

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another

www.sjparish.net



Christmas Day

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

December 25, 2016

10:00 a.m.

A Christmas Message from the Rector

As followers of Christ Jesus, it has been our custom for generations upon generations to come together to say our ancient prayers and sing our favorite carols as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. And when we do, something happens. Our waiting comes to an end, as new hope is born within our hearts in the form of Jesus, the Savior of the World. No matter how joyful or sad, excited or exhausted you may be this holiday season, take heart in the knowledge that all things are made new by the tiny babe we find lying in a manger on Christmas morning. This is where we place our hope for new beginnings and a new world.

If you are with us for the first time, please make yourself comfortable. 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 a nursery area; the nursery is not staffed for Christmas services, but parents are welcome to take young children there should they need a break from the service. Please ask the ushers for assistance with these or with any other request. Again, welcome, and Merry Christmas.

THE VOLUNTARY Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing?

Dale Wood (1934-2003)

THE OPENING HYMN 96 Angels we have heard on high
All stand and sing.

GLORIA

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.**

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 62:6-12

All sit.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalms 97

The people say the responses in bold.

- 1 The Lord is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 **Clouds and darkness are round about him, ***
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 **His lightnings light up the world; ***
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 **The heavens declare his righteousness, ***
and all the peoples see his glory.

- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 **Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O Lord.**
- 9 For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 **The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.**
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 **Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.**

THE EPISTLE

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 79 O little town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that

has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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. The people say the words in bold.

God of glory, by your grace a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders, and in his name we pray.

Wonderful Counselor, **we pray for wisdom for the world's leaders, that they may use their power to lift burdens and break the bonds of oppression.**

Mighty God, **we pray for the church of Jesus Christ our Lord, that you will multiply and increase our joy as we share in the harvest you have gathered.**

Everlasting Father, **we pray for families, friends, and loved ones, that those who now walk in deep darkness may see the great light of your saving love.**

Prince of Peace, **we pray for an end to violence and warfare, that your authority may continue to grow until there is endless peace in every land.**

Celebrant Lord of hosts, establish your holy realm with justice and righteousness, from this time on and forevermore. **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 Pastorale

Louis Lefebvre-Wely (1817-1869)

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All remain standing or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us

worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at St. John's.

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.

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 CLOSING HYMN 100 Joy to the world

ANTIOCH

All stand and sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY In dulci júbilo

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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.

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**Celebrant and Preacher:** The Reverend Susan Pinkerton**Layreader:** Kim Byrd**Ushers:** John Amamoo, Philip Chapman, Ben and Ellen Flynn**At the Hughes Home:****Layreader:** Mike Corey**Musician:** Helen Hughlett**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 Health and Rehabilitation facility.

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	Jim Tracy	Jeanette Stanley	Kathy	Chas
Kim Green	Andrew Lee	Mary Karolewsky	Jay	Nancy
Carol Grieco	Paul Dewey	Tony Dipiano	Charlie	Susan
Janet Ray	Will Eakins			

Those who are celebrating birthdays this week:

Winston Booker	Claire Brouillard	Alycia Montas
Carolyn Giliberto	Dorian Ciscel	Paul Faude

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Kita Kanto (Japan) and the Right Reverend Zerubbabel Katsuichi Hirota.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Mark's, Bridgeport; St. Mark's, Bridgewater; St. John's, Bristol; ministries to the homeless; parishes that offer a temporary or permanent shelter; Chapel on the Green, New Haven; and Church by the Pond, Hartford.

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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.

Christmas Flower Memorials

The poinsettias adorning the church are given in memory or honor of the following people:

Daniel Adams III	John Grieco	Barbara Pinkerton
Nadir Ali	Orson H. Hart Jr.	Andrya Ramer
Nassa Ali	Helen and Harold Howlett	E. Clair Rankin
Peter Ali	Bill and Toni Hutchinson	Frank and Mary Reilly
Thomas W. Bailey	Robert and Margaret Jaques	Francis P. Reilly
William O. Bailey	Arline Simpkin Kingsley	Kate Chapman Simpkin
Robertta Bataillon	Arthur Charles Kingsley	Oliver Henry Simpkin
Aunt Z. Broderick	Beverly Ann Kingsley	Daisy and Harvey Spaunburg
Shirley Bunis	Elsa M. Lattey	John Varnall Spaunburg
Elaine K. Byrd	Erik F. Lattey	Aileen D. Stoughton
Carol H. Byrd	Mary P. Lawrence	Amanda Stoughton
Lois Newcomb Church	Richard W. Lawrence	Dwight H. Stoughton
Gerard and Nolda Cissen	Jane Lupoli	George D. Stoughton
Wendy Wright Collins	Ernest MacLaughlin	Peter Van C. Stoughton
Adrian Edward Crocker	Sadie MacLaughlin	Thomas R. Tight
John Frank Shears Crocker	J. Archibald McNulty	Shirley LaValley Uricchio
Joseph and Mary DeLuca	Elizabeth McNulty	John Joseph Uricchio
Ruth and Bill Eakins	Neeland McNulty	George E. and Abbie Baxter Van Siclen
George Michael Evica	Susanne McNulty	Katherine Estelle Vaughan
John Paul and Helen H. Faude	Edward and Eleanor D'Este Mosehauer	N. William Wawro
John Paul Faude, Jr.	Elaine Patterson	M. Searle Wright
Ginny and Dick Gregory	Robert F. and Abbie V.S. Peterson	

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

- ❖ Parish Office CLOSED — December 26 and 27, 2016 and January 2, 2017
- ❖ New Year's Day Holy Eucharist — January 1 at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- ❖ Twelfth Night Potluck Dinner and Bonfire — January 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- ❖ Women Together Epiphany Spirituality Group — January 10 and 24, February 7 and 21, 3 to 4 p.m.
- ❖ Jazz Eucharist — January 15 at 10:30 a.m.
- ❖ St. John's Annual Meeting — January 29
- ❖ Choral Evensong featuring the choir of Center Church — January 29 at 5 p.m.
- ❖ Annual Food Auction Fundraiser — February 3
- ❖ Pipes Alive! Organ Concert featuring Scott Lamlein — February 5 at 12:30 p.m.

PICK UP YOUR 2017 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

Numbered pledge envelopes, labeled with pledgers' names, are available for pick-up in Hubbard Hall (on a table near the entrance to the nave). Envelopes that are not picked up by January 3 will be mailed. If you are a new pledger and would like pledge envelopes (numbered envelopes that you can put your pledge payments in when you place them in the offertory plate), please e-mail Ellen in the parish office at ellen@sparish.net to let her know. Whether or not to use pledge envelopes is up to you.

Thank you for your support of St. John's! Merry Christmas!

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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

ST. 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