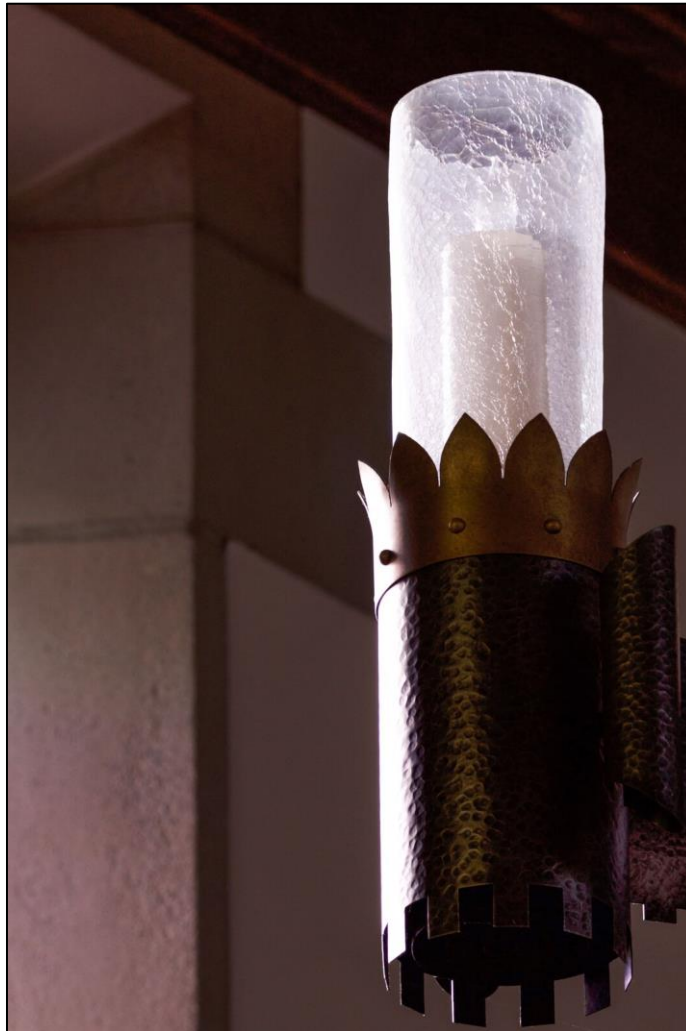


St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net



The First Sunday of Advent

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

November 27, 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. Again, welcome. (The photo on the front of the bulletin is by parishioner Ginny Kemp. © Virginia Kemp 2016)

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Wacht auf, ruft uns die Stimme Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 57 Lo! He comes, with clouds descending HELMSLEY
All stand and sing.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Marki Ware and Hal Rives*

Reader #1 We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

Reader #2 For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. A righteous Branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

People **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

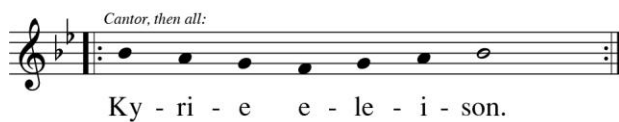
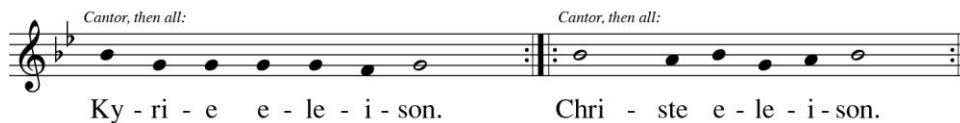
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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.**

KYRIE ELEISON



Music: Litany of the Saints, adapted by Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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

Isaiah 2:1-5

All sit.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalms 122

*The people say the responses in **bold** and sing the Antiphon as indicated.*



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the **LORD.**"

1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

Antiphon

THE EPISTLE

Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 61 "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us

WACHET AUF

All stand and sing.

The children will be led to the education wing for the Word Alive program and will return at the Peace.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

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

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have

stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Susan Pinkerton

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.

God of hope, on this First Sunday of Advent, as we await Christ your Son, may he not find us asleep or idle, but active in his service with minds and spirits prepared. Open your heart to those in this sanctuary and in our online ministry. — Lord in your love, **hear our prayer.**

God the source of all authority, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us; may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us; may the gifts of your Spirit be our greatest strength. Inspire us to speak truth to power and stand with those who are harassed and oppressed. — Lord in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Spirit of justice, guide our leaders to make this country a home for its many peoples. Grant to them imagination, skill, and energy, that their leadership will bring us closer to liberty and justice for all. — Lord, in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit; fill us with your power; direct our hearts to your goodness, and grant faith, healing and peace to those who are distraught or ill. — Lord, in your love, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, as we remember those who have died, may we hold fast to the promise that nothing in death or life, in the world as it is or as it shall be, nothing in all Creation can separate us from your salvation. — Lord, in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Most gracious God, you faithfully answer our prayers and are the hope of us all. From where the sun rises to where it sets, may everyone on earth worship you and sing your praises. In the blessed Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, **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 Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Text: Liturgy of St. James, found at Hymn 324

Gustav Holst is best known for his 1919 orchestral suite The Planets. But church musicians know that Holst wrote a large body of very effective music for choirs. He grew up idolizing Wagner, and in 1895 while a student at the Royal College of Music, met Ralph Vaughan Williams, and the two became good friends. Holst's choral works are supremely crafted miniature masterworks with a profound sense of harmony and finely planned dramaticism. (Notes courtesy John W. Ehrlich)

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.

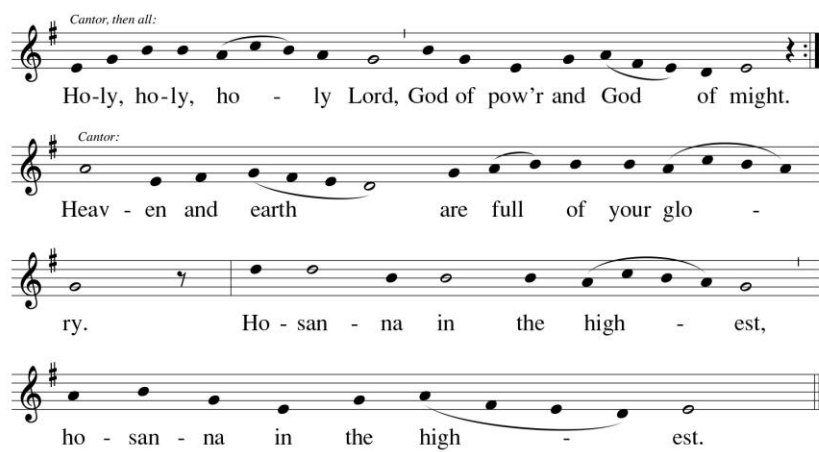
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

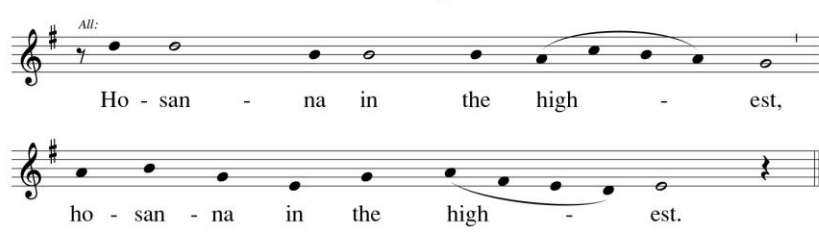
THE SANCTUS

Cantor, then all:



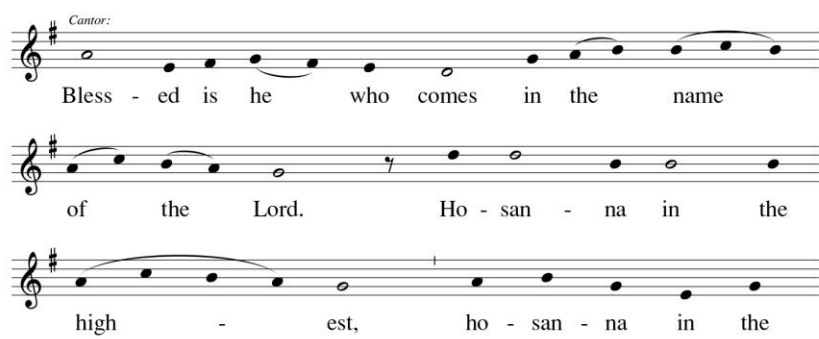
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est,
ho - san - na in the high - est.

All:



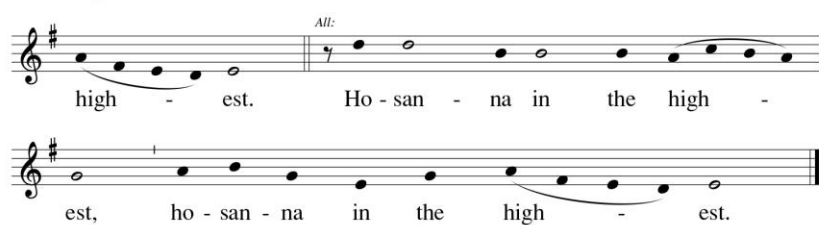
Ho - san - na in the high - est,
ho - san - na in the high - est.

Cantor:



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

All:



Ho - san - na in the high -
est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

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.

Cantor



1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:
 2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you take a - way the sins of the world,
 3. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

1.2. *All*
 have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

3. *All*
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx, ©1991, GIA Publications, Inc..

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 ANTHEM The blessed son of God

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Text: Miles Coverdale, after Martin Luther

The blessed Son of God only in a crib full poor did lie;
 With our poor flesh and our poor blood was clothed that everlasting good. Kyrie eleison.

The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear, was a guest and a stranger here;
 Us for to bring from misery, that we might live eternally. Kyrie eleison.

All this did he for us freely, for to declare his great mercy;
 All Christendom be merry therefore, and give him thanks for evermore. Kyrie eleison.

The Communion Anthem is an a capella choral hymn from Vaughan Williams' Oratorio, Hodie. Late in life, the composer had always wanted to write a large-scale Christmas work, and here he fused the religious spirit of the festival with British overtones, with associations to English countryside carols. Vaughan Williams used no specific folk tunes in this work, but by this point in his career he had so synthesized their character that his folk tune-like themes sound fully authentic.

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 68 Rejoice! rejoice, believers
All stand and sing.

LLANGLOFFAN

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY Wachtet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Paul Manz, 1987

*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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THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**Celebrant:** The Reverend Hope Eakins**Preacher:** The Reverend Susan Pinkerton**Layreader:** Craig Wilkinson**Acolytes:** Sophie Murchie, Francis Lamlein, Elsa Ciscel, Claire O'Brien**Ushers:** Geoffrey & Karan Emerick (*Team Leaders*), Ben & Ellen Flynn, Wes Winterbottom, Matthew Ciscel, Nazra Ali**Healing Prayers:** Paul Shaker and Karen Licht**Altar Guild:** Bess Amamoo and Paul Shaker**At Hughes Convalescent Home:****Layreader:** Mike Corey

All are welcome to coffee hour immediately after the service. Thank you to Beth Rocco and Wes Winterbottom 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	Andrew Lee			

Those who are celebrating birthdays this week:

Sandy Pond	Eleanor Taylor	Susan Thomas
Wil Brunjes	Zachary Kohl	Claire O'Brien

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Edith and Bob Connolly
Pat and Alex Vance

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Episcopal Church of Kansas and the Rt. Rev. Dean Wolfe.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam. Postulants and candidates for Holy Orders; the Commission on Ministry and its committees.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR.

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.

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 **today, Sunday, Nov. 27 immediately following the 10:30 service** in the Reception Room.

Wreath decorating for the Christmas Festival will take place Thursday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. in Hubbard Hall. All are welcome! Please bring items for decorating the wreaths, such as small ornaments, pinecones, bells, faux fruits or greens, fresh greenery from your yard, and 2-inch to 4-inch wired ribbon. Bows from last year's Christmas wreaths can be fluffed and used again.

The annual St. Nicholas Day Festival will take place at 9:30 a.m. (in place of regular Christian Education offerings) on **Sunday, December 4**. People of all ages are invited to help decorate our parish Christmas tree, do seasonal crafts, and enjoy coffee and hot chocolate. Parish children and youth will also sign up for the Christmas Pageant and receive their scripts.

A Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m. Join us for this beautiful liturgy featuring scripture read by parishioners and music from the St. John's Choirs. A reception will follow.

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

TOMORROW November 28 is the deadline for bringing your Nurturing Families Network Christmas Gift Bags to the office. Items should be unwrapped and placed in a gift bag affixed with your Nurturing Families gift tag. . More information: Contact Jillian Puzzo at jillianpuzzo@gmail.com or Brittany Bass at britbrown76@aol.com.

The Nominating Committee is preparing a slate of names for a new class of Vestry members to serve from February 2017 through January 2020. The Vestry meets monthly and takes on a variety of other responsibilities to provide oversight and guidance to the parish and the rector. Vestry and officer elections will take place at the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2017. If you would like to learn more about what it means to serve on the Vestry, be considered for an open position, or recommend another parishioner for the Vestry, please talk to a member of the Nominating Committee (David Beers, Eleanor Barnes, Lynn Brooks, and Marki Ware) or the rector.

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:

- **Table volunteers:** Sign up for an hour or two on Festival day to help staff a table.
- **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.
- **Wrapping paper and clear tape:** For a gift-wrapping station staffed by parish youth.

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, by December 1.

Contact Joellen Weidenmiller (j.weidenmiller@gmail.com) or Karen Licht (karen_licht@yahoo.com) for more information or to volunteer.

DID YOU KNOW?

Focus on the Hughes Home Ministry

Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m., St. John's has a service for the residents at Hughes Rehabilitation Home, one block away on South Highland Street. One of our layreaders conducts a service of Morning Prayer and delivers a homily, and a musician plays hymns and leads the group in song. As anyone who has been involved knows, this is a very special time for the residents and for those involved in the service. Some St. John's volunteers have brought flowers and family members to participate, and we have had musical contributions on the piano, the harp, and even by our youth choir. In addition, a number of times each year our clergy lead a service at Hughes Home. Tim Goetz of our parish recently shared some reflections about the importance of this ministry:

As part of my job [as an attorney], I serve as a conservator for elderly people who do not have family willing or able to help them manage their financial and legal affairs. One of the gentlemen for whom I was conservator lived at Hughes for over a year. He was a very religious man and was an active deacon in his church before his dementia took over. The Sunday church service was basically what this man lived for; his entire week was just waiting for Sunday. As soon as he woke up Monday morning, he was already looking forward to Sunday. For various reasons this gentleman needed to move to another nursing home; he died within a couple of months. I cannot say the two are related, but I can say without hesitation that his spirit was broken after he moved. I can't stress enough the importance the Sunday services had for him as well as the others that live there. Although many of them are not 100% aware mentally, they do understand that their time on earth is limited. The importance of the job we do in helping them put their mind at peace with God through the services is something that cannot be measured. The work that St. John's does there means SO MUCH to these people.

Would you like to join us in this important ministry? We are in need of musicians who can play hymns at the service (on piano or some other instrument) and layreaders as well. Prewritten homilies are made available, or you can simply share a few thoughts on the week's scripture readings. Your presence is the most important gift you can offer. Please contact Kim Byrd at 860-558-9916 for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Christmas Pageant – December 18, 10:30 a.m.
- ❖ Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist – December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. (10:30 p.m. choral prelude)
- ❖ Christmas Day Holy Eucharist – December 25 at 10:00 a.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!

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, 3:00 p.m.	Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Youth choir rehearsal at 2:00 p.m. <i>[note corrected time from last week's bulletin]</i>
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 Monday, November 28.**

Christmas Gift Wrap and Clear Tape – For a gift-wrapping station at the Christmas Festival. **Due by Thursday, December 1.**

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 starting on St. Nicholas Day (December 4) and 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

**These positions are non-stipendiary. These clergy give generously of their time and expertise to support St. John's mission and ministries.*

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