

St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

May 3, 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 image: Resurrection by Alma Thomas, 1966. Acquired for the White House Collection in 2015—the first item in that collection by an African-American woman.



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE VOLUNTARY Pastorale

Hugh Bancroft (1904–1988)

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 518 Christ is made the sure foundation
All stand and sing.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Celebrant Let us pray. 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.**

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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.

15 **My times are / in your hand; ***
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who / persecute me.

16 **Make your face to shine upon your / servant, ***
and in your loving-/ kindness save me.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:2–10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner”, and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 487 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

THE CALL

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

John 14:1–14

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

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

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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.

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way. Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to all nations and peoples, especially in places scarred by violence and deprivation. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry and nourish us all with your word. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick, and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures. We remember especially those on our parish prayer list. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you. Raise us with them to eternal life. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Celebrant Risen Lord, open our hearts to your power moving around us and between us and within us, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken. **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 Sing my soul his wondrous love

Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

Text: Anonymous (1800)

Sing, my soul, his wondrous love,
who, from yon bright throne above,
ever watchful o'er our race,
still extends to us his grace.

Heaven and earth by him were made;
all is by his scepter swayed;
what are we that he should show
so much love to us below?

God, the merciful and good,
bought us with the Savior's blood,
and, to make salvation sure,
guides us by his Spirit pure.

Sing, my soul, adore his Name!
Let his glory be thy theme:
praise him till he calls thee home;
trust his love for all to come.

high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Setting: William Mathias

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.

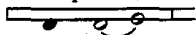
We await his coming in glory.

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.

People



A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. The people sing the refrain with the choir before and after the verse.



Choir Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. **Refrain sung by all**

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM You are the center

Margaret Rizza (b. 1929)

You are the center, you are my life; you are the center, O Lord of my life.
 Come, Lord, and guide me, Lord of my life; send me your Spirit, Lord of my life.
 Give me your Spirit and teach me your ways, give me your peace, Lord, and set me free.



Margaret Rizza is a British composer whose music bears much resemblance to the haunting refrains of the French Taizé community—short musical mantras repeat with little to no variation, leading us deeper in prayer and meditation.

THE COMMUNION HYMN 457 Thou art the Way

ST. JAMES

Sung by all.

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 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.

Confidential prayers are available with a trained healing prayer minister at the back of the church near the baptismal font. If you would like to pray with someone about life's challenges or joys, go to the font 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 182 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

TRURO

All stand and sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Hymne au Soleil

Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

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Join us in Hubbard Hall after the service for coffee hour and to make sandwiches for the Loaves & Fishes feeding ministry.

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

Next week, food will be provided by those with last names starting G through L.

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant: The Reverend Todd FitzGerald

Preacher: The Reverend Margie Baker

Lector & Chalice Bearer: Matteo Donnelly

Intercessor & Chalice Bearer: Jo Anne Burgh

The St. John's Adult Choir

Organist: Nick Capozzoli

Organ Scholar: Elijah Morris

Acolytes: Mason Donnelly, Jayden Donnelly, Selma Waddington

Ushers: Eleanor Barnes, Annabel Clapp, Molly Cooper, Jeff Gostyla,

Austin Longendyke, Dan Minster

Livestream Operator: Ray Giolitto

Healing Prayer Minister: Tim Goetz

Altar Guild: John Dustin, Brenda Zanta

Nursery Staff: Nichole Segar, Caroline Thaxton, Olivia Thaxton

Sunday School Teachers: Enid Oberholtzer, Beth Kauczka, Donielle Joslyn, Jeff Verney

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	Joan Ackley	Joseph
Grant Loevenbruck	Tessa Trussell Wolf	Jon Nelson	Sarah Carroll
John & Barbara Spannaus	Harry Barber	Ned	Greg Highland
Jennifer Blean	Doug Larson	Roger	Rachel
Hale Walkoff	Miranda	Daniel Zoltan	Lucas
Rod Farrell	Allison and Family	Jim & Kathlyn Schofield	Amy Bittinger
Hillary Lord	Linda	John Scott	Mike
Helen Rosen	Tom Tata	Eric Zoltan	Rick
Nick Willke	Timothy Foga	Elizabeth Myers	Richard Myers
Tracie O'Brien	Shoemaker Family	Robert & Erika Roy	Carol
Naya	Elsa	Meghan	Paul Thaxton
Amy	Heidi	Bonnie Evans	Stephanie
Cora	Alondra	Dennis	Ann
Beth	Andrew Worrell	John Murray	Alberto Guzman
Katie	Sam Wiley	Spencer Rothman	Kathy Beynor
Anne	Gracie	Rosow Family	Sara Enright
Martha Babbitt	Jackie Harding	Stacy Wagner	Ruth
Linda	Cynthia Wannace	Meg	April
Jamie Blean	Lisa Sheehan	Tom Lauterbach	John Neil Bannon
Emily Brielle Clark	Ken Potter	Christina Andrews	Cyndy Bittinger
Brendan	Will S.	Brooke	Vera Borowik
Betsy Smith	Ian Waddington	Mary Jo Keating	Susan Fiegel-Rapp
Dave	Karen Bacon Rogers	Ruth Barr	
Scott Wilmot	Dave Woolley	Stevens Family	

Those serving in the military:

Michael Meehan
Alex Thaxton

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Kim Walton	Nicole Douillet
Eloise Biscoe	Bette-Jane Hardersen
Callan Farrell	Richard Jacques
Judy Schaffer	

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Danielle & Oliver Layfield

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Peter's Grace, Monroe; St. Mark's, Mystic; St. Michael's, Naugatuck; and for retirement communities, especially Armsmead and Seabury; chaplains at retirement communities; retired clergy chaplains; and the Elder Ministry Network.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Church of North India.

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.

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) is our youth group for middle and high school students. EYC will meet tonight from 5 to 7 p.m. for dinner and the Global Philanthropy Leaders (GPL) microlending program. All youth in grades 6 to 12 (or equivalent) are welcome to attend and bring a friend!

Girls Night Out on Wednesday, May 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Announcing the ninth, mostly annual, St. John's GIRLS NIGHT OUT!! While this event originated as an auction item at the annual Spring Fling, it is open to all women (age 21 to 121, St. John's members and friends!). For only \$25, join the crowd at this thrilling evening of hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and repartee at the home of Virginia Van Dyk (58 Walbridge Road in West Hartford). It's a fun evening AND adds to the amount raised at the Spring Fling to support St. John's mission and ministries. If you'd like to attend but did not sign up at the Spring Fling, please:

- Email Virginia at virginiavandyk@yahoo.com to let her know you're coming (and feel free to bring a guest or two as well!)
- Bring \$25 per person and give it to Virginia. Exact cash please, or a check written to St. John's with "Girls Night Out" in the memo.

Upcoming Events

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

- **Pipes Alive! organ recital with Elijah Morris** — TODAY at 12:30 p.m.
- **Girls Night Out at the Van Dyk/Wilcox home** — Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Ascension Day Choral Eucharist** — Thursday, May 14 at 7 p.m. with potluck dessert reception afterward
- **Newcomers gathering at the rector's home** — Sunday, May 17 at 3 p.m.
- **Church by the Pond** — Saturday, May 23 from noon to 3 p.m.
- **Journey Home household donation collection at St. John's** — Sunday, May 31, 1 to 4 p.m.
- **Collaborative Chorister Evensong at Trinity College Chapel** — Sunday, May 31 at 5 p.m.
- **Youth Sunday** — Sunday, June 7 at the 10:30 service
- **Pipes Alive! with Christa Rakich** — Sunday, June 7 at 12:30 p.m.
- **Parish Picnic*** — Sunday, June 14 after the 10:30 service
- **All-ages Vacation Bible School (VBS)** — Monday, June 15 through Thursday, June 18, 5:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Summer service schedule** — Sunday, June 21 through Sunday, September 6, with a 9 a.m. service outdoors in the Cloister Garden, and a 10:30 a.m. service indoors and livestreamed

**Note the date change for the parish picnic. Traditionally, we have held the picnic on Youth Sunday, but we are moving the picnic a week later due to Pipes Alive! on the first Sunday of the month.*

PIPES ALIVE!

Elijah Morris



May 3, 12:30pm

St. John's Episcopal Church, West Hartford

Events are available
livestreamed at
www.reddoormusic.org



MUSIC AT THE
RED DOOR



Newcomers Gathering

All newcomers are invited! Whether you've come to church just a few times or have been attending for a while, if you're still getting to know what St. John's is all about, please join us for an informal gathering where you can meet people and learn more about the church's mission and ministries.

Sunday, May 17

3pm

at the rector's home

46 Ironwood Road, West Hartford

Please RSVP to Ellen in the parish office by May 14
ellen@sjparish.net

CHURCH BY THE POND

Saturday, May 23 at 2pm


Bushnell Park

Every Saturday at 2pm, 20-60 people gather for communion in Bushnell park. Church by the Pond is a ministry of Christ Church Cathedral.

On May 23, Margie will preach and preside, and St. John's will provide and distribute bagged lunches after the service.

If you'd like to help, meet at St. John's at noon to prepare lunches and drive over together. You can also come for worship at 1:45. **Email Margie if you plan to participate.** Children and families welcome.

Sign up to provide supplies at
sjparish.net/churchbythepond



Spring Collection for Journey Home!

Journey Home, a St. John’s community partner, supports people who are moving into a home of their own after a period of homelessness. On May 31, a Journey Home truck will come to St. John’s to collect household items for furnishing these homes OR selling at Journey Home’s new thrift store to raise money for the organization.

Bring your **CLEAN** and **GENTLY USED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION** to St. John’s **on May 31*** for collection. Needed items include:

- Small furniture (coffee tables, TV stands, nightstands, bookshelves, chairs)
- Small appliances
- Kitchen items: dishware (sturdy and microwaveable - no china), glassware, utensils, pots and pans, mixing and serving bowls
- Bedding and towels (pillows must be new)
- Cleaning supplies, vacuum cleaners, brooms
- Lamps with lampshades
- Area rugs (up to 6' x 8')

Sunday, May 31
1 to 4 p.m. at St. John’s

***Please do not bring items to St. John’s ahead of time!**

All-ages Vacation Bible School

- People of all ages and stages are welcome!
- That includes friends who are not St. John’s members!
- Each evening’s program includes scripture, prayer, activities, and a shared meal.

June 15 to 18
5:30 to 8pm

\$25/person, \$75 for a family of 4+ people
Registration opens on May 1 at sjparish.net/vbs2026

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 1



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

Susan Fay.....	Warden
Tom Oberholtzer.....	Warden
Jeff Kinney and John Wilcox.....	Treasurers
2024-27: Lauren Mascola, Stacey Samuel Bannon, Brenda Zanta	
2025-28: Kim Byrd, Matteo Donnelly, Jeff Verney	
2026-29: Betsy Chicares, Matt Ciscel, Young Hee Derby, Don Polk	