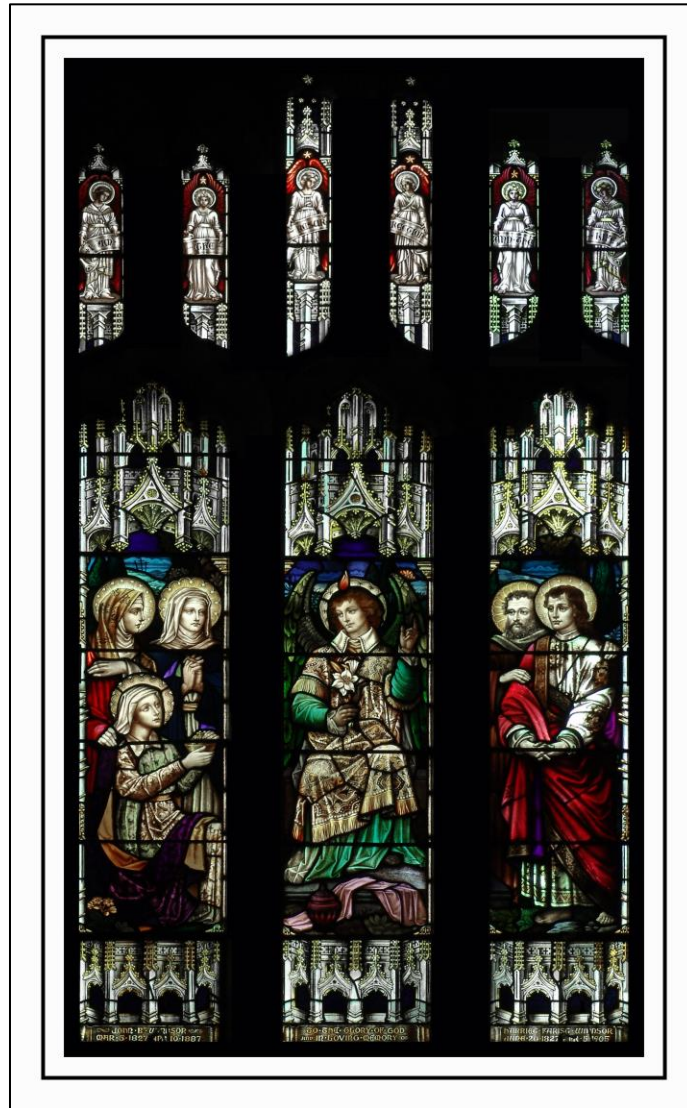


St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net



Christ the King Sunday

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

November 20, 2016

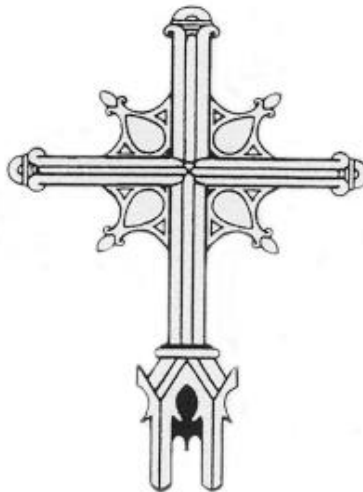
10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Saint John's

We are very pleased to have you with us. If you are with us for the first time, please make yourself comfortable, and stay for coffee following the service. We look forward to meeting you. If you would like to learn more about the church, please fill out a card (hanging in each pew), put it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher or member of the clergy, and we will be in touch. 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 should need to participate in the service is found, here, in this bulletin and in the blue hymnal in the pew rack. Hearing assist devices are available as is nursery care. Please ask the ushers for assistance with these or with any other request.

A note about today: Many of our parishioners, including our youth and adult choirs, are participating in a Celebration Eucharist at the Connecticut Convention Center this morning, as part of the annual convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. Next week, we will back to our usual worship schedule and celebrating the first Sunday of Advent. We look forward to seeing you again.

Again, welcome.



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Prelude in G Major, BWV 541 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 494 Crown him with many crowns DIADEMATA
All stand and sing.

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

People **And blessed be his 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.**

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 -



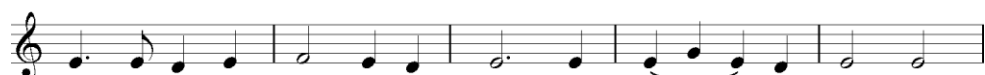
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



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;



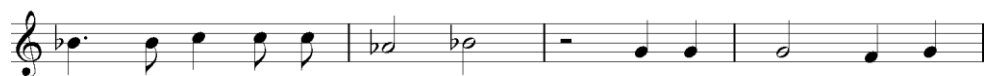
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 23:1-6

All sit.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

Luke 1: 68-79

The people say the responses in bold.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Colossians 1:11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 441 In the cross of Christ I glory

RATHBUN

All stand and sing.

There is no Word Alive program for children today.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 23:33-43

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

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

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done

nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. William Eakins

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

A period of silence is kept.

Come, Holy Spirit, mold us and fill us, as we worship with our extended family online and those here present in your sanctuary. — Lord, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

Everliving God, as the Episcopal Church in Connecticut is meeting for Diocesan Convention today, by your Spirit fashion the lives of all laity, deacons, priests, and bishops, according to the example of your Son. Empower each to demonstrate the power of your divine love to all among whom we live, work, and minister. — Lord, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

O God, in this time of turmoil in our nation's transition, lead us from prejudice to truth and deliver us from hatred, cruelty, revenge, and discrimination. In your good time and will, enable each of us to stand reconciled before you. — Lord, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

Most merciful God, guard us against rhetoric that defames and dehumanizes "the Other." Empower us to bless you, O Lord; the One who gives us counsel; the One who shows us what love looks like, day after day. May your Holy Spirit inspire our words and deeds. — Lord, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

On this, Christ the King Sunday, may we come to intimately know Christ as King, and offer our service to him as perfect freedom in this life and the life to come. — Lord, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, accept O Holy Trinity, our thanks and praise for all you have done for us. We praise your Name for the splendor of the whole creation, the beauty of this world, the wonder of life, and the unfathomable mystery of your redeeming love. — Lord, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Almighty God, you have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in your Son's Name. Grant that what we have asked according to your will, may effectually be obtained by your grace and set forth as your glory. In the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **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 us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE WELCOME

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY Meditation

Jacob Arcadelt (c.1505-1568)

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100TH

**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.**

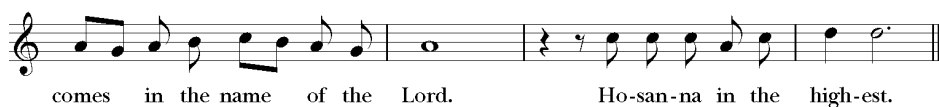
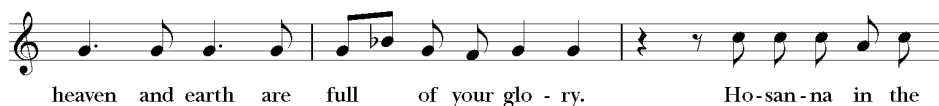
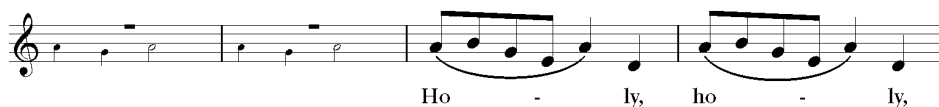
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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



Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992) Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

All remain standing or kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

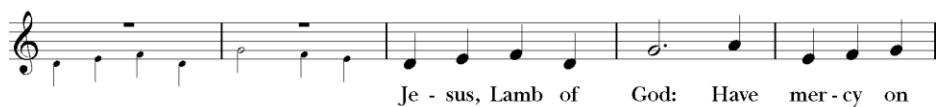
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.



Title: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God: Agnus Dei

Music: Gerard R. Near (b. 1942) Copyright © 1985 Aureole Editions, Dallas, Texas.

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.

Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the clergy at the communion rail.

If you would like a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.

To request healing prayers, proceed to the baptismal font in the back of the nave immediately after receiving communion.

THE COMMUNION MOTET Ave verum corpus Stephanie Martin (b. 1962)

THE COMMUNION HYMN 433 We gather together KREMSER

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **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 290 Come, ye thankful people, come ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR

All stand and sing.

THE DISMISSAL

The minister dismisses the people and they respond, Thanks be to God.

THE VOLUNTARY Grand Chœur Théodore Salomé (1834-1896)

The closing voluntary is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for God's Word as it has been experienced this day. All are invited to say Amen at the end of the Voluntary as a conclusion to our worship.

**Vestry members are on hand today to welcome you to St. John's.
This morning's greeter is Wes Winterbottom.**

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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Psalm Antiphon from A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition ©2007 Carl P. Daw, Jr., and Kevin R. Hackett.

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Prayers of the People adapted from Prayers for the Election, prepared by the Rev. Shannon Kelly Ferguson, Episcopal Church Missioner for Campus Ministry.

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**Celebrant:** The Reverend Hope Eakins**Preacher:** The Reverend William Eakins**Guest Organist:** Kari Miller**Layreader:** Jyothsna Vijaya**Acolytes:** John O'Brien, Maisie Smith, Kiley Murphy, Abby Thaxton**Ushers:** Jeffrey Gostyla (*Team Leader*), Troy Gostyla, Julia O'Brien, Ross Hatch, Will Smith, Courtney Bass**Healing Prayers:** Buffy Cech**Altar Guild:** Audrey Walker and Paul Shaker**At Hughes Convalescent Home:****Layreader:** Jeff Verney**Musician:** Joyce Burke

All are welcome to coffee hour immediately after the service. Thank you to Annabel Clapp for hosting today. We have some open dates for coffee hour hosting in December and into the new year. Please sign up for your preferred date on the sign-up sheet in Hubbard Hall.

In your prayers this week, please pray for:

Peace in our world, for those serving our country in armed services, and for all victims of war and violence.

The parish of Santa Cruz del Norte, our companion parish in Cuba, and Saint Sauveur, Les Cayes, Haiti.

Séinaire de Théologie d'Église Épiscopale d'Haïti (STEEH), the Episcopal Seminary in Haiti.

Residents of the George Beach Apartments, Allen Place, Hartford, and the Hughes Convalescent Home.

Our postulants, Stacey Kohl and Michael Corey, and our missionary in Haiti, Dr. Lucinda Mosher.

All those whose hurts, burdens and fears are unspoken or unknown.

Those in need of healing:

Jim Evans	Janet Ray	Charlie	Kathy	Chas
Kim Green	Jim Tracy	Susan	Jay	Nancy
Carol Grieco				

Those who are celebrating birthdays this week:

Margaret Smith	Colin Alemany
Allyson Davis	Nancy Morrell
Beth Grieco	

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Mary and Samuel Sloan
Pat and Alex Vance

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Parish of the Falkland Islands and the Rt. Rev. Nigel William Stock.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. Paul's, Woodbury; St. John the Evangelist, Yalesville; Grace Church, Yantic. Pray for the health and well-being of persons employed by The Episcopal Church; the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies of The Episcopal Church.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Music Director Scott Lamlein and Susan Carroll, organist at Asylum Hill Congregational, will perform in a "Music of the Heavens" concert at Congregation Beth Israel, **today, Sunday, November 20 at 3:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$5 for students, and free for children under 13. Pay at the door or call 860-236-0580 to reserve tickets ahead.

On **Thanksgiving Day**, St. John's will have a service of Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

On **Sunday, November 27** we will host an intergenerational Advent wreath-making session at 9:30 a.m., in place of Christian Education. We will provide wreath forms, Fraser fir greenery, pinecones, and candles. Feel free to bring ribbons, ornaments or other decorations to customize your wreath, and please bring garden clippers if you can! One wreath per family, please. We will also provide several different Advent devotional booklets that you can use with your Advent wreath at home. Suggested donation: \$5 per family.

We will offer a **midweek Eucharist at 12:10 p.m. on Wednesdays in Advent**, with Bible study to follow. Bring a bag lunch if you wish; coffee will be provided. Please contact the Rev. Helen M. Moore at helen@sjparish.net if you plan to come.

A *Grace Disguised* book group on loss will have its final meeting on November 27 at 9:30 a.m. in the Reception Room. Contact the Rev. Helen M. Moore, 860-331-1127 or Helen@sjparish.net for further information. Copies of the book are available from the church office.

Join the new Worship Committee: If you are interested in how we envision and plan our worship services at St. John's, plan to join us on **Sunday, Nov. 27 immediately following our 10:30 a.m.** service in the Reception Room.

An art show featuring the work of Lisa Bell will be in Hubbard Hall through the month of December. Lisa Bell expresses her artistic skills and love of early and medieval Christian art by combining lush, visceral fields of color with illuminated manuscripts and texts taken from liturgy, music, and Scripture. An opening reception will be held on **Friday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m.** and we will get to enjoy this beautiful work throughout the Christmas season.

Men's Bible study is held every Thursday at 6:30 a.m. in the Reception Room. Join us!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY, GIVING AND CONNECTION

Today is the final day that we are collecting monetary donations to **help St. Sauveur School in Les Cayes, Haiti, with hurricane relief work.** To donate, please write a check to St. John's with "Haiti hurricane relief" in the memo (that part is important!), and put it in the offering plate this morning.

St. John's is again supporting 60 children in the Nurturing Families Network with Christmas Gift Bags. Sign up to fill a bag and make a child's Christmas brighter. Look for the Christmas tree bearing tags with each child's wish list outside Hubbard Hall today and for the next few Sundays. Choose a tag, shop, place unwrapped items in a gift bag, and return your bag to the St. John's office by Monday, November 28. More information: Contact Jillian Puzzo at jillianpuzzo@gmail.com or Brittany Bass at britbrown76@aol.com.

Christmas Festival 2016

The annual Christmas Festival is **Saturday, December 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** We need volunteers and donations in a number of areas:

- **Soup:** Volunteers to make 10 quarts of soup. Recipes and quart containers will be provided.
- **Baked Goods:** Volunteers to make baked goods to be sold.
- **Wreaths:** Volunteers to help decorate wreaths to be sold at the Festival. Wreath decorating will take place on **Thursday evening, December 1 at 7 p.m.** We're collecting donations of seasonally appropriate ribbons (wired, 2" - 4" wide) and decorations (they can be recycled from previous years!), such as small ornaments, bells, pinecones, silk flowers, leaves, faux fruits, etc. Old wreath bows can be fluffed up and refreshed. Fresh items from your yard (holly, laurel, grasses, evergreens) are welcome as well; please bring these on December 1 instead of dropping them off ahead of time.
- Volunteers to help with **set-up and clean-up** on Festival Day.
- **Accessories:** Go through your closets to find scarves, jewelry, hats, purses, to contribute to the Accessories Boutique.
- **Items for theme baskets:** Various church groups are putting together theme baskets, including the Vestry (Welcome to West Hartford), Women's Fellowship (spa basket), Church School (family game night), the Altar Guild (gardening), Choir ("Read to me" books for children), Ushers (coffee and tea) and Layreaders (gourmet food).
- **Gingerbread house candy decorations:** The church school is collecting small, colorful candies for gingerbread houses: round peppermints, plain Hershey's kisses, gumdrops, gummy bears, cinnamon red hots, and Skittles.

Donations for various categories, such as art and Attic Treasures, are also welcome. **Please note that we are NOT doing a book sale this year, so please do not bring used books to the church.**

Donated items can be brought to the church office, clearly labeled. Contact Joellen Wedenmiller (j.weidenmiller@gmail.com) or Karen Licht (karen_licht@yahoo.com) for more information or to volunteer.

On behalf of the children and families of the St. Sauveur Episcopal School in Les Cayes, Haiti, St. John's Global Missions committee wishes to thank all who donated money to help the school recover from damages incurred from hurricane Matthew. We also thank our Vestry for allowing us to collect money from parishioners for that effort. Thank you also for your heartfelt wishes and prayers for this country, which continues to struggle with extreme poverty and a lack of educational opportunities for its people. Please keep the Haitian people and Global Missions in your thoughts and prayers, as we have committed ourselves to building bridges and improving the lives of children there. As always, we invite members of our parish to join our committee, and be a part of the change you wish to see happen for the children and their families in this region. Please visit our booth at the Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 3rd if you would like to learn more about what we do, and how you can help.

- *Giselle Richards-Genece, Global Missions Chair, on behalf of the Global Missions Committee (Alicia Evica, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Sarah Kieffer, Marie Montas, Susan Thaxton, Wesley Winterbottom, Paul Shaker, Cleveland Williams, Michael Corey, Tim Goetz, Kristie Harrington, Sonia Michel, Hubertus Tummescheit, Helen Moore, Thomas Moore)*

DID YOU KNOW?

Focus on Pledging and Contributions

Pledges from parishioners, in which you commit to give a certain amount over the course of a year, is the primary way that Episcopal Churches fund our mission and ministry. Having pledge commitments allows us to create an annual budget that accurately reflects contribution income. Here are answers to the most common questions we get about pledging and contributions.

Is my pledge information confidential? Yes – with a few exceptions. The only person who has ongoing access to the amount of your annual pledge is Financial Administrator Mirella Russo, who maintains records and manages contributions. The Stewardship Committee, the rector, and the wardens reviewed the letters that went to last year’s pledgers, which included last year’s pledge amount. To follow cash-control procedures required by our auditors, the ushers record all cash and checks that come in through the Sunday offering plate, including opening pledge envelopes to record their contents. We will eventually publish the names of all pledgers in a Sunday bulletin, but this will *not* include your pledge amount. *Parishioners may request that their name be left off of this public listing by contacting the parish manager, Ellen Dollar.*

How should I send in my pledge payments? You may mail your pledge payments to the church, drop them off in the office, make a payment online (see the next question, below, for details), or put a pledge payment in the Sunday offering plate. To ensure that your payment is credited to your pledge, use your numbered pledge envelope or simply write “Pledge” on the memo line of your check. Please note that the Sunday ushers do need to open envelopes that are put in the Sunday offering plate to record all checks and cash coming in. The ushers will keep all contribution information confidential. However, if you don’t want the ushers to see the amount of your contributions, it’s best to mail them in or make an online payment through your bank.

How do I make an online pledge payment? Our church web site has a link that allows you to make a pledge contribution through our parish database system. *However, St. John’s is charged a fee for each contribution received in this way, which adds up to hundreds of dollars per year.* A better way to contribute online is to use your bank’s online bill paying service. All major banks offer this service free of charge. By setting up an online banking account connected to your checking account, you can send electronic payments directly to large billing companies (such as utility or credit card companies), and you can also send check payments to charitable organizations or even an individual. You enter the name and address to whom you want to send a payment, fill in the dollar amount, and your bank will issue and mail a check—all free of charge to you and to your recipient. It’s easy for everyone, free, and ensures that only the financial administrator will see your pledge payments.

How do I contribute stock? Before arranging to donate stock to St. John’s, let our financial administrator know how many shares, from what company, and from whom the check will be coming (such as your brokerage firm). If you have already donated stock in 2016 and haven’t contacted the financial administrator about it, please do so as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

- ❖ Thanksgiving Day Eucharist – November 24, 10:00 a.m.
- ❖ First Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist – November 27, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
- ❖ Advent Wreath-Making Intergenerational Event – November 27, 9:30 a.m.
- ❖ Nurturing Families Gift Bags due in office – November 28
- ❖ Advent Midweek Eucharist and Bible Study – Wednesdays at 12:10 p.m., starting November 30
- ❖ Wreath Decorating for Christmas Festival – December 1, 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Christmas Festival – December 3, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- ❖ St. Nicholas Day Celebration – December 4, 9:30 a.m.
- ❖ Art Show Opening – December 9, 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – December 11, 4:00 p.m.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2016: ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

A summary of St. John's youth commitments in this busy season – take it home and post it as a reminder!

November 27, 9:30 a.m.	Advent wreath making (intergenerational event)
December 4, 9:30 a.m.	St. Nicholas Festival (intergenerational event). Decorate the church Christmas tree, sign up for the Christmas pageant, and enjoy a hot cocoa bar.
December 11, 9:30 a.m.	Pageant rehearsal
December 11, 4:00 p.m.	Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Youth choir rehearsal at 3:00 p.m.
December 17, 9 a.m. to 12 noon	Pageant rehearsal. Speaking parts, angel dancers, and youth choir – 9 to 10 a.m. ALL pageant participants – 10 to 12. Pizza lunch provided.
December 18, 10:30 a.m.	Christmas Pageant! 9:15 a.m. call time for pageant participants. Note: While the nursery will be available for young children and their parents to use, there will be no supervised nursery care during the pageant.
December 24, 4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist. Youth choir rehearsal at 3:00 p.m.
December 24, 11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist with choral prelude at 10:30 p.m.

Donations Needed!

The Christian Education/church school program is collecting the following items for various seasonal projects. Please contribute as you are able, noting the due date for each category. Thank you!

Candy for Gingerbread Houses at Christmas Festival – Round peppermint hard candies, plain Hershey's kisses (no nuts!), gumdrops, gummy bears, cinnamon red hots, Skittles. **Due by Thursday, December 1.** You can drop them off in the office during the week, or on Sunday.

Items for Game Night Theme Basket for Christmas Festival – Family-friendly board games and anything else that makes for a fun family game night, such as popcorn, hot cocoa, etc. **Due by Sunday, November 27.**

Items for Blessing Bags – St. John's puts together "blessing bags" for people staying in shelters or otherwise in need during cold weather. We need warm socks, gloves, and hats for both men and women; hand warmers; non-perishable snacks (such as granola bars); and gift cards to Subway, Dunkin Donuts or McDonald's in small denominations only (\$5 to \$10). **Items will be collected throughout the Christmas season.**

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net

679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut 06119

860 523 5201 office@sjparish.net



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. each Sunday morning

5:00 p.m. Evensong on selected last Sundays of the month

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer each Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Christian Education at 9:30 a.m. September – May

STAFF

The Rev. Susan Pinkerton (susan@sjparish.net).....	Rector
Scott Lamlein (scott@sjparish.net).....	Director of Music
The Rev. Walter McKenney (walter@sjparish.net)	Deacon
The Rev. Hope Eakins (hope@sjparish.net)	Priest Associate
The Rev. William Eakins (bill@sjparish.net)	Priest Associate
The Rev. Helen M. Moore (helen@sjparish.net)	Director of Pastoral and Spiritual Ministries
Janet Babbitt (janet@sjparish.net)	Director of Religious Education
Mirella Russo (mirella@sjparish.net)	Financial Administrator
Ellen Painter Dollar (ellen@sjparish.net).....	Parish Manager and Assistant to the Rector
Dwight Latif (dwight@sjparish.net).....	Sexton
Mary Scripko (mary@sjparish.net).....	Religious Education Assistant
Ralph Valentine	Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus

VESTRY

Jeff Verney	Warden
Buffy Ineson	Warden
Beth Grieco and Chris Byrd	Co-Treasurers
Ellen Painter Dollar	Clerk

2014-16: Eleanor Barnes, Lynn Brooks, David Beers, Marki Ware

2015-17: Courtney Bass, Jan Hickcox, Heather Simson, Wes Winterbottom

2016-18: Mike Corey, Tim Goetz, Ginny Kemp, Will Smith

SAINT PAUL'S DEAF CONGREGATION

Sundays, 10:30 a.m., in the church

Lay leaders: Victoria Crosta – text: 860-478-6524; Melissa Render – text: 860-983-4606