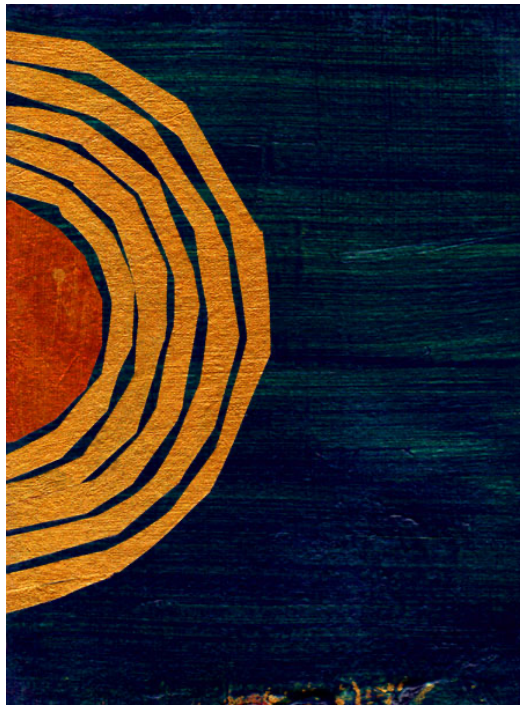


St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net



The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

January 18, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Welcome!

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

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



Scan to fill out online newcomer form.

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

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

Cover art: An Ancient Light by Jan Richardson



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern Dieterich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 497 How bright appears the Morning Star WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET
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, *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. Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 49:1–7**All sit.*

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

THE PSALTER

*Psalm 40:1–12**Chanted by the choir. The people sing the antiphon before and after the psalm.*

Hap - py are they who put their trust in the Lord.

- 1 I waited patiently upon the Lord; *
he stooped to me and heard my cry.
- 2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; *
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.
- 3 He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God; *
many shall see, and stand in awe,
and put their trust in the Lord.
- 4 Happy are they who trust in the Lord! *
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.
- 5 Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God!
how great your wonders and your plans for us! *
there is none who can be compared with you.
- 6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! *
but they are more than I can count.

- 7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure *
(you have given me ears to hear you);
- 8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, *
and so I said, "Behold, I come.
- 9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: *
'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep in my heart.'"
- 10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; *
behold, I did not restrain my lips;
and that, O Lord, you know.
- 11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; *
I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.
- 12 You are the Lord;
do not withhold your compassion from me; *
let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever. **Antiphon**

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 550 Jesus calls us o'er the tumult

RESTORATION

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

John 1:29–42

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

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

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I

myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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.

Let us worship the Savior with joy and make our prayers to God.

The magi came from the east to worship your Son: Grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of worship and a readiness to seek and follow you always. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh: Accept the offering of our hearts and minds as we strive to faithfully follow Jesus in the year ahead. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ: Inspire our leaders to work for an abundance of peace, justice, and compassion, and strengthen all peacemakers, especially in places overwhelmed by violence and conflict. May we be inspired by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, who worked to dismantle injustice and combat bigotry through nonviolence. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death: Look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless, all immigrants and refugees, and those without a safe place to call home. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son shared the life of his home and family in Nazareth: Protect in your love our families and neighbors, and comfort all who are struggling, especially those on our parish prayer list. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus reigns with you in eternal life: Welcome those who have died into your realm of everlasting love and peace. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 Arise and shine, Jerusalem

Leo Nestor (1948–2019)

Text: Isaiah 60:1–4,17

Arise and shine, Jerusalem!
 Thy light is come:
 and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
 For behold, though darkness cover the abyss,
 and a great mist its people
 the Lord shall rise upon thee,
 and his glory shall be seen among you.
 And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light.

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.**

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 COMMUNION ANTHEM I believe this is Jesus

African-American spiritual
arr. Undine Smith Moore (1904–1989)

I believe this is Jesus;
Come and see, oh, come and see.
The light of God shines in his face,
He offers all his pard'ning grace;
Come and see, oh, come and see.
Yes, yes, yes Lord!
Oh, I believe this is Jesus;
Come and see, come and see.



Undine Eliza Anna Smith Moore, the “dean of Black women composers,” was an American composer and professor of music. Moore was originally trained as a classical pianist, but developed a compositional output of mostly vocal music—her preferred genre. Much of her work was inspired by Black spirituals and folk music. Undine Smith Moore was a renowned teacher, and once stated that she experienced “teaching itself as an art.”

THE COMMUNION HYMN Guide my feet Lord

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

All remain seated and sing.

1. Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.
 2. Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.
 3. Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.
 Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.
 Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I
 Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I
 Stand by me Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I

don't want to run this race in vain.
 don't want to run this race in vain.
 don't want to run this race in vain.

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 599 Lift every voice and sing

All stand and sing.

LIFT EVERY VOICE

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY When I lay my burden down

Iain Farrington (b. 1977)

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THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**Celebrant:** The Reverend Todd FitzGerald**Preacher:** The Reverend Margie Baker**Seminarian:** Katherine Leary**Lector & Chalice Bearer:** Jo Anne Burgh**Intercessor & Chalice Bearer:** Katherine Leary**Acolytes:** Jamie Baker, Eden Baker, Malcolm Latif, Zeke Latif**The St. John's Adult Choir****Organist & Choirmaster:** Nick Capozzoli**Organ Scholar:** Elijah Morris**Ushers:** Enid Oberholtzer, Caleb Peck, Don Polk (greeter), Laura Roche**Livestream Operator:** Matteo Donnelly**Altar Guild:** John Dustin, Jo-Ann Sadosky**Healing Prayer Minister:** Sarah Kieffer**Sunday School Teachers:** Enid Oberholtzer, Jenn Baker, Margie Baker, Donielle Joslyn**Nursery Staff:** Sheryl Simoni, Caroline Thaxton, Olivia Thaxton**Join us in Hubbard Hall after the service for coffee hour.**

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

Next week, food will be provided by those with last names starting S through Z.

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	Stephanie
Beth	Andrew Worrell	Barbara	Ann
Katie	Sam Wiley	Dennis	Chris
Anne	Gracie	John Murray	Alberto Guzman
Martha Babbitt	Jackie Harding	Spencer Rothman	Kathy & Pete Beynor
Linda	Cynthia Wannace	Rosow Family	Sara Enright
Jamie Blean	Lisa Sheehan	Stacy Wagner	Bob Norton
Emily Brielle Clark	Ken Potter	Meg	Jeff Hilliard
Brendan	Will S.	Tom Lauterbach	

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Sophie Hart	Donald Giustiniani	Isabel Grant
Lauren Mascola	Aidan Wrubleski	Luis Lorenzo
Eloise Rosen	Dan Minster	Mariah Brennan
James Reardon	Paige Whittemore	

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Gabriel's, East Berlin; St. Stephen's, East Haddam; All Saint's, East Hartford; and for parish volunteers and parish historians, and the Ecumenical Ministry Network.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Province de L'Église Anglicane Du Congo.

Midweek contemplative Eucharist, every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the chancel. All are welcome to attend this brief weekly service including scripture readings, prayer, silence, and communion.

Upcoming Events


More information in each week's Thursday e-news and in the graphics in this bulletin.

- **New World Trio chamber music concert** – TODAY at 2 p.m.
- **St. John's Annual Meeting** – Sunday, January 25 from 9 to 10:15 a.m.
- **"Perpetual Happiness Tour" event** – **NEW DATE** Friday, January 30 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Pipes Alive! featuring Anna Pan** – Sunday, February 1 at 12:30 p.m.
- **Church Tomorrow? author talk and panel discussion with the Reverend Canon Stephanie Spellers** – Monday, February 2, 6 p.m.
- **Choral Evensong featuring the St. John's Adult Choir with the choir of St. James's Episcopal Church (West Hartford)** – Sunday, February 15, 5 p.m.
- **Episcopal/St. John's 101 class** – Sundays from February 22 through March 29, after the 10:30 service


Help feed our kids and choir! An important feature of our youth group (EYC) and Choir School programs is that we provide dinner – on Sunday evenings for EYC, and Wednesday evenings for the Choir School along with Adult Choir members. While families with children in these programs often provide the meal, we love having other parishioners help out! Meals can be simple – take-out, taco bar, pasta with sauce, etc. Please consider signing up to provide a meal at either sjparish.net/choirdinner or sjparish.net/eycdinner. You're welcome to team up with another person or family, and staff and other volunteers are available to answer your questions. This is a fun way to connect with other parishioners, including our younger members, and is truly appreciated!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
JEFF VERNEY'S
Perpetual Happiness Tour

JANUARY 30
5:30PM
HUBBARD HALL




The Parish Life Committee and parishioner Jeff Verney (aka the "Troubadour of Happiness") will present the Perpetual Happiness Tour Experience, on Friday, January 30th, at 5:30pm. This event includes original songs, stories, and discussion on how to enhance happiness in our lives! The event will last approximately one hour. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided.



Vestry Nominees 2026

Below is the slate of nominees to be presented for election at the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026, at 9 a.m. Bios and photos are provided for first-time nominees for a particular position. If you would like more information about any of the nominees up for re-election whose bios are not included here, please contact Ellen in the parish office.

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



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

Tom Oberholtzer (nominated for his first one-year term) - Upon graduation from Hamilton College, Tom enrolled at Officer Candidate School at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. He taught gunnery for a year, and then completed a tour in Vietnam, serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery, 1st Infantry Division. Released from active duty, he joined the Ametek Corporation as district manager for distributor operations in the midwest. He then moved to Connecticut to join the Meriden Cooper Corporation, a distributor of process instrumentation, became a principal, and served as president for 43 years. Through his avocational love of music, he has served as post organist at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, and organist and choir director at the Marlborough Congregational Church; sung with the choir of men and boys at Christ Church Cathedral and the choir of Trinity Episcopal Church; served as president of The Hartford Chorale; and participated in yearly summer programs through the Royal School of Church Music in America. In support of the Episcopal Church he has served on the Cathedral Chapter, the vestry of Trinity Church, and as warden at Trinity. He and his wife, Enid, joined St. John’s in 2021. Since then, has completed a three-year term on the vestry, serving as liaison to the finance and house committees, both of which he continues to serve. In his spare time he volunteers at the Veterans Hospital in Newington, and enjoys cooking. He looks forward to continuing to serve St. John’s in whatever capacity he may be called.



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



Jeff Kinney (nominated for his first one-year term) - Jeff joined St. John’s two years ago with his wife Rebecca Bourret. He is a lifelong Lutheran and has lived in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, New Britain, Glastonbury and Boston before moving to West Hartford four years ago. He currently serves on the community service and finance committees. In prior parishes, Jeff served as stewardship chair, was on property committees, and sang in choirs. Jeff spent the majority of his career in corporate banking, most recently with Wells Fargo in Boston. In the last five years of his career, he transitioned to a nonprofit role as chief of strategic development with Ascentria Care Alliance, a large human services agency based in Worcester. Jeff has served on numerous nonprofit boards; recently, he has been active with the Third Age Initiative of Leadership Greater Hartford and is currently board chair of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services – IRIS. He also recently established a charitable fund at the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, along with his brother, to honor their mother’s volunteer and philanthropic legacy. Jeff enjoys traveling, reading, biking, kayaking, and just being outdoors. Jeff and Rebecca have three married children, one living in Simsbury and the other two in southern California.

John Wilcox (nominated for his second one-year term)

Nominated for a three-year term on the vestry

Betsy Chicares - Betsy grew up in West Hartford, where she was very active in the girls' choir, youth group, teaching Sunday School, and playing her flute at St James's Church, just up the street. After returning to the area after completing her studies at University of Rochester, Betsy found Grace Episcopal Church fit her well for more than 30 years with its Anglo-Catholic mass, parish choir, and food pantry. In addition, she served more than 25 years on the vestry at Grace Church in a variety of roles and also as a layreader. About three years ago, after attending St John's for a year and despite living "on the other side of the river," Betsy was inspired by the welcoming spirit at St. John's to join in worship, outreach, and fellowship.



Matthew Ciscel - Matthew Ciscel was raised at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Memphis and joined St. John's in 2010, when his children, Elsa June and Dorian, were baptized here. He has enjoyed watching them grow through St. John's and participating in the Choir School, as acolytes, and in EYC. Matt has served as a youth leader in the Christian formation and EYC programs for many years, currently leads an usher team, and also serves on the stewardship committee, which he co-chaired for a few years. In his professional life, he is a professor of linguistics and chair of the English department at Central Connecticut State University. His wife, Alina Ciscel, is also an English professor and comes from an Orthodox background. He enjoys cycling, reading, and traveling in his free time.

Young Hee Derby - Young Hee and her husband, David, have been faithfully attending St. John's since 2023. Their spiritual journey in the Episcopal Church began in 1982. Young Hee is a regular volunteer at Loaves and Fishes ministry and recently undertook the flower ministry, delivering altar flowers to an assisted living facility residents where she volunteers. Young Hee recently spoke at the Faith@Work series where she discussed how faith manifested in her work life as a clinical nutrition manager. Prior to joining St. John's, Young Hee and David attended St. John's, East Windsor, where they served in various leadership capacities. Young Hee is recently retired but still serves as a board member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She is honored to be nominated to serve on the vestry.



Don Polk - Don considers life an adventure. He was born and raised in Indiana, where he attended a non-denominational church during his childhood. His family included members who were Baptists, Nazarenes, and Pentecostals. He spent two years at Indiana University after finishing high school, then began working in the printing industry, retiring in November 2024 after more than 40 years. He lived in Illinois and New Orleans before moving to Connecticut in 2005. Hurricane Katrina was the catalyst for his move to Connecticut, as his New Orleans place of employment was closed by the company and there was a job opportunity in Connecticut. Don met his husband John in 2015, and they were married in October 2016. They started attending St. John's in 2016, mainly because of John's interest in the choir program. Don was persuaded that he had found his church home by the warmth and hospitality of the St. John's congregation, leading him to become an Episcopalian in April 2017. Since joining the church, Don has taken part in and completed the Education for Ministry program. He currently serves as an usher, becoming co-chair a couple of years ago, and is also the keeper of the hymn boards in the nave. This past summer, he helped with the upkeep of the Cloister Garden. Don enjoys reading, traveling, collecting stamps and antiques, and gardening. He is a big fan of the St. John's choir and considers himself a "choir groupie." Don is humbled and honored to be asked to serve on the vestry.

Nominated for a one-year term as lay delegates for the Episcopal Church in CT Annual Convention

Dave Derby (nominated for his first one-year term) — Dave and his wife Young Hee began their journey in the Episcopal Church in 1982, and have been faithfully attending St. John's since 2023. Dave is currently a layreader and chalice bearer. He has served in various leadership roles at previous parishes including delegate to convention. In his work life, Dave is an engineer. He would be honored to represent St. John's as a delegate to convention.



Sharon Henes (nominated for her second one-year term) — Sharon has been a member of St. John's Episcopal Church since fall of 2023, when she moved to Newington. She is involved in youth and children ministries, and serves as a layreader and healing prayer volunteer. At the diocesan level, Sharon serves as North Central leadership team convenor and a Title IV advisor. At the national level, she serves as vice president on the Court of Review, which is an appellate court for clergy discipline and investigates bishop election objections. In her prior diocese, Sharon served as diocese convention delegate for many years, Province IV Synod deputy, and General Convention deputy. Sharon worked for 28 years for the State of Wisconsin on a prosecution team for professional licensure discipline, administered the Impaired Professional Program, and wrote administrative laws. She moved to Connecticut to be closer to her three grandsons. She has two children, a son who teaches at Windsor High School and a daughter who is a curate serving in a parish in Northern Indiana. Sharon is a self-proclaimed church governance geek. She is honored to serve as convention delegate representing St. John's Episcopal Church.

ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

sjparish.net



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

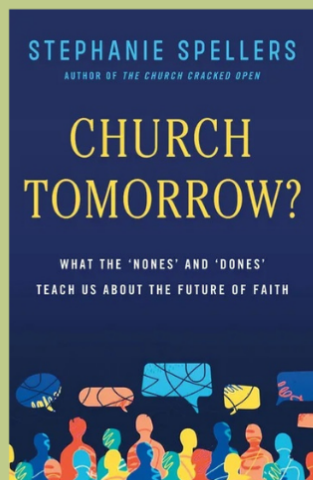
Sunday, January 25

9 to 10:15 a.m.

*Sign up to bring something for a light
continental breakfast at
sjparish.net/annualmeeting*

Becoming the Church of Tomorrow with the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers

In partnership with the Episcopal Church in Connecticut,
St. John's will host a conversation with the Rev. Canon
Stephanie Spellers about her new book:
*Church Tomorrow? What the 'Nones' and 'Dones' Teach Us
About the Future of Faith.*



Monday, February 2

6 p.m.

at St. John's Church
679 Farmington Ave.
West Hartford

REGISTER AT

sjparish.net/churchtomorrow

The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers is one of the Episcopal Church's leading thinkers around 21st-century ministry and mission. Currently canon in residence at St. Bartholomew's (NYC), Spellers is passionate about listening, building bridges, and helping people fall in love with God.



College Care Packages

We're sending snacks and other goodies to our college students to let them know we care.

Want to help? **SHOP** our wish list

(tinyurl.com/sjpcollege),

DROP OFF a note for a particular kid, or

CONTACT Margie about taking packages to the post office the week of February 2.



EPISCOPAL 101:

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH & ST. JOHN'S

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

EPISCOPAL PRACTICE &
THEOLOGY

HOW WE LIVE OUT OUR FAITH HERE AT ST.
JOHN'S CHURCH

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, OR BECOMING A
MEMBER OF ST. JOHN'S



Join Todd FitzGerald, rector, for a class to learn more about the church and explore what it means to be a part of this faith community. The class will meet on six consecutive Sundays after the 10:30 service; bring a bag lunch if you wish. All are welcome regardless of how long you've been worshipping at St. John's.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 – SUNDAY, MARCH 29

AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE/COFFEE HOUR

IN THE LIBRARY (2ND FLOOR)

PLEASE RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

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