

# St. John's Episcopal Church

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

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



## *The Third Sunday of Advent*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

*December 11, 2016*

*10:30 a.m.*

## *An Advent Message from the Rector*

This is the season of Advent, a time of paradox. Advent is both beginnings and endings as we prepare to encounter the Mystery of God in our very midst. We are invited to enter into a time of quiet contemplation as we anticipate God breaking into human history in the shape of a tiny, fragile infant we will welcome as the Christ Child. At the same time we wait for the day of the Lord's coming. In this in-between time, we wait with hope in the darkness of winter for the light of Christ to come into the world. Advent is the beginning of a new church year, with the focus on a particular gospel in our Sunday lectionary readings. This year, we will read from Matthew's gospel. These four weeks of Advent are an opportunity to listen to that still small voice within, beckoning each one of us to stop and set some time apart from our busy holiday preparations to simply be with God. Time spent with the Holy One is to experience the greatest gift of all: God's extravagant outpouring of love and mercy made manifest on Christmas morning. There is no greater gift.

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 Savior of the nations, come Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 640 Watchman, tell us of the night ABERYSTWYTH  
*All stand and sing.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *The Emerick Family*

*Reader #1* We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in your kingdom on earth.

*Reader #2* For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind. We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.

*All* **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

Cantor, then all: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Cantor, then all: Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Cantor, then all: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

## THE FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

*All sit.*

**T**he wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE RESPONSE

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

My soul pro - claims the great - ness of the Lord.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
**the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
**in every generation.**

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
**and has lifted up the lowly.**

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
**and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

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.**

*Antiphon*

## THE EPISTLE

*James 5:7-10*

**B**e patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 324    Let all mortal flesh keep silence

PICARDY

*All stand and sing.*

## THE GOSPEL

*Matthew 11:2-11**Minister* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**W**hen John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

*Minister* The Gospel of the Lord.*All* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE SERMON

The Rev. William Eakins

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

## THE NICENE CREED

*All stand.*

**W**e 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. The people say the responses in bold.*

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, in your mercy, Lord, save us.

Merciful God, you call us to goodness and lead us on right paths. You encourage us with signs of your coming and urge us to keep watch, that we might greet you with heads raised high when you come to restore all creation. Watching and waiting, we pray for this world that needs your saving power.

For nations at war, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For all who suffer from violence, in the streets or in their homes, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For all who live in worry or fear, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For those who have forgotten the ways of righteousness, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For those who have never heard of your rescuing love, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For those who have lost hope, or never had it at all, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

*Celebrant* We pray too, for your church in the world, that we may increase in ardor for you and your children, and work in confidence for your coming reign. Now by the power of your Holy Spirit, make us ever more faithful, that we may greet you in confidence and joy on that great day; through Christ, in whose name we pray. **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 No small wonder

Paul Edwards (b. 1955)  
Text: Paul Wigmore (b. 1925)

Small wonder the star, small wonder the light,  
The angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;  
But stable and manger for God – no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore  
The gold and the incense, the myrrh, to adore:  
But God gives his life on a cross – no small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,  
 The power, the glory, the light of his face;  
 But all to redeem my poor heart – no small wonder!

*Paul Edwards began his career as a young chorister at St. Paul's Cathedral, London. His text writer, Paul Wigmore, relays the story of No small wonder, which eventually was included in the famous service of Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge: "One November morning in 1983 the young composer, Paul Edwards, gathered up his week's bundle of laundry and was about to leave for the local launderette when he opened a letter from me. The letter ended with a new poem – a carol for Advent and Christmas, just three short verses. Paul Edwards had already set a number of my lyrics for choir and this was a new one. He slipped it into his pocket. It would be something to read while he waited for the machine to do the washing, he thought. In the launderette he loaded the machine and sat down, read the poem, grabbed a scrap of manuscript paper and began writing. Trying to imagine how any composer could write this profound music while surrounded by the noise of washing machines is practically impossible." God at work!*

## THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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.

*Cantor:*  
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. 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. have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. 3. 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 Lamb

John Tavener (1944-2013)

Text: William Blake (1757-1827)

Little Lamb who made thee  
 Dost thou know who made thee  
 Gave thee life & bid thee feed.  
 By the stream & o'er the mead;  
 Gave thee clothing of delight,  
 Softest clothing wooly bright;  
 Gave thee such a tender voice,  
 Making all the vales rejoice!  
 Little Lamb who made thee  
 Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,  
 Little Lamb I'll tell thee!  
 He is called by thy name,  
 For he calls himself a Lamb:  
 He is meek & he is mild,  
 He became a little child:  
 I a child & thou a lamb,  
 We are called by his name.  
 Little Lamb God bless thee.  
 Little Lamb God bless thee.

*"The Lamb" is a setting of a poem by William Blake, depicting the innocence of the Christ child, the beautiful creation of God. It is part of Blake's collection Songs of Innocence of 1789. Although the original poems were meant to be sung, Blake's original tunes are lost to the ages. Sir John Tavener set the poem to music, explaining that, "'The Lamb' came to me fully grown and was written in an afternoon and dedicated to my nephew Simon for his 3rd birthday."*

## 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 72 Hark! the glad sound!

RICHMOND

*All stand and sing.*

## THE DISMISSAL

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

## THE VOLUNTARY Toccata

Scott Lamlein, 2010

*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 Ginny Kemp.**

*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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*Prayers of the people from Feasting on the Word, edited by David L. Bartlett, Barbara Brown Taylor, and Kimberly Bracken Long, ©2014 Westminster John Knox Press.*

## THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

**Celebrant:** The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

**Preacher:** The Reverend William Eakins

**Deacon:** The Reverend Walter McKenney

**Layreader:** Christoph Stretz

**Cantor:** John Nowacki

**Acolytes:** J.P. Evans, Britt Emerick, Teddy Babbitt, Morgan Babbitt

**Ushers:** Jean Mitchell (*Team Leader*), Brad Babbitt, Bob Connolly, Edwin Genece, Giselle Genece, Annabel Clapp

**Healing Prayers:** Wes Winterbottom and David Grimaldi

**Altar Guild:** Paul Shaker and Bess Amamoo

**At Hughes Convalescent Home:**

**Layreader:** Lissie Brooks

**All are welcome to coffee hour immediately after the service.** Thank you to Susan Clemow for hosting today. We are looking for people to sign up to host coffee hour in 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 Caleb Hitchcock Center at Duncaster; 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	Paul Dewey	Kathy	Chas
Kim Green	Jim Tracy	Will Eakins	Jay	Nancy
Carol Grieco	Andrew Lee	Susan	Charlie	

### Those who are celebrating birthdays this week:

Bowie Thomas	Elisabeth Russell	Pat Cherry	Carol Sonne
Emily Russell	Elsa Ciscel	Tim Henning	Julia Grieco
Sarah Thaxton	Dave Pond	Morgan Babbitt	

### The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Diocese of Kericho (Kenya).

### In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford, and those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed.

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## FOR YOUR CALENDAR.

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We are offering 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](mailto:helen@sjparish.net) if you have questions.

**A Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held TODAY, Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m.** Join us for this beautiful liturgy featuring scripture read by parishioners and music from St. John's Choirs. A reception will follow. The reception also provides an opportunity to enjoy art by Lisa Bell, on display in Hubbard Hall through December.

During Epiphany, the **Sunday morning adult Faith Forums on January 8, 15, and 22** will be a discussion of the book *People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity* by Dwight J. Zscheile. The publisher's description of the book is as follows:

There is a renewed conversation about identity and mission in American Anglicanism today, based on the recognition that the church's context in the U.S. has dramatically changed. The legacies of establishment, benefactor approaches to mission, and the national church ideal are no longer adequate for the challenges and opportunities facing the 21st century church. But if the Episcopal Church is no longer the Church of the Establishment and the benefactor model of church is dead, what is the heart of Episcopal mission and identity? Scholar and Episcopal priest Dwight Zscheile draws on multiple streams of Anglican thought and practice, plus contemporary experience to craft a vision for mission that addresses the church's post-establishment, post-colonial context. With stories, practices and concrete illustrations, Zscheile engages readers in re-envisioning what it means to be Anglican in America today and sends readers out to build new relationships within their local contexts.

All are invited to be part of this discussion on our call and mission as Episcopalians. Paperback copies of the book are \$17 on Amazon, and the Kindle version is \$9.99. If you plan to come to one or more book discussion sessions, you may purchase the book on your own OR let Ellen in the parish office know by **Tuesday, December 20** if you'd like us to order one on your behalf; we ask that you reimburse the \$17 cost (cash or check) when you pick the book up from the office or at the first Faith Forum session on January 8. E-mail Ellen at [ellen@sjparish.net](mailto:ellen@sjparish.net) or call her at 860-523-5201.

**Men's Bible Study is held every Thursday at 6:30 a.m. in the Reception Room.** It's even better than Sports Center. Join us!

**Women Together!** Women from St. John's, St. James's, and Trinity Episcopal Churches are invited to gather for an Epiphany-themed Bible study led by the Rev. Helen M. Moore. Over the course of four meetings, we will explore Scripture, cultivate friendships and reflect on our spiritual journeys. **The group will meet every other Tuesday in Epiphany (January 10, January 24, February 7, and February 21) from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at St. John's.** If you plan to attend or have questions, contact the Rev. Helen M. Moore at 860-331-1127 or [helen@sjparish.net](mailto:helen@sjparish.net), Linda MacGougan at 860-561-1588, or Emily Estes at 860-966-5466.

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY, GIVING AND CONNECTION

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We are now inviting **memorial offerings toward Christmas poinsettias** to decorate the altar for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. We will have flower offering envelopes available in the office starting tomorrow (Monday, December 12). By next Sunday (December 18), the envelopes will also be available in the pews for you to pick up. If you'd like to contribute toward Christmas poinsettias in memory of a loved one, you may use this special envelope to send your donation to the office or put it in the offering plate, and include the name(s) of those in whose memory/honor you are donating. Contact Ellen in the parish office if you would like her to send you a flower offering envelope this week. You may also just mail in your Christmas flower donation check, with a note including the names to be included on the flower memorial list and "Christmas flowers" in the memo line. Memorial donations and names must be received in the office by **Wednesday, December 21** to ensure that your loved ones' names are included in Christmas bulletins. Thank you!

**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.

**Donate 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; multi-packs of disposable hand warmers; non-perishable snacks (such as granola bars or cracker packs); 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. See the poster in Hubbard Hall with cards that you can take to remind you to pick up a particular item.

**Help us stock the bird feeders in the Cloister Garden this winter.** We're looking for quality bird seed, such as black oil sunflower seeds or Nyger seed (commonly called "thistle"), which help attract the greatest variety of songbirds. Seed can be dropped off inside the parish office entrance any time.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS!**

We will be sending year-end contribution statements by e-mail and want to make sure we have everyone's correct address. (If you do not have an e-mail address, we will mail your statement.) If your e-mail address has changed recently or if you haven't yet given your address to St. John's, please send us that information. Also, if you are not currently signed up to receive St. John's weekly e-mail newsletter, which goes out every Thursday, please let us know if you'd like to be added to that list.  
Contact Ellen in the parish office at [ellen@sjparish.net](mailto:ellen@sjparish.net) or 860-523-5201. Thanks!

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!**

- ❖ Advent Midweek Eucharist, followed by bag lunch and Bible Study – Wednesdays at 12:10 p.m.
- ❖ Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – December 11, 3:00 p.m.
- ❖ Christmas Pageant Rehearsal – December 17, 9 a.m. to noon with pizza lunch  
*Speaking roles, angels and youth choir: 9 a.m. to noon. Everyone else: 10 a.m. to noon*
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ *People of the Way* Book Discussion at Faith Forums January 8, 15, and 22, 9:30 a.m.
- ❖ Women Together Epiphany Spirituality Group January 10 and 24, February 7 and 21, 3 to 4 p.m.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### *Focus on St. John's Lay Staff*

St. John's lay staff members do a variety of jobs to keep the parish running smoothly and support our mission and ministry. Here are details about each staff member's responsibilities and who you should talk to about particular programs and questions. If you're ever unsure who you should talk to, contact Ellen in the parish office and she will steer you in the right direction.

**Janet Babbitt**, director of religious education, oversees all aspects of Christian education for children and teens. She plans church school lessons, leads the Word Alive children's program during the 10:30 a.m. service, supervises nursery and church school staff and volunteers, and coordinates youth-related projects, such as the Iona pilgrimage and community service projects. **Talk to Janet if you'd like to volunteer to work with the Christian education program or have questions about church school and youth programs.**

**Ellen Dollar**, parish manager, oversees parish administration and manages the office. Besides answering phones, ordering office supplies, and greeting visitors, Ellen coordinates parish communications, works with the sexton to manage the parish calendar and facility schedule, and works with the financial administrator on such things as preparing bank deposits and communicating with donors. She also serves as the rector's administrative assistant. **Talk to Ellen if you'd like to get an announcement out to the parish, make an appointment with the rector, make a purchase to support your parish committee's work, or get more information about an upcoming event.**

**Scott Lamlein**, director of music, plans and oversees all aspects of St. John's musical offerings. He leads the youth and adult choirs, serves as the parish organist, and selects all music for worship services. He also manages the Music at the Red Door program, which features both St. John's and outside musicians in a series of concerts and special services throughout the program year. **Talk to Scott if you or your child are interested in joining the choir or you have questions about St. John's music programs.**

**Dwight Latif**, sexton, serves as St. John's property manager. He reserves parish space for events, manages contracts for space rental with external groups, sets up and cleans up for events, and oversees maintenance of St. John's property. **Talk to Dwight about reserving space for your church committee or an outside group, setting up for an event taking place at St. John's, and other questions about the church facilities.**

**Mirella Russo**, financial administrator, oversees St. John's finances, including recording contributions and other income, paying bills, providing monthly expense and income reports, and managing the budget in partnership with the treasurers, rector and wardens. She ensures that the parish's financial procedures and record-keeping meet standards set by the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). **Talk to Mirella if you have questions about a contribution you have sent or wish to send, your pledge, a bill related to your parish committee's work that needs to be paid, or a report related to your committee's budget.**

**Mary Scripko**, religious education assistant, works part-time with Janet Babbitt to plan and staff the Christian education program. Mary works with all ages of kids in church school and, drawing on her background as a professional violist and piano teacher, founded the St. John's Youth Orchestra. **Talk to Mary if you have questions about the nursery, the St. John's Youth Orchestra or overall Christian education for children and youth.**

**Parish office hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Variable staff schedules, meetings, and other events occasionally mean that when you call during those hours, no one is available to answer the phone. If you leave a voicemail message, we will get back to you!**

# 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