

# St. John's Episcopal Church

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

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



*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

*March 26, 2017*

*10:30 a.m.*

## *A Lenten Message from the Rector*

Lent is a season that invites us to be actively engaged in the process of *becoming* the unique person God has called each one of us to be. To help guide us in this process of *becoming*, we turn to our rich Anglican tradition for support. For the next 40 days, we inhabit a liminal space, an in-between time of quiet reflection, prayer and meditation. Lent is a penitential season, meaning that we are intentional about reviewing our lives and the choices we make. We take time out from our daily schedule to devote sincere thought and prayer to naming and confessing our sins (the word “sin” is from the Greek for “miss the mark”). We reflect on the brokenness in our lives, not to be maudlin, but as a necessary step toward enriching and deepening our spiritual lives. In acknowledging how we miss the mark, we also acknowledge our need for God, not just on Sunday but every day. Let this Lent be a holy invitation to experience God’s grace with the promise of hope and renewal.

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 nursery care for young children. Please ask the ushers for assistance with these or with any other requests. Again, welcome.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

THE VOLUNTARY Passacaglia: the prodigal son

James Biery (b. 1956)

*A passacaglia is a musical work in which a single line of music is repeated over and over, usually in the bass, and continuous thematic development happens in the upper parts – much like the famous Pachelbel Canon. James Biery’s Passacaglia takes the listener through all of the emotions of the Prodigal Son story – questioning, loss, pain, quiet resolution, gently quoting the hymn-tune St. Columba at its conclusion.*

### SILENT PROCESSION

*All stand at the sound of the bell.*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **God’s mercy endures for ever.**

*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

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Music: Plainsong Mode I, Orbis Factor

Translation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Lent brings us an opportunity for deeper reflection, as we take a break from musical fanfares and descants, and replace them with a silent procession and meditative chant. The service music that we sing during Lent is all from the Gregorian Missal; both the Sanctus and Agnus Dei were famously set in Maurice Duruflé's Requiem.*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in 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

*1 Samuel 16:1-13**All sit.*

**T**he Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALTER

*Psalm 23**Sung by the choir.*

Iona Chant, arr. John Bell (b. 1949)

Julia Foust, soprano

- 1    The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
      nothing shall I want.
- 2    He makes me lie down in green pastures. \*  
      By still waters he leads me.
- 3    The Lord restores my soul, \*  
      and guides me in good pathways as he promised.
- 4    E'en though I walk through the valley of deepest dark,  
      yet will I fear no evil. \*  
      You, Lord, are always with me;  
      your rod and your staff are my comfort.

- 5 Before my eyes a table you prepare;  
you spread it in the presence of my enemies.\*  
With holy oil you anoint my head;  
my cup, my cup is overflowing.
- 6 Goodness and mercy, these will follow me all the days of my life.\*  
I surely shall live in the house of the Lord forever and forever.

## THE EPISTLE

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 645 The king of love my shepherd is

ST. COLUMBA

*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

*John 9:1-41*

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

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe

that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

## THE SERMON

The Reverend Hope Eakins

## THE NICENE CREED

*All stand.*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*A period of silence is kept. The people say the words in bold.*

God of Light, shine in our lives, our hearts and our minds, so that we may, with conviction and hope, share your light with the world.

We pray for this community and our clergy and lay leaders; for Michael, our presiding bishop, and Ian and Laura, our bishops; and for all people of faith. May our words and deeds shine your light into the world's darkness. — **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in positions of authority, especially for Donald, our president; Dannel, our governor; and local leaders making decisions under challenging circumstances. Open their eyes to all that is good and right and true, so their decisions may nurture the welfare and dignity of all people. — **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who live in the darkness of violence, poverty and fear. Equip those who are working in dark places to share the light of Christ and meet basic human needs for care and safety. — **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, struggling and in pain, especially those on our parish prayer list and those whose names are known to you alone. Touch them with your healing power, and grant them sustaining hope and sure knowledge of your presence. — **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died. May we be inspired by their faithful witness, and may your light shine on them forever. — **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* O God, strengthen and empower us to live as children of light. Grant us the courage to act boldly in response to what we have seen of your power to heal and save, and what we believe of your forgiveness, love and grace for all people. **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 Pilgrims' Hymn

Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)  
Words: Michael Dennis Brown

Even before we call on Your name  
To ask You, O God,  
When we seek for the words to glorify You,  
You hear our prayer;  
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,  
Surpassing all we know.  
Glory to the father,  
and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit.  
Even with darkness sealing us in,  
We breathe Your name,  
And through all the days that follow so fast,  
We trust in You;  
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace,  
Beyond all mortal dream.  
Both now and forever,  
And unto ages and ages,  
Amen.

*This work is from an opera titled The Three Hermits and is powerful in its subtlety. Paulus uses straightforward harmonic progressions and melodic writing in such a deft way as to point the listener not to the notes and rhythms, but to the intent and message of the piece. This is one of the most stunningly effective (and affective) pieces in the choral repertoire. (Notes courtesy Randall Z. Stroope)*

### 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. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.



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

San - ctus, San - ctus, San - ctus Dó - mi - nus De - us Sá - ba - oth.  
 Ple - ni sunt cae - li et ter - ra gló - ri - a tu - a. Ho - sán - na  
 in ex - cél - sis. Be - ne - dí - ctus qui ve - nit in nó - mi - ne  
 Dó - mi - ni. Ho - sán - na in ex - cél - sis.

*Music: Gregorian Chant, Deus Genitor alme*

Translation: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*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.*



*Music: Gregorian Chant, Deus Genitor alme*

Translation: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

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

### THE COMMUNION MOTET Ave verum corpus

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Ave, verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum immolatum in Cruce pro homine,  
Cujus latus perforatum unda fluxit sanguine, esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.

*Hail, true body born of the Virgin Mary, who truly suffered, sacrificed on the Cross for man,  
Whose pierced side overflowed with blood, Be for us a foretaste in the test of death.*

## 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.**

## PRAYER FOR MISSION

**Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little, and we have arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life; when having fallen in love with time we have ceased to dream of eternity; and, in our efforts to build the new earth have allowed our vision of the new heaven to grow dim. Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show Thy mastery, where losing sight of land we shall find the stars. In the name of Him, who has pushed back the horizons of our hopes and invited the brave to follow Him. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant gives the blessing and the people respond, Amen.*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION It is well with my soul

VILLE DU HAVRE

*All stand and sing.*

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my  
 2. Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should  
 3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous  
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be

1. way, When sor - rows like sea - bil - lows roll;  
 2. come, Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,  
 3. thought— My sin— not in part, but the whole—  
 4. sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,

1. What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to  
 2. That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -  
 3. Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no  
 4. The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -

1. say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
 2. taste, And has shed His own blood for my soul.  
 3. more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 4. ascend, "E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul,  
 It is well with my

— It is well, it is well with my soul.  
 soul,

Words: Horatio Spafford (1828-1888), Music: Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876)

**THE DISMISSAL**

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

**THE VOLUNTARY Chaconne**

Louis Couperin (1626-1661)

*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.*

**St. John's Vestry members are on hand to welcome you to worship today.  
Today's greeter is Douglas Hyland.**

**THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**

**Celebrant:** The Reverend Susan Pinkerton

**Preacher:** The Reverend Hope Eakins

**Layreader:** Wes Winterbottom

**Acolytes:** John O'Brien, Maisie Smith, Caroline Thaxton, Abby Thaxton

**Ushers:** Susan Clemow, John and Laura Roche, Paul Shaker

**Healing Prayers:** David Grimaldi

**Altar Guild:** Nancy Pedersen and Shirley Blean

**At Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center:**

**Layreader:** John Hardy

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*"Disturb us, O Lord" prayer by Addison H. Groff*

**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 School, 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 Center.

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	Robert Connolly	Chas	Jay
Kim Green	Cheryl Trahan	Mary Stoughton	Susan	William
Carol Grieco	Marlene Lambert	Grayson Moore	Kathy	Ian
Janet Ray	Frank & Susan	Kate Forbes	Jim	Alec
Alison & Sam Johnson	Murray	Carol		

**Those who are celebrating birthdays this week:**

Molly Fowler	Stuart Carlisle	Toby Aguiar	John Beir
Paul Farrell	Pam Dimock	Katherine Rives	John O'Brien
Emeline Carlisle	Jay Noyes	Linda Fiske	Dylan Farrell
Maggie Grant	Patricia Hensley	Tita Hyland	Rich Barstow

**The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for the Anglican Church of Mexico.

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Trinity, Hartford; St. Peter's, Hebron; St. James', Higganum; All Saints', Ivoryton; and for hospital chaplains; Stephen Ministers; other pastoral care groups; ministries of healing; parish nurses; wellness programs; and recovery ministries.

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**FOR YOUR CALENDAR**


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St. John's will hold a service of **Choral Evensong**, featuring the Bishop's Choir School of Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield **TODAY at 5 p.m.** In the ancient service of Evensong, the clergy, choir and congregation offer music, scripture, and prayer to the glory of God alone, that it might make the day we have just shared holy and perfect, and prepare us for the week ahead. Evensong quiets the soul and makes space for reflection and gratitude—please come and bring someone with you.

**All are welcome to a potluck dinner on Thursday, March 30 at 6 p.m.** to celebrate the Kattoub family's first seven months in West Hartford, and all the hard work they and their volunteer partners have done in that time to get settled. (St. John's co-sponsors the Kattoubs, a refugee family from Syria, with St. James's Episcopal Church.) The Kattoubs and several other recently resettled Syrian families will be there along with members of both sponsoring churches. Let Ellen in the parish office know what you'd like to contribute to the meal—or just come, whether or not you can bring anything!

**The Episcopal Church in Connecticut's Spring Training & Gathering** is an annual training day with dozens of workshops. The 2017 Gathering will take place **Saturday, April 1** from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event is designed for both clergy and lay people, and Susan Pinkerton will be leading a workshop with Bishop Laura Ahrens. For more information and to register, visit [www.episcopalct.org/spring-training](http://www.episcopalct.org/spring-training).

**Next Sunday, April 2, St. John's Warden Wes Winterbottom will preach at both services and lead an interactive Faith Forum on Healing Prayer.** Don't miss this exploration of one of St. John's key pastoral ministries, and remember that Healing Prayer volunteers are available at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service every week to pray with you—for yourself or for someone else. Go to the baptismal font after receiving communion. All prayer requests are held in confidence.

A revitalized **Christian Education committee will meet after the 10:30 service on Sunday, April 2**, to provide ideas and support for our religious education programs for children and youth. Contact Janet Babbitt, director of Christian education, if you have questions or want to participate but can't attend the meeting.

Our Popular **Pipes Alive!** series resumes with Christa Rakich playing the mighty Austin organ on **Sunday, April 2 at 12:30 p.m.** Christa is an internationally known concert organist, music director at St. Mark's Church in West Hartford, and Artist-in-Residence at the Somers Congregational Church. Join us for half-hour organ concerts featuring St. John's magnificent Austin pipe organ, on the first Sunday of the month, January through June, 12:30 p.m. with local organists. Free!

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!**

- ❖ "Women Together" Lent book study — Tuesdays in Lent from 3 to 4:15 p.m.
- ❖ Lent midweek Bible study — Wednesdays in Lent at noon
- ❖ Men's Bible study — Every Thursday at 6:30 a.m.
- ❖ Evensong with the Bishop's Choir School, Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield — March 26 at 5 p.m.
- ❖ Refugee Ministry potluck dinner — March 30 at 6 p.m.
- ❖ Episcopal Church in CT Spring Training — April 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- ❖ Faith Forum & sermon on Healing Prayer — April 2 at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- ❖ Pipes Alive! with Christa Rakich — April 2 at 12:30 p.m.

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## RESOURCES FOR A HOLY LENT

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The Rev. Susan Pinkerton is leading an informal **Bible study at noon every Wednesday** in Lent. All are welcome to drop by—one time, every week, or somewhere in between.

### *Sarah, the saint who laughed at God's unlikely promises*

Sarah is the first Old Testament figure to be featured in the annual “Lent Madness” competition, and one of the “Saintly Sixteen” currently in contention for the “Elate 8.” According to the Lent Madness web site, Sarah “was Abraham’s half-sister and younger by about ten years. Abraham had pulled more than one rabbit out of his hat by diplomatically omitting the nuptial aspect of their association. He was also insistent that God had promised them a child—together. Sarah had heard some crazy things come out of Abraham’s mouth and had seen some crazy things standing at his side, but when she heard the three strangers tell Abraham that she—Sarah—would hold her very own baby in just a short while, she laughed out loud. She had been in the desert a long time, but she wasn’t all the way crazy. Sarah laughed Isaac into the world and held the living proof of God’s promise in her own hands. If we are honest, we can imagine her making the totally opposite noise some years later when Abraham took the boy off into the badlands, clumsily trying to explain to her that God had asked him to do another impossible thing. Some years after Abraham and Isaac returned from Moriah, Sarah died. In the first recorded commercial transaction in the Bible, Abraham bought a resting place for the woman who had moved everywhere with him and who had died while he was away on business.”



Provided by Forward Movement (the people who publish the *Forward Day by Day* devotionals), Lent Madness is a March Madness-style bracket chart plotting “competitions” between saints of the church. Each day, two saints are featured, with biographical information presented for each. As Lent progresses, “things get a bit more interesting... as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch.”

You can download your own bracket, read about the saints, and vote each day for which of the day's paired saints you like best at [www.LentMadness.org](http://www.LentMadness.org), or track the competition on the bracket posted on the bulletin board outside Hubbard Hall. While many of the featured saints are well-known, many are not, and reading about them provides inspiration and a needed reminder that “saints” are nothing more than regular people who did what they believed God was leading them to do, despite obstacles and costs.



EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL DONATIONS  
DUE BY APRIL 7

St. John's is now accepting donations toward Easter flowers in memory/honor of your loved ones, whose names will be listed in the Easter service bulletin. To make a flower memorial donation, you may either:

- **Use a flower offering envelope.** Envelopes are in each pew. Put your donation check (marked "Easter flowers" in the memo line) in the envelope, write the name(s) you'd like listed in the bulletin, and put it in the offering plate or drop it off at the office.  
OR
- **Mail or drop off your check and list of names directly to the office in a regular envelope.**

Send in names by **Friday, April 7** to guarantee that they will be in the Easter bulletins.

# Healing Prayer

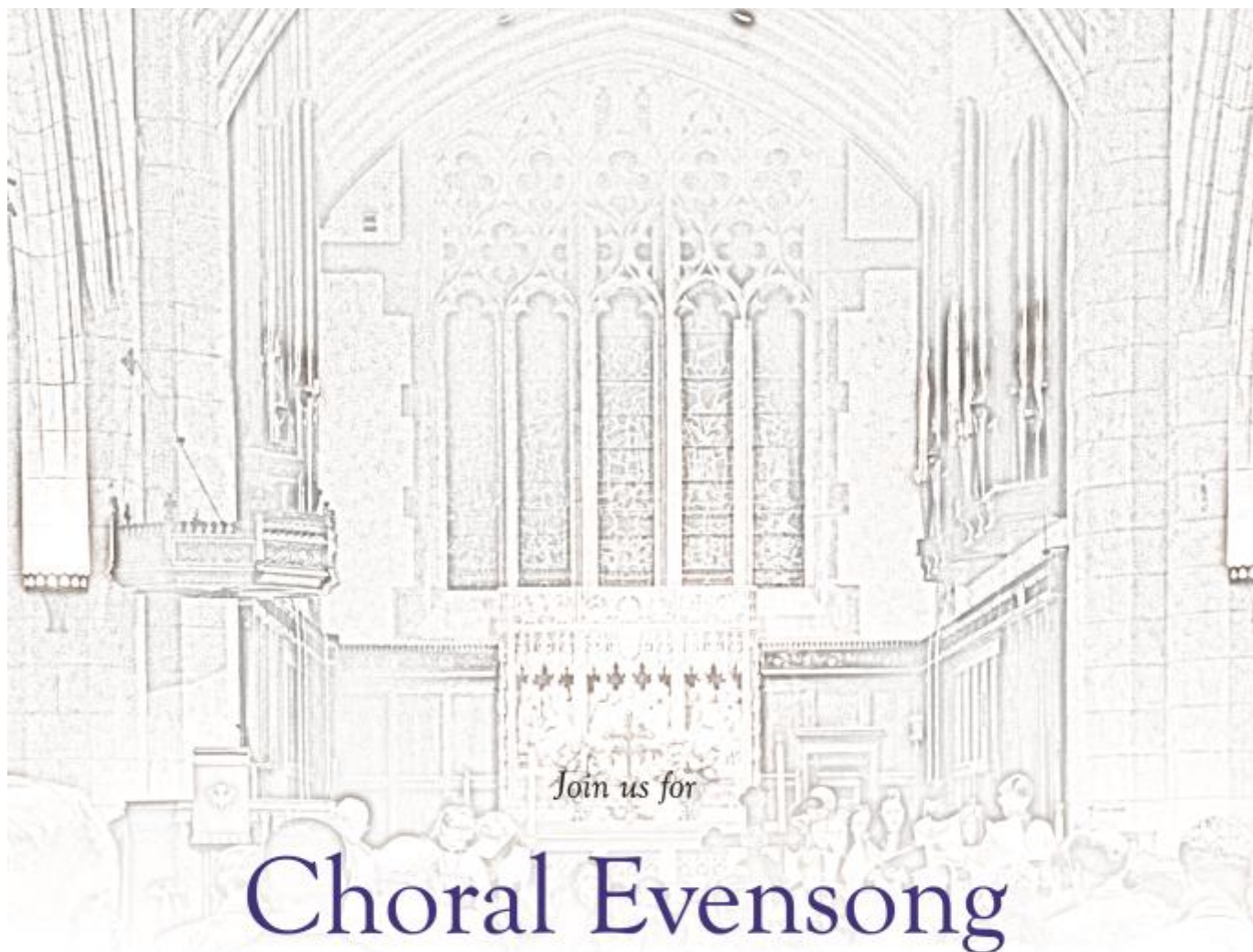
Why we all need healing

How we experience healing

The role of our prayers in God's healing power

A sermon and Faith  
Forum on healing prayer  
by Wes Winterbottom,  
warden

Sunday April 2  
Sermons at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.  
Faith Forum at 9:30 a.m.



*A time of quiet, music, and a needed connection to the Sacred.*

Sunday, March 26  
Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield

Sunday, April 30  
St. John's Youth & Adult Choirs

5:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church  
679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford  
[www.reddoormusic.org](http://www.reddoormusic.org)



**Sign up to host a Sunday coffee hour** on the Faith Forum bulletin board in Hubbard Hall.

**Partner with Grace Academy students for a community clean-up.** All are invited to a community clean-up on **Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to noon** (NOTE DATE CHANGE) with students from Grace Academy, where we sponsor a student and provide volunteer support. We'll be cleaning up a park and/or other public space. This is an opportunity to not only contribute to neighborhood beautification, but also get to know Grace Academy students. Meet at Grace Academy at 10 a.m. Contact Julia O'Brien at [jpowellob@comcast.net](mailto:jpowellob@comcast.net) for more information.

**Volunteer as a rickshaw driver!** Yes, you read that right — Bike West Hartford's new program "Cycling without Age" pairs volunteers with residents of the Hughes Rehabilitation

Center, where St. John's leads a weekly Sunday worship service. As you pedal, your passengers (each rickshaw can hold two) enjoy fresh air and increased mobility, along with conversation with you and each other. What better way to get some exercise (although the rickshaws are equipped with electric-assist motors that do most of the work) while connecting with our neighbors and the great outdoors? Training is provided and you can volunteer on your own schedule. Volunteers must have a valid drivers license. Get more information, or make a monetary donation to the program, at [www.bikewesthartford.org/cycling-without-age.html](http://www.bikewesthartford.org/cycling-without-age.html). Or contact program coordinators Kevin Sullivan (860-690-4576, [ksullivan12@snet.net](mailto:ksullivan12@snet.net)) or Dan Firestone (860-521-6835, [dsfcpa@ntplx.net](mailto:dsfcpa@ntplx.net)).

**Help Habitat for Humanity build homes.** Habitat's mission is "to build safe, affordable housing with people in the United States and around the world, and that [mission] comes from a desire to put God's love into action."

Upcoming events include "**Building on Faith**" on **April 19 to 22**, where volunteers from various faith communities will work together on build sites, and "**Women Build 2017**" on **May 10 to 13**, which invites groups of women (perhaps a group of St. John's women can join forces?) to learn how to install windows and siding on a build site. For more information, contact St. John's parishioner Mark Proft at [mproft@gmail.com](mailto:mproft@gmail.com) or 860-989-4637.

**We have an ongoing need for \$5 or \$10 gift cards for Walgreens, CVS, ShopRite, Subway or Dunkin Donuts** to give to neighborhood residents who stop by with basic needs for food and toiletries. Please pick some up when you're able and either drop them off at the office or hand them to any staff member.

# 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
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

Buffy Ineson.....	Warden
Wes Winterbottom.....	Warden
Beth Grieco and Chris Byrd.....	Co-Treasurers
Ellen Painter Dollar .....	Clerk

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

2016-18: Bess Amamoo, Tim Goetz, Ginny Kemp, Will Smith

2017-19: Geoff Emerick, Douglas Hyland, Virginia Van Dyk, Andrew Worrell

## 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