St. John’s Episcopal Church  
*A place to discover connections with God and one another*  
www.sjparish.net

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**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  GLORIA
All stand and sing.

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:
Celebrant  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

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 Psalm 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.
CHRISTMAS DAY

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

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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. 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

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

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

All stand and sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY  In dulci jubilo  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 missioner 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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Christmas Flower Memorials

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

Daniel Adams III  
Nadir Ali  
Nassa Ali  
Peter Ali  
Thomas W. Bailey  
William O. Bailey  
Roberta Bataillon  
Aunt Z. Broderick  
Shirley Bunis  
Elaine K. Byrd  
Carol H. Byrd  
Lois Newcomb Church  
Gerard and Nolda Cissen  
Wendy Wright Collins  
Adrian Edward Crocker  
John Frank Shears Crocker  
Joseph and Mary DeLuca  
Ruth and Bill Eakins  
George Michael Evica  
John Paul and Helen H. Faude  
John Paul Faude, Jr.  
Ginny and Dick Gregory

John Grieco  
Orson H. Hart Jr.  
Helen and Harold Howlett  
Bill and Toni Hutchinson  
Robert and Margaret Jaques  
Arlene Simpkin Kingsley  
Arthur Charles Kingsley  
Beverly Ann Kingsley  
Elsa M. Lattey  
Erik F. Lattey  
Mary P. Lawrence  
Richard W. Lawrence  
Jane Lupoli  
Ernest MacLaughlin  
Sadie MacLaughlin  
J. Archibald McNulty  
Elizabeth McNulty  
Neeland McNulty  
Susanne McNulty  
Edward and Eleanor D’Este Mosehauer  
Elaine Patterson  
Robert F. and Abbie V.S. Peterson  
Barbara Pinkerton  
Andrya Ramer  
E. Clair Rankin  
Frank and Mary Reilly  
Francis P. Reilly  
Kate Chapman Simpkin  
Oliver Henry Simpkin  
Daisy and Harvey Spaunburg  
John Varnall Spaunburg  
Aileen D. Stoughton  
Amanda Stoughton  
Dwight H. Stoughton  
George D. Stoughton  
Peter Van C. Stoughton  
Thomas R. Tight  
Shirley LaValley Uricchio  
John Joseph Uricchio  
George E. and Abbie Baxter Van Siclen  
Katherine Estelle Vaughan  
N. William Wawro  
M. Searle Wright
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@sjparish.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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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) .................................................. Priests 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 (dwright@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 Hickox, 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