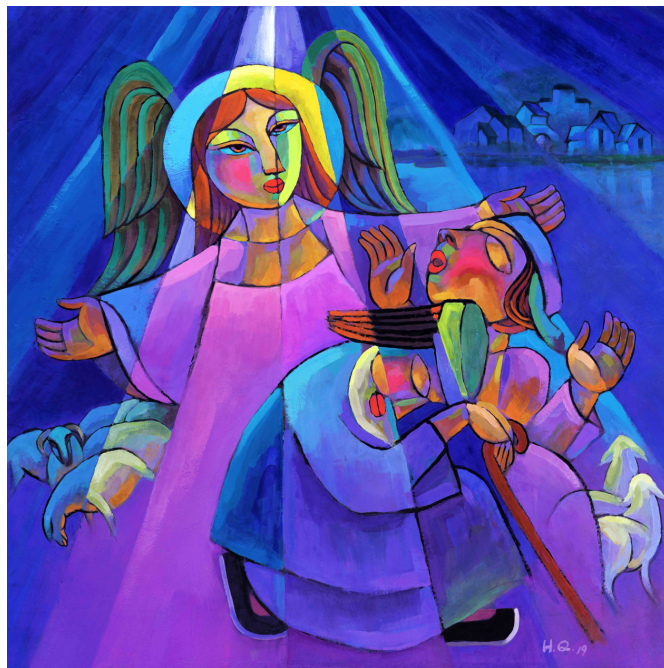


St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net



The First Sunday after Christmas

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

December 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

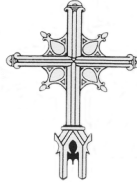


Scan to fill out online newcomer form.

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: Angel and Shepherds by He Qi



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Organ Symphony No. 3 in F-sharp minor Louis Vierne (1870–1937)
IV. Adagio

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 109 The First Nowell THE FIRST NOWELL
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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

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

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

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 61:10–62:3**All sit.*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

THE PSALTER

*Psalm 147:13–21**The people say the words in bold.*

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
 praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
 he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
 he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
 and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
 he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
 who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
 he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
 his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
 to them he has not revealed his judgments.
 Hallelujah!

THE SECOND LESSON

*Galatians 3:23–25; 4:4–7**All sit.*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 93 Angels from the realms of glory

REGENT SQUARE

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

*John 1:1–18**Minister* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

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

THE SERMON

Robin Brown

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, especially those on our parish prayer list, 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. **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 Recit de Tierce en Taille from Gloria Nicolas de Grigny (1672–1703)

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100TH

All stand and sing.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise him, all creatures here below;
 Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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. To receive, please kneel or stand at the altar rail. You may choose to receive bread only, intinct (dip) your wafer in the wine, or drink from the cup.

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

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

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

THE COMMUNION HYMN 82 Of the Father's love begotten
All sing.

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

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 105 God rest you merry, gentlemen
All stand and sing.

GOD REST YOU MERRY

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Toccata on *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Richard Elliot (b. 1957)

The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.

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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:** Robin Brown**Assisting Clergy:** The Reverend Margie Baker**Layreader:** Lauren Mascola**Organist:** Ted Babbitt**Acolytes:** Danielle Branco, Eden Baker, Jamie Baker**Ushers:** Annabel Clapp, Molly Cooper, Dan Minster, Susie Sarkisian, Mark Sarkisian**Livestream Operator:** Mary Honyotski**Altar Guild:** Barbara Roos, Brenda Zanta**Healing Prayer Minister:** Karen Licht**Nursery Staff:** Sheryl Simoni, Lilah Lorenzo, Livvy Lorenzo**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!).

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
Dennisse Salazar	Shoemaker Family	Eric Zoltan	Todd
Amy	Ken & Ellie	Elizabeth Myers	Peter Stanton & family
Cora	Elsa	David J. Beisler	Stephanie
John & Anne Walsh	Heidi		

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Virginia Eikel	Genella Evans	Abigail Thaxton
Bob Hoffman	Susan Clemow	Caroline Thaxton
Margaret Joslyn	Bruce Adams	Olivia Thaxton

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Lynn & Peter Russell
Young Hee & David Derby
Tim Goetz & Neha Pande

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Mark's, Bridgewater; Good Shepherd, Bristol; St. Paul's, Brookfield; Trinity, Brooklyn; and for soup kitchens, food pantries, and all ministries that feed those who go without.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Episcopal Church.

Midweek contemplative Eucharist, every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the chancel. There will be a service on New Year's Day (January 1).

Limited office hours from through January 1. The parish office is open for limited hours only on December 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.

ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

sjparish.net



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26
9 to 10:15 a.m.
in Hubbard Hall

*Sign up to bring food for a light continental breakfast at
sjparish.net/annualmeeting
Child care provided.*

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

WITH

THE RIGHT REVEREND JEFFREY MELLO
BISHOP DIOCESAN
EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

PLAN TO ATTEND THIS WONDERFUL EVENT IN THE LIFE OF
OUR PARISH, AS A NUMBER OF OUR YOUTH MEMBERS WILL
BE CONFIRMED BY THE BISHOP.

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 23 10:30 A.M.

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, Brenda Zanta