



St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net

Christmas Day

HOLY EUCHARIST

December 25, 2024

10:00 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. We're glad you're here!



Scan to fill out online newcomer form.

Cover image: Angel and Shepherds by He Qi



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE VOLUNTARY Noel: Quand le Sauveur Jesus Christ

Jean-François Dandrieu (1682–1738)

THE OPENING HYMN 96 Angels we have heard on high
All stand and sing.

GLORIA

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 - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Title: *Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis* Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Copyright © Church Publishing, Inc

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 62:6–12**All sit.*

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Reader The Word of the Lord.*People* **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

*Psalms 97**The people say the responses in bold.*

- 1 The Lord is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 **Clouds and darkness are round about him, ***
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 **His lightnings light up the world; ***
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 **The heavens declare his righteousness, ***
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 **Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, ***
because of your judgments, O Lord.
- 9 For you are the Lord,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.

- 10 **The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.**
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 **Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.**

THE EPISTLE

Titus 3:4–7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 89 It came upon the midnight clear

CAROL

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–20

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

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

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

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

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.

As we celebrate with joy the birth of Jesus, let us offer prayers to God, who gathers us into a holy family.

For Sean our presiding bishop, Jeff and Laura our bishops, our parish clergy, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all believers who put their trust in the incarnate Son of God, and for this community of St. John's, that we may serve one another and God as the body of Christ. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, for peace and justice, and for those who work to usher in God's kingdom. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who seek healing, connection, inspiration, and peace, that they may find what they seek in our Lord Jesus Christ and in his body, the Church. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for the dying. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who rest in Christ, and for all the departed. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant God of all families and peoples, accept the prayers we offer in this joyful season. As we welcome this mystery of your love, may we delight in our joy as children and heirs of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **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 MUSIC Improvisation on *Greensleeves*

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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so

that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of 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: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at St. John's.
 If you would like a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.*

THE COMMUNION HYMN 79 O little town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

All remain seated and sing.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

All stand.

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 CLOSING HYMN 100 Joy to the world!

ANTIOCH

All sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Toccata on *Antioch*

Craig Philips (b. 1961)

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THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Todd FitzGerald

Seminarian: Robin Brown

Layreader: Sarah Kieffer

Chalice Bearer: Sharon Henes

Organist: Ted Babbitt

Altar Guild: Kate Eikel

Weekly Offering Envelopes

If you requested weekly offering envelopes when you submitted your 2025 pledge, you may pick up your envelopes in Hubbard Hall. Please look for the envelopes with your name. If you did not request envelopes but would like them, please contact Ellen in the parish office. Envelopes that are not picked up by January 5 will be mailed (and picking them up in person saves us more than \$2 in postage!).

Christmas Flower Offerings

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

Dr. Thomas Abraham	Andrew Jacques
Emhart Aziz	Stanley, Betty & Sally Karwowski
Evelyn Aziz	Robert W. Knorr
George Aziz	William E. Knorr
Dave & Betty Aziz	Ann Koucky
Madeline & Albert Aziz	Elsa M. Lattey
Mr. & Mrs. Harry O. Bartlett	Erik F. Lattey
Mr. & Mrs. Harry R. Bartlett	Susan Lockery
Grace Best	Helen Lockery
Mildred Buttery	Robert Lockery
Carole Buttner	Dick Mahoney
Joan Carlisle	Terry & Fred Marchion
Dr. Charles H. Chambers	Diane de Harne Melvin
Patricia A. Chambers	Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Seymour G. Clark, Jr.	Bill Moore
Wendy Wright Collins	Frank & Susan Murray
Cyril & Mildred Connolly	Janet Myers
Deane Connolly	John Myers
Robert Connolly	Elinor Oberholtzer
Michael Connolly	Paul, Sarah, & Gretchen Oberholtzer
Mr. & Mrs. Robert K. Dimmitt	Mary Jane O'Rourke
Edward & Eleanor d'Este Mosehauer	Charles D. & Janet M. Peterson
John Paul & Helen H. Faude	Robert F. & Abbie V.S. Peterson
John Paul Faude, Jr.	George & Edith Phillips
Wilson H. Faude	John & Grace Potter
Daniel George	Andrya Ramer
Thomas George	Members of the Reardon & Woolley Family
James George	Tom Reichenbach
Hannah George	Robert & Sara Reiersen
Lazar George	Mary & Frank Reilly
Steven Goldstein	Francis P. Reilly
Ginny & Dick Gregory	David St. George
Charles R. Harris	Noel Sears
Donald J. Hayes	Major Leslie C. Smith, III
Robert Hemstreet	Hazel Sodergren
Elizabeth Hetherington	Oscar & Doris Sodergren
Noble & Sara Hetherington	Thomas R. Tight
Toni Hutchinson	George E. & Abbie B. Van Siclen
Bob & Marsha Jacobson	Guy Verney
Suzanne Jacques	Julie Verney
Renee Jacques	Jean Walters
Paul Jacques	George Weinstock
	M. Searle Wright

Midweek contemplative Eucharist, every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the chancel. There will be no midweek Eucharist on Christmas Day, but there will be a service on New Year's Day (January 1).

Limited office hours from December 24 through January 1. The parish office will be CLOSED from Tuesday, December 24 through Friday, December 27; open for limited hours only on December 23, 30, and 31; and closed on January 1. Please call before stopping by the office on days with limited hours, and wait to send non-urgent emails to the staff until after the new year. Thank you!

Confirmation class in January and February. Youth in 7th through 12th 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 with questions or to sign up.

Pipes Alive! on Sunday, January 5 at 12:30 p.m. The first Pipes Alive! of 2025 will feature Kari Miller, who is currently organist at Simsbury United Methodist Church. Free admission with donations accepted.

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

PIPES ALIVE!



Kari
Miller

January 5, 12:30pm

St. John's Episcopal Church, West Hartford

MUSIC AT THE RED DOOR 

Events are also available livestreamed at www.reddoormusic.org

TWELFTH NIGHT

Tree Burning

January 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for this annual tradition of closing out the Christmas season with the outdoor burning of Christmas trees (with fire safety measures in place!). The youth group will have hot chocolate and snacks for sale as a fundraiser for Dignity Grows, a local nonprofit that provides hygiene products for people in need.



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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, Brenda Zanta