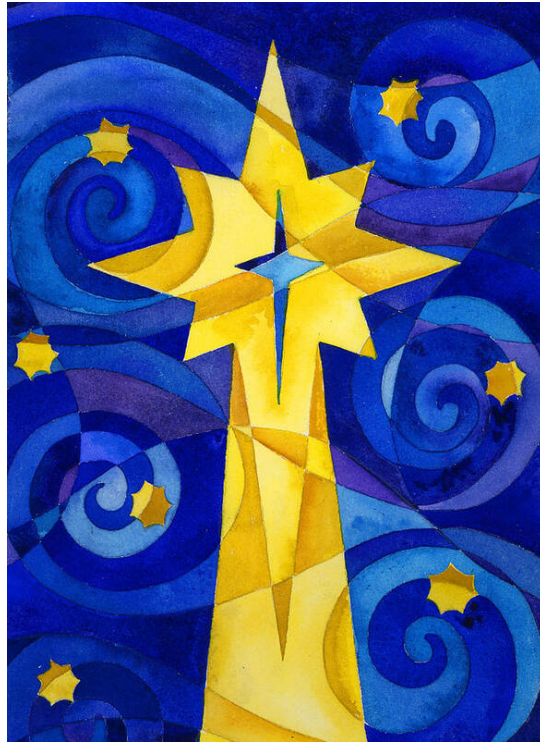


# St. John's Episcopal Church

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

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



*The First Sunday after Christmas*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

*December 28, 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](http://sjparish.net/newcomer)

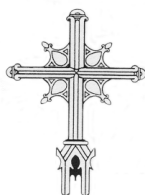


Scan to fill out online newcomer form.

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!

Children are always welcome to be in church with their families. We encourage you to sit up front, as children will be more engaged if they can see and hear what's going on. Children are welcome here just as they are; please don't feel you must leave every time your little one makes a sound! We have children's bulletins, books, and other quiet activities available in the narthex (the entrance with the red doors) for children's use during the service. Our professionally staffed nursery located in the Education Wing is open on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; parents/caregivers are welcome to drop off children in the nursery for part or all of the service. The Education Wing and nursery also have changing tables and seating that parents/caregivers may use as needed.

Cover art: Christmas Star by Mark Jennings



## ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Prelude on *Divinum mysterium* T. Frederick H. Candlyn (1892–1964)

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 107 Good Christian friends, rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO  
*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 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 - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Title: Cantic 20, *Gloria to God: Gloria in excelsis*

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

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

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

## THE WORD OF GOD

## THE FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 61:10–62:3**All sit.*

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

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALTER

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

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

## THE SECOND LESSON

*Galatians 3:23–25; 4:47*

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

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## THE SEQUENCE HYMN 82    Of the Father’s love begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*All stand and sing.*

## THE GOSPEL

*John 1:1–18*

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

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

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

*Minister*    The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

Todd FitzGerald

*All sit.*

## THE NICENE CREED

*All stand.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father.  
 Through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven:  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
 and was made man.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again  
 in accordance with the Scriptures;  
 he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
 He has spoken through the Prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The people say the words in bold.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## THE PEACE

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

*All* **And also with you.**

## THE WELCOME

*All sit.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE 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.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time, you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices as we sing:

## THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)*

*All remain standing or kneel.*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw the world to himself yet we were heedless for his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*All*           **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
    on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
    as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
    and the power,  
    and the glory  
    for ever and ever. Amen.**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People*       **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Celebrant* Take this bread, share this wine. In these Christ comes to us with love from God. The gifts of God for the people of God.

*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 POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*All stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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

## THE BLESSING

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

## THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 99 Go tell it on the mountain

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*All stand and sing.*

## THE DISMISSAL

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

## THE VOLUNTARY In Dulci Jubilo (BWV 729)

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

*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**Lector & Chalice Bearer:** Dave Derby**Intercessor & Chalice Bearer:** Jo Anne Burgh**Acolytes:** Mason Donnelly, Jayden Donnelly, Brielle Worrell**Organist:** Walden Moore**Ushers:** Matt Ciscel, Ellen Flynn**Livestream Operator:** Matteo Donnelly**Altar Guild:** Matteo Donnelly, Jo-Ann Sadosky**Healing Prayer Minister:** David Grimaldi**Nursery Staff:** Nichole Segar, Lilah Lorenzo, Livvy Lorenzo**Join us in Hubbard Hall after the service for coffee hour.**

This week, coffee hour food is provided by those with last names starting S through Z.

Next week, food will be provided by those with last names starting A through F.

**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!

**New Monday night Bible study series begins on January 5 at 7 p.m. (in Zoom).** Margie Baker is back from sabbatical and ready to return to leading Monday night online Bible study! A new series on the letter of James will begin on January 5 at 7 p.m. No preparation, no homework, and you may attend one, several, or all sessions. Contact Margie at [margie@sjparish.net](mailto:margie@sjparish.net) with questions or to be added to the Bible study email list.

**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!

**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	Jon Nelson	Sarah Carroll
Jennifer Blean	Doug Larson	Ned	Greg Highland
Hale Walkoff	Miranda	Roger	Rachel
Rod Farrell	Allison and Family	Daniel Zoltan	Lucas
Hillary Lord	Linda	Jim & Kathlyn Schofield	Amy Bittinger
Helen Rosen	Tom Tata	John Scott	Mike
Nick Willke	Timothy Foga	Eric Zoltan	Rick
Tracie O'Brien	Shoemaker Family	Elizabeth Myers	Richard Myers
Naya	Elsa	Rob Roy	Carol
Amy	Heidi	Meghan	Paul Thaxton
Cora	Alondra	Bonnie Evans	Frank Higginbotham
Beth	Andrew Worrell	Barbara	Stephanie
Katie	Sam Wiley	Dennis	Ann
Anne	Gracie	John Murray	Chris
Martha Babbitt	Jackie Harding	Spencer Rothman	Alberto Guzman
Linda	Cynthia Wannace	Rosow Family	Kathy & Pete Beynor
Jamie Blean	Lisa Sheehan	Stacy Wagner	Sara Enright
Emily Brielle Clark	Ken Potter	Meg	Bob Norton
Brendan	Will S.		

**Those serving in the military:**

Alex Thaxton

**Those celebrating birthdays this week:**

Eleanor Borghard	Genella Evans
Virginia Eikel	Susan Clemow
Bob Hoffman	William Bainbridge
Margaret Joslyn	Bruce Adams

**Those celebrating anniversaries this week:**

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

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; and for the children of the world and all ECCT ministries for children at risk.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for the Anglican Church of Burundi.

# 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