



St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net

Christmas Day

HOLY EUCHARIST

December 25, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Welcome!

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

If you are new to St. John's, or have been attending a while but the parish office doesn't yet have your information, please fill out our online newcomer form by scanning the QR code or going to sjparish.net/newcomer. We're glad you're here!



Scan to fill out online newcomer form.

Cover image: Christmas Star by Mark Jennings



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE VOLUNTARY Improvisation on *St. Louis*

THE OPENING HYMN 83 O come, all ye faithful
All stand and sing.

ADESTE FIDELES

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

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

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

People **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

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

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 52:7–10**All sit.*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

*Psalm 98**The people say the responses in bold.*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 **With his right hand and his holy arm ***
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, ***
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 **Sing to the Lord with the harp, ***
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 **Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, ***
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 **In righteousness shall he judge the world ***
and the peoples with equity.

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1–4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's

very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 79 O little town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1–14

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All **And also with you.**

THE WELCOME

All sit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

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

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

All stand.

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

THE BLESSING

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

THE CLOSING HYMN 100 Joy to the world!

All sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Improvisation on *Antioch*

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 and Preacher: The Reverend Margie Baker

Layreader: Sharon Henes

Organist: Walden Moore

Ushers: Robert Eikel, Don Polk

Altar Guild: Bill Lockery

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. Please do not use old offering envelopes from prior years, as this complicates our accounting processes!

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

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 8 a.m.: Spoken Holy Eucharist

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.: Choral Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.: Spoken Holy Eucharist

STAFF

The Rev. Todd FitzGerald (todd@sjparish.net).....	Rector
The Rev. Margie Baker (margie@sjparish.net)	Associate Rector
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