitt, Enesco, and Stravinsky. An eminent conductor and dedicated composer, Pièrre wrote in almost all genres.

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Psalm Antiphon from A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition ©2007 Carl P. Daw, Jr., and Kevin R. Hackett. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

**Celebrant:** The Reverend Todd FitzGerald

**Preacher:** The Reverend Margie Baker

**Seminarian Intern:** Robin Brown

**Layreader:** Eti Akpan

**Psalterer:** John Nowacki

**The St. John's Adult Choir**

**Organist & Choirmaster:** Walden Moore

**Acolytes:** Danielle Branco, Jayden Donnelly, Mason Donnelly

**Ushers:** Matt Ciscel, Ellen Flynn, Erica Weinstock

**Livestream Operator:** Mary Honyotski

**Altar Guild:** Bill Lockery, Barbara Roos

**Healing Prayer Minister:** Tim Goetz

**Nursery Staff:** Nichole Segar, Lilah Lorenzo, Caroline Thaxton

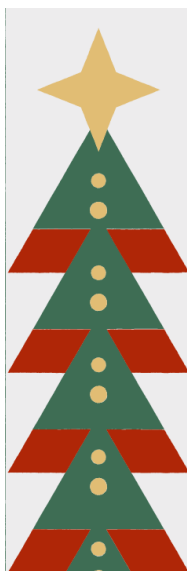
**Sunday School Teachers:** Robert Eikel, Enid Oberholtzer, Margie Baker, Donielle Joslyn, Jeff Verney

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Donald Gavin.

**Join us for coffee hour in Hubbard Hall after the service!**

This Sunday, food is provided by the Donnelly family.

Next Sunday, food will be provided by those with last names starting A through F.



## St. John's Christmas Festival

Saturday, December 7

Look for much more information to come. For now, we are collecting the following items. Please leave them in the labeled box outside the parish office:

- **Christmas decor items:** In any condition! Ornaments, tinsel, ribbon, tchotchkes, tableware, wreaths...anything you no longer use, we will take for upcycling! **Deadline for donations: October 6**
- **Chic Boutique items:** This popular festival tradition returns! Bring us your jewelry and accessories, such as scarves, handbags, neckties, and belts for resale at the festival. Unlike with the decor, condition matters...items in good condition only, please!

**Questions? Contact Matteo Donnelly at**  
[mdpsych123@gmail.com](mailto:mdpsych123@gmail.com)

**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
Brad Babbitt	Sue	Anita Winters	Bob Norton
Virginia Skeele	Whitney Lynch	Joyce Flynn	Joseph
Grant Loevenbruck	Tessa Trussell Wolf	Rachel Boccio	Sarah Carroll
John & Barbara Spannaus	The Yelland family	Joan Ackley	Greg Highland
Jennifer Blean	Harry Barber	Guy Russo	Rachel
Hale Walkoff	Doug Larson	Jon Nelson	Lucas
Rod Farrell	Jeff Lewis	G.F.	Amy Bittinger
Hillary Lord	Miranda	Ned	William Bittinger
Helen Rosen	Allison and Family	Roger	Mike
Nick Willke	Linda	Rich Lammlin	Rick
Wayne Gollenburg	Jacob Latranica	Daniel Zoltan	Richard Myers
Uncle Rich Alpin	Ginny Flinchbaugh	Jim & Kathlyn Schofield	Carol
Tracie O'Brien	Tom Tata	John Scott	Paul Thaxton
Naya	Timothy Foga	Savanna D.	Frank Higginbotham
Dan Minster	Bill Reardon		

**Those serving in the military:**

Alex Thaxton

**Those celebrating birthdays this week:**

Eleanor Wilcox  
Jennifer Evans  
Alex Thaxton  
Jenifer Hartt

**Those celebrating anniversaries this week:**

Buffy & John Ineson  
Margie & Jenn Baker

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for Christ Church, Stratford; Trinity, Tariffville; St. Peter's/Trinity, Thomaston; and for youth and youth ministries, J2A, Confirm Not Conform, and all other confirmation classes and other programs that challenge youth to grow in their faith and discipleship.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for the Church of Pakistan (United).

**EYC (youth group) tonight at 5 p.m.** We'll have our first Global Philanthropy Leaders (GPL) session of the program year tonight. GPL is a program that empowers youth to give microloans to small business owners in developing countries, to support them in caring for their families and communities. All middle- and high-school aged youth are welcome to attend for fun, fellowship, and dreaming about new ways to love and serve our neighbors (and also dinner!).

**The St. John's book club returns with both in-person and virtual options.** The book club will discuss three books this fall (one each in October, November, and December), with an option to meet in-person after a Sunday church service or in Zoom on a Thursday evening. **The first book, *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler, will be discussed in-person next Sunday, October 6 at noon in the Reception Room, and in Zoom on Thursday, October 10 at 7pm.** The December book discussion will be intergenerational, for both youth and adults. The church office has a limited number of copies of each book to give away on a first-come, first-served basis. See full details in the graphic on page 15.


**Sign up for a cottage meeting, held at various times and places from October 1 to October 13.** St. John's is holding a series of "cottage meetings" during the first two weeks of October in preparation for our upcoming capital campaign. Some meetings will be held in parishioners' homes while others are at church. All parishioners are invited to come discuss what you love about St. John's, and dream together about what God is calling this community to be and do. Each gathering will be about an hour and a half. Light refreshments will be served. Go to [sjparish.net/cottagemetings](http://sjparish.net/cottagemetings) to sign up for your preferred day and time. Attendance at each meeting is limited, so if your first choice is full, find another one that works for your schedule. If you need help with the online sign-up, call Ellen in the parish office (860-523-5201) and she will sign you up for your preferred time.

**Help us stock up for our neighbors in need.** We have two ministries for supporting neighbors in need who come to the church looking for help: **Blessing Bags** are small reusable tote bags given out by our clergy and staff and filled with necessities such as socks, winter accessories, t-shirts, toiletries, snacks, and water. The **Blessing Box** is a small self-service food pantry located in the Abraham's Welcome garden area on the Farmington Avenue side of the church property. We encourage parishioners to put nonperishable food (especially ready-to-eat items) directly into the Blessing Box as often as you can, but we also keep some food on hand in the office for days when the Blessing Box is empty and someone stops by looking for something to eat. As fall approaches, we'd like to stock up on items for these two ministries. We have an Amazon wish list, from which you can order and have items directly shipped to the church. Go to [sjparish.net/blessingbags](http://sjparish.net/blessingbags). Or you may purchase similar items at your preferred retailer and drop them at the church office any time. Thank you!

**Looking for an easy and rewarding volunteer role at St. John's? Try our flower ministry!** Each Sunday, we have two beautiful flower arrangements on the high altar. So that the flowers won't go to waste, we're looking for someone (or a few people!) to retrieve the flowers after each week's 10:30 service, divide the arrangements into smaller bouquets (which can be wrapped in florist foil or put in a spare vase), and give them to parishioners to take home. The flowers can go to those listed in the bulletin as having a birthday or anniversary, to a newcomer or friend, or dropped off to one of our members who is homebound. This is an easy job that helps spread joy and also ensure that we're not wasting resources. If you'd like to help, please contact Buffy Ineson, altar guild chairperson, at [buffyineson@gmail.com](mailto:buffyineson@gmail.com), or Ellen in the parish office.

**Another easy but important volunteer opportunity...** When we make sandwiches once a month for the Loaves & Fishes feeding ministry, we need a volunteer to take the sandwiches to Loaves & Fishes on the Monday or Tuesday after the sandwiches get made. Loaves & Fishes prefers drop-offs before 10:30am or after 1pm. If you have a flexible weekday schedule and could do this job once a month, contact Eleanor Barnes at [eleanor.barnes67@me.com](mailto:eleanor.barnes67@me.com).

**Pet blessing in honor of St. Francis, Sunday, October 6 at 5 p.m.** It's time for our annual tradition of honoring St. Francis of Assisi's love of animals with a pet blessing. Bring your pet to St. John's to be blessed by Father Todd next Sunday at 5 p.m. We will be outdoors, weather permitting. Please bring your pet on a leash or in a crate for the safety of all.



# ST. JOHN'S BOOK CLUB

The St. John's Book Club returns! Join other book lovers October-December to discuss a novel with theological flair. We read one book per month, and our December read is for youth and adults. We are offering in-person discussion on Sundays after church and zoom discussions on Thursday evenings.

## FALL 2024 NOVELS

**October *Parable of the Sower*, Octavia Butler**  
10/6 at 12pm in person (Reception Room), 10/10 at 7pm in zoom

**November *The Secret Chord*, Geraldine Brooks**  
11/3 at 12pm in person, 11/7 at 7pm in zoom

**December *The House in the Cerulean Sea*, TJ Klune**  
12/1 at 12:00pm in person, 12/5 at 7:00 in zoom

LOOK FOR THE ZOOM LINK IN OUR WEEKLY E-NEWS. NOT ON OUR EMAIL LIST? SIGN UP AT [SJPARISH.NET](http://SJPARISH.NET).

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

## St. Francis Day Pet Blessing

Sunday, October 6  
5p.m.  
at St. John's

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



# 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

Sundays at 8 a.m.: Spoken Holy Eucharist

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.: Choral Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.: Spoken Holy Eucharist

## STAFF

The Rev. Todd FitzGerald (todd@sjparish.net) .....	Rector
The Rev. Margie Baker (margie@sjparish.net).....	Associate Rector
The Rev. Walter McKenney.....	Deacon
Ellen Painter Dollar (ellen@sjparish.net) .....	Director of Operations & Communications
Dwight Latif (dwight@sjparish.net) .....	Sexton
Walden Moore (rwmoore56@gmail.com).....	Interim Director of Music
Peggy O'Toole (peggy@sjparish.net).....	Financial Administrator
Robin Brown .....	Seminarian Intern
Christa Rakich .....	Organ Artist-in-Residence
Ralph Valentine .....	Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus

## VESTRY

Eleanor Barnes.....	Warden
Stewart Murchie.....	Warden
Anne Harney and David McCary .....	Co-Treasurers

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

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

2024–26: Lauren Mascola, Linda Schatz, Brenda Zanta