

# St. John's Episcopal Church

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

[www.sjparish.net](http://www.sjparish.net)



## *The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

FESTAL EUCHARIST

*December 24, 2025*

*10:00 p.m.*

## Welcome!

It is our custom to be silent before the service, so as you take some time to pray, please turn off all electronic devices. All you need to participate in the service is found in this bulletin and in the blue hymnals in each pew.

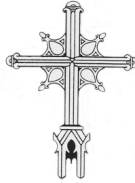
If you are new to St. John's, or have been attending a while but the parish office doesn't yet have your information, please fill out our online newcomer form by scanning the QR code or going to [sjparish.net/newcomer](http://sjparish.net/newcomer)



Scan to fill out online newcomer form.

Our ushers are here to create a welcoming and safe space for worship; please let them know if you have questions, need assistance, or become aware of a health or safety concern. They have hearing assist devices available for those who need them. We're glad you're here!

Cover art: Madonna and Child by Parker Fitzgerald



## THE PRELUDE

*The St. John's Adult Choir, string quartet, and organ*

Concerto Grosso, Op. 6 No. 8, Per la notte di Natale  
I. Vivace, Grave, Allegro

Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

There is no rose

Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

Text: Anonymous, 15th century

There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu;  
Alleluia.

The angels sungen the shepherds to:  
*Gloria in excelsis deo:* (Glory to God in the highest)  
*Gaudeamus.* (Let us rejoice)

For in this rose contained was  
Heaven and earth in little space;  
*Res miranda.* (Thing of wonder)

Leave we all this worldly mirth,  
And follow we this joyful birth;  
*Transeamus.* (Let us follow)

By that rose we may well see  
There be one God in persons three,  
*Pares forma.* (Equal in form)

Concerto Grosso, Op. 6 No. 8, Per la notte di Natale  
II. Adagio, Allegro, Adagio

Arcangelo Corelli

Nativity Carol

Text and music by John Rutter (b. 1945)

Born in a stable so bare,  
Born so long ago;  
Born 'neath light of star  
He who loved us so.

Wise men from distant far land,  
Shepherds from starry hills  
Worship this babe so rare,  
Hearts with his warmth he fills.

Cradled by mother so fair,  
Tender her lullaby;  
Over her son so dear  
Angel hosts fill the sky.

Far away silent he lay,  
Born today, your homage pay,  
For Christ is born for aye,  
Born on Christmas Day.

Concerto Grosso, Op. 6 No. 8, Per la notte di Natale  
V. Largo, Pastorale

Arcangelo Corelli

*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*  
**FESTAL EUCHARIST**

THE OPENING HYMN 83 O come, all ye faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*All stand and sing.*

arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 \*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
 \*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
 born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
 Word of the Father,  
 now in flesh appearing;

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

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

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

*People* **Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

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

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

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

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray. O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

## THE FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 9:2–7*

*All sit.*

**T**he people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALTER

*Psalms 96*

*The people are invited to chant the verses in bold.*

Robert Knox Kennedy  
(b. 1945)



- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 **Declare his glory among the nations \***  
**and his wonders among all peoples.**
- 4 **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \***  
**he is more to be feared than all gods.**

- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 **Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \***  
**ascribe to the Lord honor and power.**
- 8 **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \***  
**bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 **Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;**  
**let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \***  
**let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**
- 12 **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy**  
**before the Lord when he comes, \***  
**when he comes to judge the earth.**
- 13 **He will judge the world with righteousness \***  
**and the peoples with his truth.**

## THE EPISTLE

*Titus 2:11-14*

**F**or the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE SEQUENCE HYMN 94 While shepherds watched their flocks by night

WINCHESTER OLD

*All stand and sing.*

*Descant*

2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;  
6 "All glo - ry be to God on high and on the earth be peace;

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground,  
2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou-bled mind;  
3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is born of Da - vid's line  
4 "The heaven - ly Babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played,  
5 Thus spake the ser - aph, and forth-with ap-peared a shin - ing throug

2 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind."  
6 good will hence-forth from heaven to men be - gin and nev - er cease."

1 the an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
2 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.  
3 the Sa - vior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:  
4 all mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."  
5 of an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high  
and on the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heayen to men  
begin and never cease."

Words: Nahum Tate (1625-1715)

Music: Winchester Old, melody from *The Whole Book of Psalmes*, 1592; harm. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1922; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in

bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

## THE SERMON

Margie Baker

*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.*

In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, Holy God, hear our prayer.

God, on this holy night, your son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, there was no room for your son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home, those who live in poverty, and those who depend on others' generosity for safety and care. Holy God **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress, especially victims of violence, all who live with illness or addiction, and those who care for them. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to those who grieve and all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, the angels sang, "Peace to God's people on earth." Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in our communities, our nation, and all the world. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to share the good news of Christ's redemption and love. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, strangers visited the Holy Family and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and families, those whom we love, and all who go to new places seeking peace and welcome. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all who have died in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God. **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* Holy God, receive the prayers we offer in fellowship with the angels and shepherds who worshipped at the manger, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*All stand.**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 Before the marvel of this night

Carl Schalk (b. 1929)

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda

Before the marvel of this night, adoring fold your wings and bow,  
 then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.  
 Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease.  
 Sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.  
 Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.  
 Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss.  
 Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,  
 now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.  
 Into one song compress the love that rules the universe above.  
 Sing love, sing God is love!

## THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>*All stand and sing.*

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

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*All stand.**Celebrant* The Lord be with you.*People* **And also with you.***Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.*People* **We lift them to the Lord.***Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*People* **It is right to give 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 power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na



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

*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

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

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

## 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 O holy night Adolphe Adam (1803–1856), arr. John E. West (1863–1929)  
Text: Placide Cappeau (1808–1877), tr. John Sullivan Dwight (1813–1893)

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.  
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;  
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from Orient land,  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our friend;

He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger!  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King! your King! before him bend!

## THE COMMUNION HYMN 115 What child is this

GREENSLEEVES

*All remain seated and sing.*

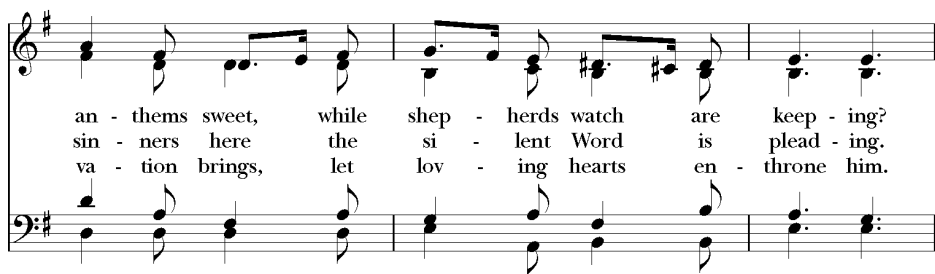
*Unison or harmony*



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,



Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

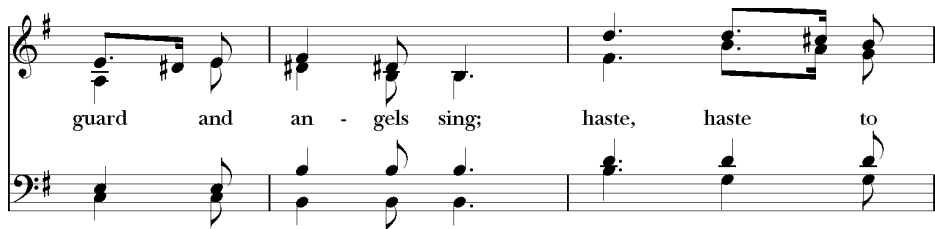


an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

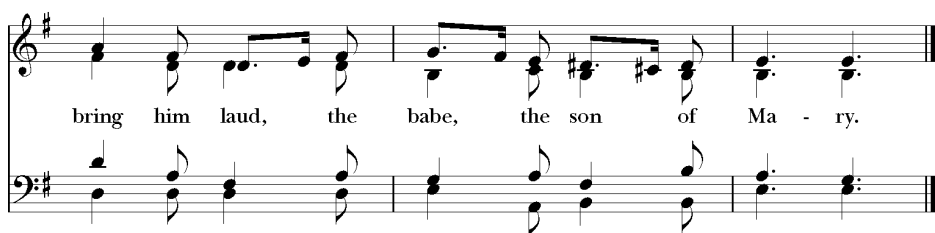
*Refrain*



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds



guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to



bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871

## 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 POSTCOMMUNION HYMN 111 Silent night

STILLE NACHT

*All stand and sing. The clergy and acolyte will come around to light candles on the aisles; please pass the flame until all candles are lit.*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 hea - ven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Music: Stille Nacht, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

## THE BLESSING

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

## THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 87 Hark! the herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN

*All sing.*

arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

## THE DISMISSAL

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

## THE VOLUNTARY

**THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY****Celebrant:** The Reverend Todd FitzGerald**Preacher:** The Reverend Margie Baker**Layreader:** Jo Anne Burgh**The St. John's Adult Choir****Choirmaster:** Walden Moore**Organist:** Elijah Morris**String Quartet:** Lu Sun, *1st violin*; Sarah Washburn, *2nd violin*;  
Arthur Masi, *viola*; Kathy Schiano, *cello***Acolyte:** Dorian Ciscel**Ushers:** Matt Ciscel, Don Polk**Healing Prayers:** Wes Winterbottom**Altar Guild:** John Dustin, Buffy Ineson

*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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**Weekly Offering Envelopes**

If you currently use numbered weekly offering envelopes to pay your annual pledge, or if you requested envelopes on your 2026 pledge card, please pick them up in Hubbard Hall between now and January 4. They are labeled, so please make sure to only take the ones with your name on them. Envelopes not picked up by January 4 will be mailed. Numbered envelopes are only provided on request. If you did not request envelopes but would like some, please email Ellen in the parish office at [ellen@sjparish.net](mailto:ellen@sjparish.net). Please do not use old offering envelopes from prior years, as this complicates our accounting processes!

Christmas at  
St. John's  
Christmas Eve

4pm Choral Eucharist (3:45 musical prelude)  
10pm Choral Eucharist (9:30 musical prelude)

Christmas Day  
10am Holy Eucharist with hymns



St. John's Episcopal Church  
679 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford CT 06119  
[sjparish.net](http://sjparish.net)

**Christmas Flower Offerings**

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

Margaret & R. Marshall Barnes	Patti Legge
Mr. & Mrs. Harry O. Bartlett	Members of the Lockery, Marchion, Myers,
Mr. & Mrs. Harry R. Bartlett	Masse & Szwez families
Mary Lou & Ed Bates	Walter & Cora Comstock Lotz
Grace Best	Bob & Josephine Magnan
Joseph Bourret	Jim Manise
Mildren Buttrey	Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Miller
Carol Byrd	Edney Minor
Elaine Byrd	Bill Moore
Mary Byrd	Lewis P. Nelson, III
Charles H. Chambers	Samuel P. Newbury
Patricia A. Chambers	Norn Oberholtzer
Mr. & Mrs. Seymour G. Clark Jr.	Sarah, Paul, & Gretchen Oberholtzer
Wendy Wright Collins	Nancy Pedersen
Cyril & Mildred Connolly	Carl & Phyllis Peterson
Deane Connolly	Charles D. & Janet M. Peterson
Robert Connolly	Robert F. & Abbie V.S. Peterson
Catherine R. Daly	George & Edith Phillips
William M. Daly	John & Grace Potter
Mabelle & Arthur Delano	Jamie, John, & Johnny Prutt
Edward & Eleanor d'Este Mosehauer	Andrya Ramer
Margaret E. Dimmitt	Members of the Reardon & Woolley families
Robert K. Dimmitt	Robert & Sara Reiersen
Alice & Louis Dittus	Frank & Mary Reilly
John & Nancy Dustin	Francis P. Reilly
John Paul & Helen H. Faude	Joan Renz
John Paul Faude, Jr.	Margaret Rehm Rothschild
Wilson Hinsdale Faude	David St. George
Members of the Fiegel family	Noel Sears
Donald Gavin	Doris & Oscar Sodergren
Steven Goldstein	Oscar & Hazel Sodergren
Richard Harrington Gregory, Jr.	Charles R. Sonne
Virginia Pfeil Gregory	Sabin Chase Streeter
Charles R. Harris	Dorothy J. Vance
Donald J. Hayes	Herbert A. Vance
Eleanor Winzler Hayes	Wendy F. Vance
Elizabeth Hetherington	George E. & Abbie B. Van Siclen
Noble & Sara Hetherington	Guy Verney
Suzanne & Renée Jacques	Julie Verney
Bob & Marsha Jacobson	Evelyn & Ernest Wait
Jack & Beverly Kinney	Jean Walters
William E. Knorr	Florence & Harold Ward
Robert W. Knorr	William D. Ward
Ann Koucky	George Weinstock
Elsa M. Lattey	M. Searle Wright
Erik F. Lattey	Alice & Richard Young
Kent Lawrence	Margaret & Ernest Young

# PIPES ALIVE!



**Philip Tummescheit**

**January 4, 12:30pm**

St. John's Episcopal Church, West Hartford

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



**MUSIC AT THE  
RED DOOR**

TWELFTH NIGHT

## Tree Burning

*January 4 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.

**Midweek contemplative Eucharist, every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the chancel.** There will be no midweek Eucharist on New Year's Eve; services will resume on January 7.

**Parish office hours during Christmas and New Year weeks.** The parish office will be open for limited hours only on Monday and Tuesday, December 29 and 30. Please call before stopping by on those days. Otherwise, the parish office will be closed through January 2, reopening with regular office hours on Monday, January 5.

**Pipes Alive! on Sunday, January 4 at 12:30 p.m.** The first Pipes Alive! of 2026 will feature Philip Tummescheit, a local organ student who studied with St. John's former director of music, Scott Lamlein, and now studies with Christopher Houlihan (Trinity College organist). Free admission with donations accepted.

**Twelfth Night tree burning and EYC fundraiser, Sunday, January 4, 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!

**Reminders about pledges and year-end giving.** *Deep Roots, New Life* campaign packets, which include blank pledge cards for both the 2026 annual campaign and the capital campaign, are available at both entrances to the church, or you may pledge online at [sjparish.net/pledge](http://sjparish.net/pledge). If you have an outstanding balance on your 2025 pledge, please send in those payments as well. For your December gifts and pledge payments to appear on your 2025 year-end giving statement, they must be received in the parish office by **Friday, December 26**. Contributions received after that date may not be deposited and recorded until after the new year, in which case they will appear on your 2026 year-end giving statement, even if in payment of a 2025 pledge. Thank you!

## St. John's Monday Night Bible Study

# JAMES

Mondays at 7pm in zoom  
January 5-February 9

**Margie is back from sabbatical! During the season after Epiphany, we will read the letter of James, believed to be written by James, the brother of Jesus. Join us as we read, wonder, and discern together.**

If you have any questions, or would like to be added to the Bible Study email list, contact [margie@sjparish.net](mailto:margie@sjparish.net)

# 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