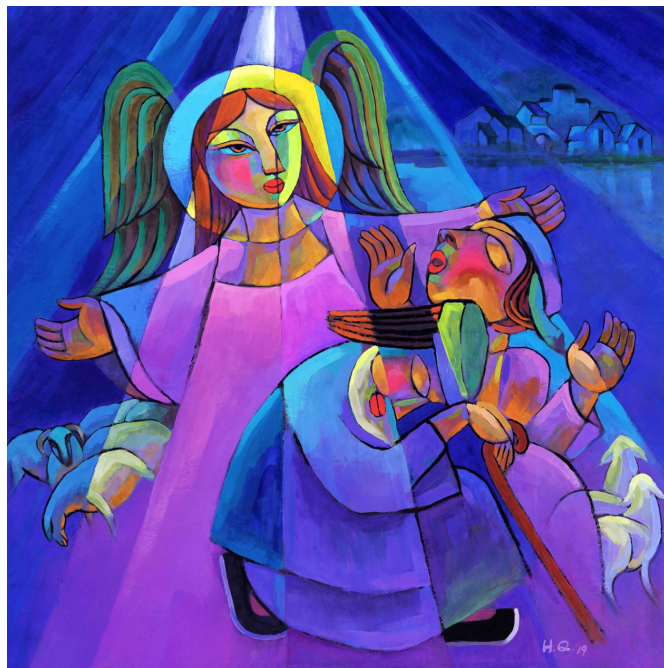


St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net



The Second Sunday after Christmas

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

January 5, 2025

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

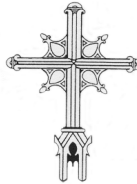


Scan to fill out online newcomer form.

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 In dulci jubilo

Marcel Dupre (1886–1971)

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 92 On this day earth shall ring
All stand and sing.

PERSONENT HODIE

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. O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

*Jeremiah 31:7–14**All sit.*

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalms 84:1–8

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

How dear to me is your dwell - ing, O LORD of hosts!

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 **The sparrow has found her a house**
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 **Happy are the people whose strength is in you! ***
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 **They will climb from height to height, ***
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 **Behold our defender, O God; ***
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

THE SECOND LESSON

*Ephesians 1:3–6, 15–19a**All sit.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 480 When Jesus left his father's throne

KINGSFOLD

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

*Luke 2:41–52**Minister* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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, especially in places of conflict including the Holy Land, Ukraine, and Sudan; 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 ANTHEM Here is the little door

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)
Text: Frances Chesterton (1869–1938)

Here is the little door
Lift up the latch, oh lift!
We need not wander more
But enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold
Gold that was never bought or sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;
Incense in clouds about His head;
All for the child that stirs not in His sleep
But holy slumber hold with ass and sheep

Bend low about His bed
For each He has a gift;
See how His eyes awake
Lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword
(Defend with it thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red

Myrrh for the honored happy dead;
 Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;
 Touched by such tiny hands
 And Oh such tiny feet.



Frances Alice Blogg Chesterton was an English author of verse, songs, and school drama. Her mother taught her and her sisters to think independently, having them attend London's first kindergarten. She attended St. Stephen's College for two years as a pupil teacher. In 1895, Chesterton began working as a secretary and administrator at the Parent's National Educational Union. Throughout her marriage to G. K. Chesterton, she encouraged his writing and worked as his manager, keeping his appointment diary and accounts, hiring his typists, and negotiating on his behalf with publishers.

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 ANTHEM Love came down at Christmas arr. David Evans (1874–1948)
Text may be found at Hymn 84

David Evans was a Welsh musician, academic and composer. He was a pupil of Joseph Parry, whom he succeeded in the music department at University College, Cardiff, where he was appointed a professor in 1908. Evans edited the revised edition of the Church of Scotland's Church Hymnary in 1927. In that publication, he combined an old Irish folk song with a versified English translation of an 8th-century Irish poem to produce the now widely known Christian hymn, Be Thou My Vision. One of his original hymn tunes, Lucerna Laudoniae, was used to set the words to For the Beauty of the Earth. Aside from hymns, Evans wrote anthems and service music as well as many orchestral and choral works.

THE COMMUNION HYMN 104 A stable lamp is lighted
All sing.

ANDUJAR

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 99 Go, tell it on the mountain

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

All stand and sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY In dulci jubilo (BWV 729)

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

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THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Todd FitzGerald

Deacon: The Reverend Walter McKenney

Layreader: Dave Derby

The St. John's Adult Choir

Organist and Choirmaster: Walden Moore

Acolytes: Dorian Ciscel, Bobby Eikel, Virginia Eikel

Ushers: Audrey Baker, Jo Anne Burgh, Stewart Murchie, Laura Roche, David Vandermeulen

Livestream Operator: Ray Giolitto

Altar Guild: Buffy Ineson, Jo-Ann Sadosky

Healing Prayer Minister: Enid Oberholtzer

Nursery Staff: Sheryl Simoni, Lilah Lorenzo, Livvy Lorenzo

Sunday School Teachers: Audrey Baker, Enid Oberholtzer, Donielle Joslyn, Jeff Verney

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 TODAY 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:

Julian Hartt
Linda Schatz
Lucy Adams
Lad Pfeifer

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Jenifer & Julian Hartt

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

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

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Church in Wales.

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

Pipes Alive! TODAY 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, TODAY at 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 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!

New Bible study series begins tomorrow night, Monday, January 6, at 7 p.m. in Zoom. Our Monday evening online Bible study will begin a study of the parables in Luke tomorrow evening. This series will go through March 5. All are welcome to attend one, several, or all sessions. No prep or homework required. Just bring yourself and your curiosity! Contact Margie at margie@sjparish.net to be added to the mailing list to receive an email each Monday with the Zoom link.

St. John's book club will meet online on the first Thursday in February, March, and April at 7 p.m. The winter/spring book club meetings will be online only, in Zoom. The book club will discuss *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan on February 6 at 7 p.m.; *My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok on March 6 at 7 p.m.; and *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle on April 3 at 7 p.m. The April meeting is intergenerational, for both youth and adults. We have several copies of each book available in the parish office on a first-come/first-served basis.

Vestry Nominees 2025

Below is the slate of nominees to be presented for election at the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025, at 9 a.m. Bios and photos are provided for first-time nominees for a particular position. Names of nominated convention delegates and alternates will be added by next week. If you would like more information about any of the nominees up for re-election whose bios are not included here, please contact Ellen in the parish office.

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

Eleanor Barnes (nominated for her second one-year term)

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

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

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



John Wilcox (nominated for his first one-year term) — John was baptized at St. Alban's Church in Simsbury and confirmed here at St. John's, serving as an acolyte during his middle school years. Having moved out of the area during high school, John returned to West Hartford and St. John's in 2010 with his wife Virginia Van Dyk and daughters Eleanor and Caroline. Since returning, John and Virginia have both been active members of the parish, with John previously serving on the vestry and as stewardship chair and currently serving as finance committee chair, and Virginia having served as warden (among other roles). Professionally, John has been in the insurance industry for the past 15 years and is currently head of corporate development for Everest Group. Prior to working in insurance, John was a partner with McKinsey & Co. in New York. While in New York, John and his family were members of St. Bartholomew's Church. In his free time, John enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, hiking, and playing tennis and golf.

Nominated for a two- or three-year term on the vestry

Kimberley Byrd (three-year term) — Kim and her family have been active members of St. John's for more than 30 years and live in West Hartford. Kim has served in a wide variety of roles, having previously served on the vestry and as chair of the stewardship, rector search, and outreach committees. She has also participated in the Education For Ministry (EFM) program, taught Sunday School, and been involved with various church activities. Currently she is a layreader and participates with our Loaves & Fishes ministry. Kim grew up as an Episcopalian attending many different Episcopal and Anglican churches as she moved with her family. She graduated from Bates College with a BA in Economics and has an MBA from the University of Connecticut. She had a 35-year career in the insurance industry, and was the co-founder of Tennant Risk Services, a specialty professional liability insurance broker with which she remained actively involved until her retirement in 2018. Kim is married to Chris Byrd, a former warden and vestry member, and is the mother of Ned and Kent, both of whom were baptized at St. John's and participated as acolytes and youth group members. In addition to her time at St. John's, Kim has also been actively involved in civic affairs in the Hartford area and in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. She is currently serving on the boards of the Larrabee Fund of Greater Hartford, The Boothbay Region Student Aid Fund, and the Boothbay Region Land Trust. She enjoys running, exercising, reading, and cooking. Kim looks forward to serving St. John's in her new capacity as a vestry member.



Matteo Donnelly (three-year term) — Matteo and his family have been members of St. John's Episcopal Church since 2019. Born and raised as Catholic on Long Island, NY, Matteo then moved to Florida, where he met his husband, Marcos. Marcos was born and raised Baptist, and their desire was to share a religious space that would meet both of their needs for a life in faith. They became Episcopalian in 2010 and joined St Gregory's Episcopal Church, which they loved. They were the first same-sex couple to be married in their parish. In 2012, they adopted their two children, Jayden and Mason. In 2016, they moved to CT and searched for their new church home. After visiting and

participating in seven parishes to find the right one with no success, they finally discovered St. John's and made it their new church home. Matteo is honored to be nominated for a vestry position. He serves as layreader and with the Altar Guild ministry. He is also chair of the Christmas Festival and of coffee hour ministry. Matteo volunteers and participates in other ministries and as a choir parent. Most recently, Matteo and Marcos hosted one of the church cottage meetings that encouraged thought-provoking ideas and great discussions around many needs within the church and the community the church serves. Matteo graduated from the University of Central Florida with a BS in psychology with studies in microbiology. He currently works as an area manager with Barnes and Noble. Matteo enjoys traveling, reading, crafting, entertaining, and most importantly, decorating his house for Christmas, including more than 22 Christmas trees.

Susan Fay (three-year term) — When Susan and her family first moved from Toronto to West Hartford in 2001, she sought out the Episcopal church with “the best youth group” and was pointed in the direction of St. John's. The EYC helped ease the transition for her three teens, and Susan enjoyed participating in the book club, choreographing the Christmas pageant, and serving as a layreader. When life took her to Chicago, she continued her career in dance and theatre while becoming involved in Grace Episcopal Church in the Loop. There Susan served on the vestry for several years, was a layreader, and participated in the women's group and the food ministry. She also served two terms on her condo board of directors. But the pull of the granddaughters proved too strong to resist, so Susan is once again in West Hartford and finds St. John's even more vibrant and welcoming! She is honored to be nominated and looks forward to serving.



Stacey Samuel Bannon (two-year term) — Stacey has been nominated to serve a two-year term to complete the unexpired vestry term of another parishioner who stepped down. Her bio and photo are forthcoming!

Jeff Verney (three-year term) — Jeff Verney, the Troubadour of Happiness, is the owner of Perpetual Happiness Tour LLC through which Jeff offers his songs, stories, and seminars, all with a common goal of bringing people happiness, positivity, gratitude, purpose, and hope. Prior to creating Perpetual Happiness Tour LLC, Jeff held various leadership positions in the insurance/healthcare business throughout his career. He most recently was the regional vice president of the Northeast Region of Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield National Accounts (ANA), leading a team that was responsible for ANA's largest 90 commercial group healthcare clients in the Northeast that comprised 1 million members. Before joining Anthem, Jeff spent 12 years holding various leadership roles in UnitedHealth Group's United Retiree Solutions, a division of UnitedHealthcare, that provided group Medicare benefit programs to employers. Jeff has also worked for CIGNA, where he held sales, client management, and technology leadership roles, as well as for WebMD, where he was part of the senior leadership team. Jeff currently serves on the board of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, where he was the chairman of the board from 2015 to 2022. He is also currently president of the Music at the Red Door board at St. John's, as well as a member of the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center board. Jeff has previously served as board chairman at Renbrook School, as well as warden at St. John's. He was also previously on the board of the Northern Connecticut chapter of the American Heart Association, co-chairing the annual Northern Connecticut HeartWalk in 2011 and 2012. Jeff grew up in Simsbury, where he graduated from Simsbury High School. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Williams College and an MBA in finance from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. After living in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and San Francisco for 15 years, Jeff returned to West Simsbury in 1994, where he and his wife Pam have lived ever since. During this time Jeff has served on the Town of Simsbury Insurance Committee, coached Little League, and assisted with Cub Scouts. Jeff and Pam have a son Sam, who lives in Brooklyn.



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.

Monday Night Bible Study

PARABLES IN LUKE

The good Samaritan; the prodigal son; the rich man and Lazarus: many of Jesus' most-beloved parables are found only in Luke's gospel. How might these parables reflect a specific theology shared by Luke's community? What might these parables teach us about following Jesus today?

Join us Monday nights in the season after Epiphany as we explore the parables in Luke.



**Mondays at 7pm in zoom
January 6-March 5**

Questions? Email margie@sjparish.net

ST. JOHN'S BOOK CLUB

Join us monthly to discuss a novel with theological flair! We read one book per month, and our April read is for youth and adults. First Thursday of the month in zoom.

SPRING 2025 NOVELS

February | *Small Things Like These* | Claire Keegan
February 6 at 7pm

March | *My Name is Asher Lev* | Chaim Potek
March 6 at 7pm

April | *A Wrinkle in Time* | Madeleine L'Engle
April 3 at 7pm

Look for the zoom link in our weekly e-news. Not on our email list? Sign up at sjparish.net.



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

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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