

# 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 First Sunday of Advent*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

*December 1, 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)

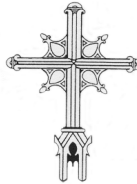


Scan to fill out online newcomer form.

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.

Cover art: The Visitation by He Qi



## ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY    Larghetto and Allegro

Georg Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 56, vv. 1–4    O come, O come, Emmanuel

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

*All stand and sing.*

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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

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

*Celebrant*    We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming. For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. A righteous Branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

*People*        **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

## THE KYRIE

*All sing.*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord,.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

*Setting: From Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937-2010)*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

## THE FIRST LESSON

*Jeremiah 33:14–16**All sit.*

**T**he days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALTER

*Psalm 25:1–9*

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



- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
**let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
**and teach me your paths.**
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
**for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.**
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
**for they are from everlasting.**
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
**remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
**therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
**and teaches his way to the lowly.**
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
**to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

*Antiphon*

## THE SECOND LESSON

*1 Thessalonians 3:9–13*

**H**ow can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## THE SEQUENCE HYMN 66    Come, thou long expected Jesus

STUTT GART

*All stand and sing.*

## THE GOSPEL

*Luke 21:25–36*

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

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

**J**esus said, “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

*Minister*    The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

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.*

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our maker and redeemer.

That God may usher in the kingdom with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish righteousness among the nations, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures, recognize him in the breaking of the bread, and serve him in everyone we meet, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick, and raise up all who have fallen, especially those on our parish prayer list, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, especially in the Holy Land, Ukraine, Sudan, and all places where people live with warfare, violence, chaos, and great need, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of God.

*Celebrant* Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost, so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **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 The Word was God

Rosephayne Powell (b. 1962)

Text: John 1:1–3

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
And the Word was God.  
The same was in the beginning with God.  
All things were made that have been made.  
Nothing was made, He has not made.  
All things were made by Him.



*Rosephayne Dunn Powell has been hailed as one of America's premier composers of choral music. She has a diverse and impressive catalogue of works published by some of the nation's leading publishers. Her compositions include sacred and secular works for mixed chorus, women's chorus, men's chorus, and children's voices. Her style of composition is characterized by heartfelt melodies, strong rhythmic emphasis, rich harmonies, often derived from African-American popular styles, and varied vocal textures, including counterpoint. Powell's works are popular throughout the world, particularly in Europe and Asia. She is in constant demand as a composer-in-residence, clinician, adjudicator, conductor, and performer.*

## 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 our thanks and praise.***The Celebrant continues.*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time, you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices as we say:

## 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.

Setting: From Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

*All remain standing or kneel.*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw the world to himself yet we were heedless for his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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:

Setting: From Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Celebrant* Take this bread, share this wine. In these Christ comes to us with love from God. The gifts of God for the people of God.

*Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at St. John's. To receive, please kneel or stand at the altar rail. You may choose to receive bread only, intinct (dip) your wafer in the wine, or drink from the cup.*

*If you would like a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.*

*If you have mobility limitations and would like a priest to bring Communion to you in your seat, please let an usher know.*

*If you would like to pray with our healing prayer volunteers, go to the baptismal font at the back of the church after receiving Communion.*

**THE COMMUNION ANTHEM** Zion hears the watchmen calling Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)  
arr. Benjamin P. Straley (b. 1986)

Zion hears the watchmen calling, the Faithful hark with joy enthralling.

They rise and haste to greet the Lord.

See, he comes, the Lord victorious, almighty, noble true, and glorious, in heaven supreme, on earth adored.

Come now, thou holy one, the Lord Jehovah's son!

Hosianna! We follow all the joyful call to join him in the banquet hall.



*The Rev. Benjamin Straley is rector of St. Stephen's Church in Providence, and is also a noted concert organist who performed here in 2020. He previously served as organist and associate director of music at Washington National Cathedral, and prior to his appointment, was organ scholar at Trinity Church, New Haven as well as director of music for the Episcopal Church at Yale. He completed his undergraduate studies with Marilyn Keiser at Indiana University, and entered the Yale Institute of Sacred Music in 2008. In 2010, he became one of the few Americans in the history of the Harlem Organ Festival to compete in its world-renowned improvisation contest. He holds master's degrees in both music and divinity from Yale, as well as a certificate in Anglican studies from Berkeley Divinity School.*

**THE COMMUNION HYMN 53** Once he came in blessing  
*All remain seated and sing.*

GOTTES SOHN IST KOMMEN

## 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 56, vv. 5–8 O come, O come, Emmanuel

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

*All stand and sing.*

## THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Siciliana and Giga

Georg Frideric Handel

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## THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

**Celebrant:** The Reverend Margie Baker

**Preacher:** The Reverend Todd FitzGerald

**Deacon:** The Reverend Walter McKenney

**Seminarian:** Robin Brown

**Layreader:** Matteo Donnelly

**Psalterer:** Michael Wells

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

**Organist & Choirmaster:** Walden Moore

**Flutist:** Betsy Chicares

**Acolytes:** Jx Eikel, Mason Donnelly, Luke Yelland

**Ushers:** Annabel Clapp, Molly Cooper, Dan Minster

**Livestream Operator:** Ray Giolitto

**Altar Guild:** Buffy Ineson, Barbara Roos

**Healing Prayer Minister:** Wes Winterbottom

**Nursery Staff:** Sheryl Simoni, Caroline Thaxton, Olivia Thaxton

**Sunday School Teachers:** Jenn Baker, Margie Baker, Todd FitzGerald

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

This Sunday, food is provided by those with last names starting A through F.

Next Sunday, food will be provided by those with last names G through L.

**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	Tom Tata	Jim & Kathlyn Schofield	Carol
Tracie O'Brien	Timothy Foga	John Scott	Paul Thaxton
Naya	Miriam Myers	Mindy	Frank Higginbotham
Bruce Adams	Shoemaker Family	Eric Zoltan	Todd
Dennisse Salazar	Ken & Ellie	Elizabeth Myers	Peter Stanton & family

**Those serving in the military:**

Alex Thaxton

**Those celebrating birthdays this week:**

Todd FitzGerald	Susan Thomas	Bobby Biondi
Rich Flinchbaugh	Betsy Chicares	Ann Hutchinson
Wesley Goetz	Lissie Brooks	Kenny Cortavarria
Claire O'Brien	Florie FitzGerald	Easton Swift

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam; Christ Church, Bethany; St. Paul's, Woodbury; and for postulants and candidates for Holy Orders, and the Commission on Ministry and its members.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

**Midweek contemplative Eucharist, every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the chancel.**

**Pipes Alive! featuring Walden Moore, TODAY at 12:30 p.m..** Our own Walden Moore, interim director of music, will play a half-hour organ recital at 12:30 this afternoon. Free admission with donations welcome.

**St. John's intergenerational book club meetings: In-person TODAY at noon (Reception Room), virtual on December 5 at 7 p.m. (Zoom).** This month's book club pick, *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by T.J. Klune, is appropriate for both youth and adults.

**Christmas pageant rehearsals start next Sunday during the education hour (9:30 a.m.).** If you are the parent, caregiver, or grandparent of a child or youth who would like to participate in the pageant (which will take place during the 10:30 service on Sunday, December 22), please make sure to fill out our online sign-up form ASAP at [sjparish.net/pageant](http://sjparish.net/pageant). Margie and Walden will be assigning roles in the coming week so we need to know who wants to participate and which roles they are most interested in.

**Stronger Families/Stronger Futures project to support families at Christmas: Donations due by next Sunday, December 8.** This annual project to help parents/caregivers in the Stronger Families/Stronger Futures project purchase gifts and food for their family Christmas celebrations is underway. The process is slightly different than the past few years, and there are several ways to participate. You may select a child's tag from our mini Christmas tree in Hubbard Hall, and commit to providing that child's family with a \$100 gift card and children's book by our deadline, OR you may donate money with which we will purchase gift cards (cash or check written to St. John's), OR you may donate a children's or YA book. See the graphic on page 18 for full details. **NOTE:** Please do not wrap the gift cards or books, or attach them together, and please leave only books (not gift cards) in the donation bin in Hubbard Hall, as we need to secure the gift cards in the office. Gift cards can be handed directly to a volunteer who is staffing the project table on Sunday mornings, or delivered to the office during the week.

**Help us prepare for another successful Christmas Festival.** The annual Christmas Festival fundraiser is coming up on Saturday, December 7. Please help out in one or more of the following ways:

- **Sign up to help at the festival on December 7.** We need volunteers to set-up and clean-up, serve as cashiers, and assist at the various sales areas. **Sign up at [sjparish.net/christmasfestivalhelp](http://sjparish.net/christmasfestivalhelp).**
- **Make soup to be sold at the festival.** A favorite festival tradition involves having church members make large batches of one of three signature soup recipes (turkey chili, clam chowder, or vegetarian smoky tomato). The soups are sold in frozen quarts, which make for handy meals for holiday company or busy December weeknights, and are also sold by the bowl in our Festival Café. If you would like to help out by making a few quarts, please contact Lindsey Carlisle at [smclbc@comcast.net](mailto:smclbc@comcast.net) for the recipes. We will have quart containers and ready-made labels available to pick up in the church kitchen by Monday, November 18. The church kitchen is available for larger batch cooking; please consult with the parish office to schedule a time. Please deliver soups to the church kitchen freezer by Thursday, December 5.
- **Wreath decorating night, Thursday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. in Hubbard Hall.** All parish adults are invited to help decorate fresh evergreen wreaths to be sold at the Christmas Festival. We provide the supplies (although we welcome volunteers to bring hot glue guns, gloves, and clippers/heavy shears if you have them). Bring a snack or beverage to share if you'd like.

**Confirmation class in January and February.** Youth in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend confirmation class with Todd FitzGerald at noon (after the 10:30 service) on 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, and 2/9, along with an extended (non-overnight) retreat on Friday evening, February 21 (6 to 9 p.m.) and Saturday, February 22 (9 a.m. to noon). Confirmation with the bishop will be at St. John's on **Sunday, February 23**. Contact Todd at [todd@sjparish.net](mailto:todd@sjparish.net) with questions or to sign up.

**A few notes on pledging and online pledge payments:**

- **If you haven't yet submitted a pledge for 2025,** you may do so in several ways: **Blank pledge cards and envelopes** are available at either entrance to the church, and can be mailed or placed in the offering plate. **You may pledge online** at [sjparish.net/pledge](http://sjparish.net/pledge) or via your online Realm account. The sooner you submit your 2025 pledge, the easier it will be for the vestry to pass a realistic budget before the end of the year.

- **If you pay your pledge via recurring online gifts set up in Realm**, please make sure to login to switch the target fund from the *2024 Annual Pledge Fund* to the *2025 Annual Pledge Fund* once your 2024 pledge is fully paid and you want your recurring gifts to be applied to 2025.

**Year-end giving deadline is December 26.** In order for your pledge payments and contributions to appear on your 2024 giving statement, they must be received in the parish office or online no later than December 26. This allows several days for contributions to be deposited and posted before the end of the year. Contributions received after that date may not appear on your 2024 statement, even if in payment of a 2024 pledge. Thank you!

**Women Together to begin a new book discussion on December 3.** 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 3:15 p.m. in St. John's Reception Room. On December 3, we will begin discussing *In the Bleak Midwinter through Advent and Christmas* by Rachel Mann (2019), which explores Advent and Christmas through the poetry of Christina Rossetti, whose work was made into favorite carols, including *In the bleak midwinter* and *Love came down at Christmas*. If you haven't read the book, you are welcome to come and join the discussion anyway. The books we choose are usually available at libraries and from Amazon and other booksellers. Women Together 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](mailto:kieffer2468@gmail.com) if you would like additional information.

# PIPES ALIVE!



## Walden Moore

**December 1,  
12:30pm**

**St. John's Episcopal Church, West Hartford**

**MUSIC AT THE RED DOOR** 

Events are also available livestreamed at [www.reddoormusic.org](http://www.reddoormusic.org)



This list includes pledges received as of Tuesday, November 26.  
The names of *new pledgers* are in italics.

Eti Akpan, June Aziz, Janet & Brad Babbitt, Mary & Bob Bainbridge, Audrey & Kyle Baker, Margie & Jenn Baker, Eleanor & Jack Barnes, Wendy & Richard Bartlett, Marian & David Beers, Mike Biondi & Ginny Kemp, Eloise Biscoe, Shirley Blean, Carlos Branco & Allison Tichy, Rachel Boccio, *Paula Bokros*, Lissie & Lynn Brooks, *Robin Brown*, Jo Anne Burgh, Kim & Chris Byrd, Keitha & Kevin Campo, Betsy & Greg Chicares, Alina & Matt Ciscel, Elijah Clapp & Annabel Trickett-Clapp, Kate Coley, Edith Connolly, Molly Cooper, *Ruth Crespi*, Steve Crocker & Rosa Guzzo, David Dangremond, Young Hee & Dave Derby, Pam Dimock, Martin Dodd, Jayden Donnelly, Mason Donnelly, Matteo & Marcos Donnelly, Susan Donaldson, Christine Doty, Linda Dunakin, Hope & Bill Eakins, Nancy Eaton, Bobby Eikel, Jx Eikel, Kate & Robert Eikel, Virginia Eikel, Karan & Geoff Emerick, Susan Fay & Craig Ahmer, Martha Fine, Amy & Todd FitzGerald, Ellen & Ben Flynn, Danielle Foint, Ginger & Colin Gillespie, Margaret & Mark Goad, Emma & Jerry Goetz, Tim Goetz, Anne & Craig Grant, *Kevin Graver & Donald Giustiniani*, Beth & Joel Grieco, David Grimaldi, Liana Guzman & Nicole Douillet, Ann Hanlon, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Anne Harney, Cisalee Harrell, Jane Harris, Sue Harrison, Kara & Matthew Hart, Anne & Randall Hayes, Patricia & Ronald Hensley, Jenn & Ryan Hill, Bob Hoffman, Mary & Ryan Honyotski, Frisha Hugessen, Ann Hutchinson, Tita & Douglas Hyland, Buffy & John Ineson, Richard Jacques, Dianne Jones, Donielle & Rick Joslyn, Iacovos Katsipis & Carla Abdo-Katsipis, Beth & John Kauczka, Martha Kayser, Mary Jo & Bert Keating, *Kelly & Bob Kennedy*, Sarah Kieffer, Jeffrey Kinney & Rebecca Bourret, Betty Knorr, Ann Krissing, Debbie & David Kvam, Cindy & Jim Lawler, Barbara Lennox, Wendy & Tom Lincoln, Bill Lockery, Lisa & Mike Mahoney, Liz & Andy Marchion, Bill McBride, Tina & David McCary, Patrick Miller, Leah & Stewart Murchie, Enid & Tom Oberholtzer, Julia & Jim O'Brien, Caleb Peck & Angela Allen-Peck, Nancy Pedersen, Agnes & Billy Peelle, Sandy & Dave Pond, Deb & Bill Reardon, Rai Reyes, Hal Rives & Marki Ware, Laura & John Roche, Barbara & Peter Roos, *Lynn & Peter Russell*, Jo-Ann Sadosky, Stacey & Kelsey Samuel Bannon, Susie & Mark Sarkisian, Judy Schaffer, Linda Schatz, Nancy & Michael Scheetz, Tema Silk, Nancy Skeele, Mary & Spencer Sloan, Kirk Smith, Carol & Charles Sonne, Dale & Christoph Stretz, John Swift & Lauren Mascola, Susan & Paul Thaxton, Bowie Thomas, Sera & Abraham Thomas, Margaret Thomas, Pat & Alex Vance, *David Vandermeulen & Mary Lynn Dell*, Pam & Jeff Verney, Lyn Walker & Tyler Smith, Anne & John Walsh, Janet Ward, *Tim Watt & Amity Gaige*, *Sara & Patrick Wigmore*, John Wilcox & Virginia Van Dyk, Taffy Wilcox, Jeanne & Dennis Winkleblack, Wes Winterbottom, *Nancy Wright*, *Matthew Yelland & Danielle Pieratti*, Brenda Zanta



# EYC THIS WEEK

It's a FRIENDSGIVING FEAST!

We will prepare a simple dinner,  
light the Advent wreath, and enjoy  
a junkfood potluck.

Bring a nonperishable item for the  
Blessing Box and your favorite  
snack (savory or sweet) to share.

Sunday, December 1, 5-7pm  
dinner provided



WREATH  
DECORATING  
NIGHT

DECEMBER 5

6:30 PM

HUBBARD HALL

**All adults welcome!**

**If you're able, please bring:  
hot glue gun, clippers,  
beverages/snacks to share.**

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR FAMILIES

St. John's will once again support Hartford Healthcare's Stronger Families/Stronger Futures program by helping participating families celebrate the holidays. There are three ways to participate:

**Choose a family's tag off our tabletop tree at coffee hour any Sunday from 11/3 to 12/1 (while the tags last), and return a \$100 gift card and a children's book for that family to the church.** The tag will include the number and ages of children, and their preferred retailer (Walmart, Target, etc.). Please return the gift card and book, with the tag, by **Sunday, December 8.** You may hand them to a volunteer staffing the coffee hour table or drop them at the church office by the deadline.

**OR**

**Donate any amount (cash or check written to St. John's), and we will purchase gift cards as needed for participating families.** You may give your donation to a volunteer staffing the coffee hour table, or put it in an envelope (clearly marked for this project) and put it in the offering plate or mail to the office. We apologize that we cannot accept credit card donations for this project.

**OR**

**Donate a new children's or YA book** by placing it in the marked bin outside the office door.

**DEADLINE: SUNDAY 12/8**

Questions? Contact Beth Kauczka, [bkauczka@gmail.com](mailto:bkauczka@gmail.com)



# CHILDRENS CORNER

at the **St. John's Christmas Festival**

New this year: Children and youth are welcome to engage in some Christmas crafts while parents and caregivers shop and enjoy goodies at the cafe. Kids can make candles, birdfeeders, and mini Christmas trees to share with family or give as a gift. Our crafting wonderland will be open from 10am-12pm (with a break during the caroling).

**DECEMBER 7**  
**10AM TO NOON**



## CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7  
10AM TO 2PM

### HOW TO HELP

- **Sign up to help** on the day of the festival:  
[sjparish.net/christmasfestivalhelp](http://sjparish.net/christmasfestivalhelp)
- **Make soup** to be sold in quarts and at the Festival Café. Email Lindsey Carlisle at [smclbc@comcast.net](mailto:smclbc@comcast.net)
- **Decorate wreaths** (adults only) on December 5 at 6:30pm

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

## VESTRY

Eleanor Barnes.....	<i>Warden</i>
Stewart Murchie.....	<i>Warden</i>
Anne Harney and David McCary .....	<i>Co-Treasurers</i>

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

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

2024–26: Lauren Mascola, Brenda Zanta