

St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net



The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

September 7, 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.



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY The Tree of Peace Judith Weir (b. 1954)

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 412 Earth and all stars EARTH AND ALL STARS
All stand and sing.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

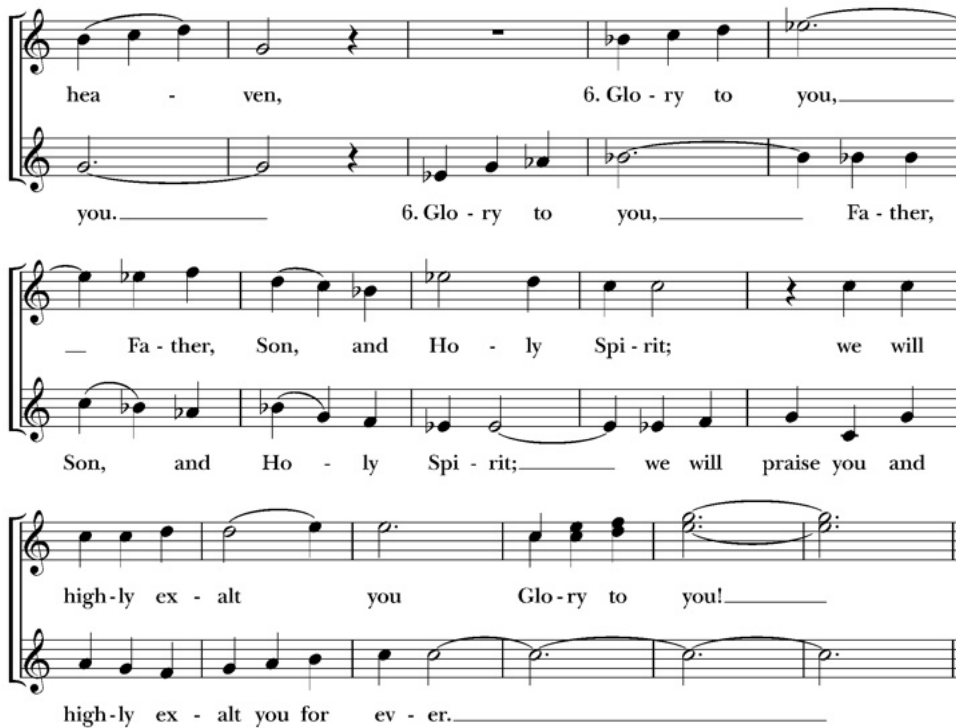
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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

THE SONG OF PRAISE

John Rutter (b. 1945)

1. Glo - ry to you, Lord
 God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of praise;
 glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you
 for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; we will
 praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.
 3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your
 tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to
 you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -
 ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and
 high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.
Descant
 5. Glo - ry to you, be -
 hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of
 depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to



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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 18:1–11

All sit.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 139:1–5, 12–17

Chanted by the choir. The people sing the antiphon before and after the psalm.



- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; *
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; *
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours. **Antiphon**

THE SECOND LESSON

Philemon 1–21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good

that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 675 Take up your cross

BOURBON

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 14:25–33

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

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

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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.

Trusting in God's love for the whole world, let us lift up in prayer the needs and burdens of all God's people, saying *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the Church: especially for Sean, our presiding bishop; Jeff and Laura, our bishops; our parish clergy; and all of God's people, that we may be faithful to the call to follow in the path of Christ. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For this parish family, that we who are fed at the Lord's table may be strong in doing good for Christ. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those who work for reconciliation, justice, and peace in Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Sudan, and all places scarred by conflict, that God will grant them wisdom, reason, and understanding to seek the common good. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For protection of the earth, that God will guide us in being good stewards of creation, so that all people may benefit from the earth's resources. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who are recovering from extreme heat, floods, fires, and storms, that God will ease their suffering, give them hope, and strengthen all who work to assist them. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who are persecuted, brutalized, or excluded because of who they are, and for those committed to fostering human dignity and compassion, that God will nurture their spirits and equip them for this necessary work. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all students and teachers as the new school year begins, and for the poor, the unemployed, and those in need of our prayers, especially those on our parish prayer list, that they may be strengthened by God's presence. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all the departed, remembering especially Whitney Lynch, that they may be welcomed as beloved children of God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant God of mercy, hear our prayers and turn our hearts to your Son Jesus, that rejoicing in the love we know from you, we may be strengthened to serve you through the power of the Holy Spirit working in us now and forever. **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 Weave for us a garment

Kola Owolabi (b. 1977)

Text: Traditional Tewa prayer, tr. Herbert Joseph Spinden (1879–1967)

Weave for us a garment of brightness
 that we may walk fittingly where birds sing;
 that we may walk fittingly where grass is green.
 May the warp be the white light of morning.
 May the weft be the red light of evening.
 May the fringes be the falling rain.
 May be the border be the standing rainbow.
 O our mother the earth; O our father the sky,
 Weave for us a garment of brightness.



Today's anthem is a setting of a Native American prayer that gives thanks for creation using textile imagery. The composer, Kola Owolabi, wrote it when he was a student at McGill University. He is currently professor of organ at the University of Notre Dame.

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100TH

All stand and sing.

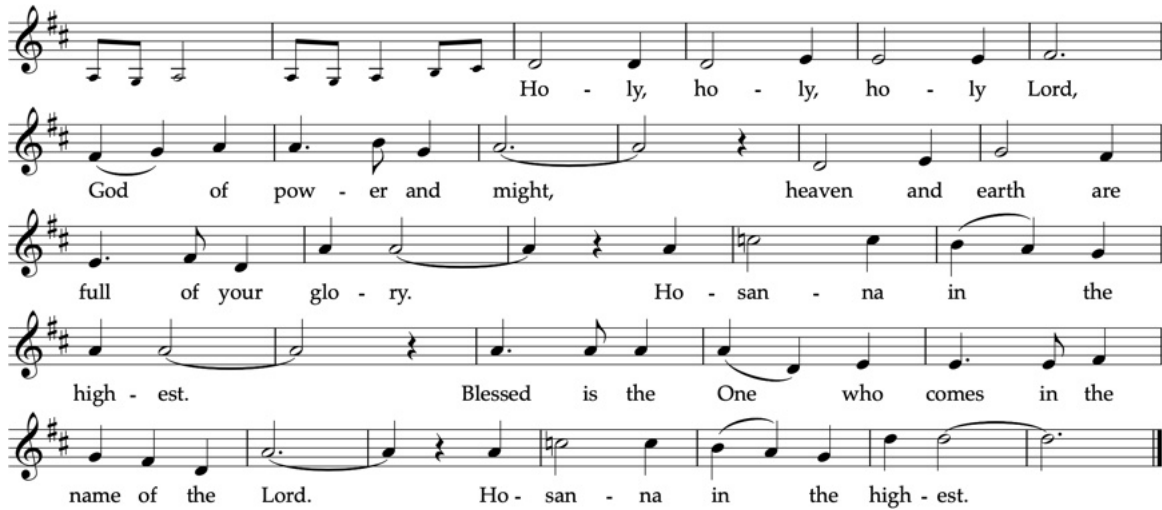
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise him, all creatures here below;
 Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow - er and might, heaven and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Blessed is the One who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Festival Eucharist, Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

All remain standing or kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 FRACTION ANTHEM

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

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 word: grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. Come God's people, come receive Christ's heavenly food.

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

If you would like a blessing instead of receiving Communion, 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 You know me

Kristina Arakelyan (b. 1994)

Text: Psalm 139

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me,
you know when I sit and when I rise;
you have searched me and you know me,
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You are familiar with all my ways, Lord,
 you know me completely,
 where can I go from your Spirit,
 where can I flee from your presence.
 If I go up to the heavens,
 if I make my bed in the depths,
 you are there,
 if I rise on the wings of the dawn,
 if I settle on the far side of the sea,
 even there your hand will guide me,
 your right hand will hold me fast.
 Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,
 even the darkness will shine like the day
 for darkness is as light to you.
 Even the darkness will not be dark to you
 the night will shine like the day.

THE COMMUNION HYMN 704 O thou who camest from above

HEREFORD

All remain seated and sing.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

All stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant gives the blessing and the people respond, Amen.

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 347 Go forth for God

LITTON

All stand and sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Sun Dance

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

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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THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**Celebrant:** The Reverend Margie Baker**Preacher:** The Reverend Todd FitzGerald**Seminarian:** Katherine Leary**Lector & Chalice Bearer:** Dave Derby**Intercessor & Chalice Bearer:** Lauren Mascola**Acolytes:** Dorian Ciscel, Bobby Eikel, Brielle Worrell**The St. John's Choir School & Adult Choir****Organist:** Nick Capozzoli**Organ Scholar:** Elijah Morris**Ushers:** Matt Ciscel, Geoff Emerick, Virginia Van Dyk, Wes Winterbottom**Livestream Operator:** Margaret Blume**Altar Guild:** Matteo Donnelly, Kate Eikel**Healing Prayer Minister:** Enid Oberholtzer**Sunday School Teachers:** Robert Eikel, Enid Oberholtzer, Margie Baker, Katie Reardon,
Matt Ciscel, Leah Lorenzo, Angela Allen-Peck, Buffy Ineson**Nursery Staff:** Nichole Segar, Lilah Lorenzo

Music notes: We mark a new program year with new service music. The Sanctus and Agnus Dei were written by Craig Phillips, a prolific composer living in Beverly Hills. Contemporary and uplifting, this music will become more familiar to you over the coming weeks. All of today's choral and organ selections are written by living composers: Bob Chilcott, Judith Weir, and Kristina Arakelyan are all active in the United Kingdom, and their works are testaments to the renewal of fresh, high-quality liturgical music.

**Join us in Hubbard Hall after the service for coffee hour,
and in the Education Wing for our final open house.**

This week, coffee hour food is provided by those with last names starting A through F.
Next week, food will be provided by those with last names starting G through L.

Now accepting memorial flower names/donations for 2025-2026

Most Sundays during the program year (September – June), St. John's adorns our high altar with flowers as a reminder of God's beauty and bounty, and a symbol of our praise and worship. We invite you to remember or honor a loved one by contributing to the Altar Flower Fund for the 2025–2026 program year. The name(s) of those you wish to honor will be listed in the Sunday bulletin on your specified date.

To honor or remember someone you love with a flower memorial in 2025–2026, please do one of the following:

- **Go to sjparish.net/flowers** to fill out an online Google form (please read the instructions carefully!), and send in your donation separately, OR
- **Pick up a paper altar flower form at either entrance to the church**, complete it, and return it via mail or the offering plate with your donation.

The suggested donation is \$50 for each Sunday or holiday on which you would like to honor a loved one, although any amount is appreciated. You may donate by check (written to St. John's Church with "Flowers" in the memo line) or online at sjparish.net/give-to-st-johns (choose "Non-pledge Gifts" and put "Flowers" in the memo).

In your prayers this week, please pray for:

Peace in our world, those serving our country in the armed services, and 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	Joyce Flynn	Wendy
Virginia Skeele	Sue	Rachel Boccio	Bob Norton
Grant Loevenbruck	Tessa Trussell Wolf	Joan Ackley	Joseph
John & Barbara Spannaus	Harry Barber	Guy Russo	Sarah Carroll
Jennifer Blean	Doug Larson	Jon Nelson	Greg Highland
Hale Walkoff	Jeff Lewis	Ned	Rachel
Rod Farrell	Miranda	Roger	Lucas
Hillary Lord	Allison and Family	Daniel Zoltan	Amy Bittinger
Helen Rosen	Linda	Jim & Kathlyn Schofield	William Bittinger
Nick Willke	Jacob Latranica	John Scott	Mike
Wayne Gollenburg	Tom Tata	Eric Zoltan	Rick
Uncle Rich Alpin	Timothy Foga	Elizabeth Myers	Richard Myers
Tracie O'Brien	Shoemaker Family	Rob Roy	Carol
Naya	Elsa	Meghan	Paul Thaxton
Amy	Heidi	Gaylord	Frank Higginbotham
Cora	Alondra	Bonnie Evans	Peter Stanton & family
Beth	Andrew Worrell	Barbara	Stephanie
Katie	Deborah Seid	Dennis	Ann
Anne	Sam Wiley	John Murray	Chris
Martha Babbitt	Gracie	Spencer Rothman	Alberto Guzman
Linda	Jackie Harding		

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

George Hicks	Benjamin Clapp	Carol Davis
Julia O'Brien	Shannon Lynch	Mary Lynn Dell
Florencia Longo	Susie Sarkisian	Cabot Rosen
Tim Watt	Dave Derby	
Alexander Grieco	Matteo Donnelly	

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Katy Hart & Bill Uricchio
Susan Murphy & Paul Thaxton

Those who have died:

Whitney Lynch, *daughter of the late Nina Rosselli del Turco*

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Trinity, Southport; Grace Church, Stafford Springs; Iglesia Betania, Stamford; and for those involved in the ministry of Christian formation in parishes, including church school and youth group directors, teachers, and mentors; and adult education leaders.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

One more opportunity TODAY to learn more about our Christian education ministry for children and renovation plans for the Education Wing! All summer, we've been hosting occasional open houses of our Education Wing, so that parishioners can learn more about St. John's children's programming and how proposed renovations will enhance this vibrant and growing ministry. Our final open house is today during coffee hour, after the 10:30 service. We especially encourage our capital campaign volunteers to attend before convening for your scheduled training and lunch.

Weekly Wednesday evening Eucharist resumes on September 10 at 5:30 p.m. Most Wednesdays throughout the program year, there is a short service of spoken Holy Eucharist in the chancel (front of the church).

Potluck gathering for worship volunteers, Friday, September 19 at 6 p.m. at the FitzGerald home. We're always grateful for the dozens of volunteers who contribute to our worship services, but are especially thankful now, as we look ahead to a full and exciting new program year. All ushers, layreaders, altar guild members, livestreamers, healing prayer ministers, and acolytes are invited to a casual potluck gathering at the rector's home on Friday evening, September 19. Full details are in the graphic on page 19.

New handicapped parking signs installed on church grounds. Over the summer, our House Committee and sexton created three new handicapped spaces with special signage indicating that they are reserved for people with handicapped parking placards *on Sunday mornings and for other worship services only*. One additional space was added at each of the following locations: the back ramped entrance, the front driveway, and the parking lot facing Farmington Avenue. At times when no worship services are happening, anyone may use these spaces.

Help us stock up for our neighbors in need. We have two ministries for supporting neighbors in need who come to the church looking for help: **Blessing Bags** are small reusable tote bags given out by our clergy and staff and filled with necessities such as socks, winter accessories, t-shirts, toiletries, snacks, and water. The **Blessing Box** is a small self-service food pantry located in the Abraham's Welcome garden area on the Farmington Avenue side of the church property. As fall approaches, we'd like to stock up on items for these two ministries. We have an Amazon wish list, from which you can order and have items directly shipped to the church. Go to sjparish.net/blessingbags. Or you may purchase items at your preferred retailer and drop them at the church office any time. Note that we have a greater use for *full-size* toiletries (especially shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste) vs. trial size. Please put food donations directly into the Blessing Box. Thank you!

Coffee hour resumes today after the 10:30 service! Last September, parishioner Matteo Donnelly initiated a new coffee hour process that worked very well. We ask parishioners to bring a sweet or savory snack (homemade or store-bought) to share at coffee hour one Sunday a month, based on the first letter of your last name. If you won't be here on "your" Sunday, there is no need to drop off or send in food — just look for another month when the schedule works better for you! The schedule is as follows:

- Last name A through F: First Sunday of the month
- G through L: Second Sunday of the month
- M through R: Third Sunday of the month
- S through Z: Fourth Sunday of the month
- The Donnelly family will cover any fifth Sundays (but let them know if you'd like to help!).

Contact Matteo at mdpsych123@gmail.com with questions.

Monday evening online Bible study resumes tomorrow evening, September 8, at 7 p.m. in Zoom.

Because of the Reverend Margie Baker's upcoming sabbatical (more on that below), the Monday Bible study will look a little different this fall. Instead of exploring particular stories or themes, each week's study will cover the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. As always, there is no preparation or homework required, and all are welcome to attend one, several, or all sessions. The Zoom link is included in each week's Thursday e-newsletter.

Margie Baker will be on sabbatical from Monday, September 22, through Monday, December 22, 2025.

Clergy in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) are granted a three-month sabbatical for every five years of continuous ministry. On her sabbatical this fall, our associate rector Margie (who has actually been here for six years!) will do some traveling with family, while also enjoying more time to read, play, exercise, rest, and connect with her

loved ones. Thanks to our dedicated lay volunteers, priest associates, and staff, we have detailed plans in place to cover Margie's duties, from preaching and pastoral care to managing our Sunday School, youth group, and Christmas pageant.

Women Together book discussion group resumes on September 9 at 2 p.m. Women Together gathers weekly during the program year to discuss books with spiritual/theological themes, pray together, and support one another. The group includes women from St. John's as well as other churches in the area, and new members are always welcome! They meet on Tuesdays from 2 to 3:15 p.m. in the St. John's Reception Room. For more information, contact Sarah Kieffer at kieffer2468@gmail.com.

First Christmas Festival planning meeting, Sunday, September 21 after the 10:30 service. Join us to plan for the reimagined annual Christmas Festival fundraiser, under the leadership of Matteo Donnelly. One major change this year: The festival will take place the weekend before Thanksgiving instead of the first Saturday in December, and will include a Friday evening preview on November 21, the main festival from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. on November 22, and a final opportunity for parishioners to purchase festival goods on November 23 after the 10:30 service. Whether you're a Christmas Festival veteran or have never attended, we welcome your ideas and energy for this year's event! Contact Matteo at mdpsych123@gmail.com with questions.

WELCOME ELIJAH AND KATHERINE TO ST. JOHN'S!

Joining us today are two new members of the St. John's team who will be with us through the 2025–2026 program year. Both are here to share their gifts with this parish, while also benefiting from “on the job” learning as they prepare for a career in church ministry.



As our 2025–2026 organ scholar, **Elijah Morris** will assist with Wednesday choir rehearsals and Sunday services by accompanying hymns and anthems, playing voluntaries, and helping with the choirs. Elijah is a sophomore at Trinity College, studying pipe organ with Professor Christopher Houlihan for a bachelor of arts, and is also a humanities major. Originally from Massachusetts, he has lived in Newtown, Connecticut, for the past 13 years. Elijah plans to pursue organ and church music further after graduation. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, reading, playing other instruments, mountain biking, and cars. He is grateful for the wonderful opportunity given to him by St. John's, and is excited to serve God through the worship in this

historic church!

Katherine Leary will serve as our seminarian intern for 2025–2026. She will be at St. John's on Sundays to assist with worship, and will also help lead the youth group and participate in a variety of parish committees and programs. Katherine is a second year master of divinity student at Yale Divinity School and Berkeley Divinity School. She is originally from West Virginia. After attending Wellesley College, she worked for two years as the ministry intern at St. John's Episcopal Church in Northampton, Massachusetts. She is a postulant for ordination in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Outside of seminary and church life, Katherine enjoys outdoor walks, reading, and knitting.



EYC THIS WEEK

Silly Olympics! We're starting the year off with fellowship and games (plus dinner and compline). Bring a friend, and wear clothes that can get a little messy. Meet on the lawn.

5-7pm, dinner provided

ADULT EDUCATION
at St. John's **FALL 2025**

SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Celebration of Ministry w/ light breakfast 14 Intro to capital campaign phases & goals 21 The Episcopal Church 101 28 Presentation by our community partner schools
OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Spiritual direction with the Rev. Nancy Wright 12 Intergenerational lesson on All Saints 19 Deep Roots, New Growth: Capital campaign update 26 Instructed Eucharist
NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Centering prayer with the Rev. Nancy Wright 9 "We the People" photo project with Ginny Kemp 16 Commitment Sunday: Fall pledge campaign update 23 Faith@Work #1: Speaker TBA 30 Advent: What are we waiting for?
DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Advent: How are we to wait? 14 Faith@Work #2: Speaker TBA 21 The Art of Faith: Incarnation

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30 AM IN HUBBARD HALL
 Schedule subject to change. See each Thursday's e-news for updates.

Monday Night Bible Study

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

Mondays at 7pm in zoom beginning 9/8

This fall, Monday Night Bible Study will look a little different: each week we will focus on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel reading. We will reflect on how God might be speaking to us, connections to what's going on in the world, and the Good News of the passage.

As always, there is no preparation, and there are no one-size-fits-all answers. Come wonder with us!

The zoom link is available in our weekly e-news.
Sign up at sjparish.net

CONTEMPLATIVE HOLY EUCHARIST

Simple, spoken Eucharist with
space for silence and prayer.

Wednesdays at 5:30 in the nave

St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Ave, West Hartford CT



Potluck Party

FOR WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Who: The volunteers who make worship happen every week! Ushers, layreaders, acolytes*, livestreamers, healing prayer ministers, altar guild. Family members are also welcome.

When: Friday, September 19 at 6 p.m.

Where: The FitzGerald's home (46 Ironwood Dr., West Hartford)

Why: To say "thank you" and celebrate all that you do to support St. John's worship!

PLEASE RSVP AND SIGN UP TO BRING SOMETHING AT
SJPARISH.NET/VOLUNTEERPOTLUCK

*We ask that acolytes age 10 and under attend with a parent or other adult



CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL PLANNING MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE

We're excited about a reimagined Christmas Festival to raise money for St. John's ministries while we celebrate together! Whether this is your 1st or 21st festival, we welcome your ideas and energy. There are volunteer roles of many types and sizes! Contact Matteo Donnelly with questions at mdpsych123@gmail.com or 860-406-0936

Festival preview:
Friday evening, November 21

Festival part 1:
Saturday, November 22, 10am to 1pm

Festival part 2:
Sunday, November 23 after 10:30 worship

Save the dates for this year's festival!

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
Katherine Leary	Seminarian Intern
Ellen Painter Dollar (ellen@sjparish.net)	Director of Operations & Communications
Dwight Latif (dwight@sjparish.net)	Sexton
Nick Capozzoli (nick@sjparish.net).....	Director of Music
Peggy O'Toole (peggy@sjparish.net).....	Financial Administrator
Elijah Morris.....	Organ Scholar
Christa Rakich	Organ Artist-in-Residence*
Ralph Valentine	Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus*
The Rev. Rebecca Bourret	Priest Associate*
The Rev. Mary Lynn Dell.....	Priest Associate*
The Rev. Joseph Pace	Priest Associate*
The Rev. Nancy Wright.....	Priest Associate*

**These positions are non-stipendiary.*

VESTRY

Eleanor Barnes.....	Warden
Stewart Murchie	Warden
Tim Goetz and John Wilcox.....	Treasurers

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

2024–26: Lauren Mascola, Stacey Samuel Bannon, Brenda Zanta

2025–27: Kim Byrd, Matteo Donnelly, Susan Fay, Jeff Verney