

Welcome to St. John's Church



The First Sunday in Advent:

November 28, 2021

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP!

The health and safety of the most vulnerable in our congregation and community remains the highest concern to St. John's. Remember that many in our communities are not vaccinated; like most of those under 5 years old, those who are immunocompromised, and those who have chosen not to be vaccinated for other reasons. While many are now vaccinated, remember that even a small percentage of those vaccinated can contract the corona virus, and while their symptoms may be milder, they can also spread the virus to loved ones and friends back home. We have not yet reached herd immunity as a nation. So please remain vigilant in safety protocols, mindful of the risk in our community, masked indoors, social distancing and getting vaccinated if possible. And be assured that we will continue to 'live stream' our worship to both our St. John's YouTube Page and our St. John's Facebook page.

MORNING PRAYER

In accordance with the guidelines of the CDC and the CT Department of Health, St. John's asks everyone to wear masks inside the church, whether vaccinated or not.

Choral Prelude *O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light* Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Opening Hymn # 64 *O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light*

- 1 O heavenly Word, eternal Light,
begotten of the Father's might,
who in these latter days wast born
for blessing to a world forlorn;*
- 2 pour light upon us from above,
and fire our hearts with ardent love,
that, as we hear thy truth today,
all wrong desires may burn away;*
- 3 and when, as judge, thou drawest nigh
the secrets of our hearts to try,
to recompense each hidden sin
and bid the saints their reign begin;*
- 4 O let us not, for evil past,
be driven from thy face at last,
but with thy saints for evermore
behold thee, love thee, and adore.*
- 5 To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, ever One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

The people standing, the Officiant may say

Officiant O Lord, open our lips.

People ***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

Officiant and People

***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. Alleluia.***

Invitatory Psalm 95

text by Isaac Watt

Aaron Williams (1731-1776)

Sung by Choir

*Sing to the Lord Jehovah's name,
And in his strength rejoice:
When his salvation is our theme,
Exalted be our voice.*

*With thanks approach his awful sight,
And psalms of honour sing;
The Lord's a God of boundless might,
The whole creation's King.*

*Let princes hear, let angels know,
How mean their natures seem
Those gods on high, and gods below,
When once compared with him.*

*Earth with its caverns dark and deep
Lies in his spacious hand,
He fix'd the seas what bounds to keep,
And where the hills must stand.*

*Come, and with humble souls adore,
Come, kneel before his face;
O may the creatures of his power
Be children of his grace!*

*Now is the time: he bends his ear,
And waits for your request:
Come, lest he rouse his wrath and swear
'Ye shall not see my rest.'*

Psalm 25:1-9 *the choir sings Anglican chant by Richard Woodward (1744-1777)*

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said

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

The Lessons

INTRODUCTION: In this prophetic reading from the Hebrew Scriptures, the Lord's promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah is reaffirmed, foreseeing the arrival of a messianic figure who will execute justice and save the people.

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah: (33:14-16)

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

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

Silence may follow.

Canticle #S261: A Song To The Lamb

Revelation 4:11; 5-9, 9-10, 13

Antiphon (sung first by choir, then repeated by the congregation. The choir will then sing the verses, with the congregation repeating the antiphon at the end)

Antiphon

- 1. Splendor and honor and kingly power
are yours by right, O Lord our God*
- 2. For you created everything that is,
and by your will they were created and have their being;*

- 1** *Splendor and honor and kingly power
are yours by right, O Lord our God,*
2 *For you created everything that is,*
- 3** *And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,*
- 4** *From every family, language, people, and nation,
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.*
- 5** *And so, to him who sits upon the throne,
and to Christ the Lamb,*
- 6** *Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,
for ever and for evermore.*

- 1** *Splendor and honor and kingly power
are yours by right, O Lord our God,*
2 *For you created everything that is,
and by your will they were created and have
their being;*

INTRODUCTION: In the second reading, the apostle Paul expresses gratitude to God for his disciples in Thessalonica and tells those followers of his prayers for them.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians: (3:9-13)

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

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

Canticle: *Jubilate Deo*
Translation:

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810 - 1876)

*1 Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; * serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.*

*2 Know this: The Lord himself is God; * he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.*

*3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; * give thanks to him and call upon his Name.*

*4 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; * and his faithfulness endures from age to age.*

INTRODUCTION: In the third reading, Jesus speaks of an awe-inspiring crisis to come, which they may recognized as the beginning of the time of their redemption.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke: (21:25-36)

Jesus said, “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Sara Coles, licensed Preacher

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

*He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Offertory Anthem *Drop Down, Ye Heavens From Above*

George Alexander Macfarren (1813-1887)

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

*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 Suffrages

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. *And grant us your salvation.*

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. *Let your people sing with joy.*

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. *For only in you can we live in safety.*

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*

V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. *Your saving health among all nations.*
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Sunday

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Hymn # 397 *Now Thank We All Our God*

*1 Now thank we all our God,
with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.*

*2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us!
With ever-joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;*

*and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.*

3 *All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
eternal, Triune God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be, evermore.*

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

Officiant: Let us continue our prayers, pausing now so that all may add their own prayers or petitions, either silently in their hearts or out loud in our midst.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son

that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Then may be said

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn # 66 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.*
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*
- 3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

The Officiant may then conclude

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.* *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Postlude

The flowers on the High Altar today are given to the Glory of God

*Anyone may reserve altar flowers on a particular Sunday for memorials.
The Altar Flower Chart is in the Parish Hall.*

Worship Ministers Today:

Laura Daly, *Officiant*

Sara Coles, *Preacher*

Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*

John Magee, *8:00 Reader*

Justin Ormand, *10:00 Reader*

Larry Littlefield, *Veejay (VJ)*

Sara Coles, MB Witt: *Altar Guild*

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The Altar Flower Chart is in the Parish Hall or on the SJ Google Drive.*

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

78 Green Hill Road
Washington, CT 06793

Staff

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Priest-in-Charge*
Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Dawn Rosiello, *Parish Administrator*
Joan Burgess, *Foundation Administrator*

Vestry

David Gillespie, Susan McFeely, *Wardens*
Joan M. Beattie, *Clerk*
Laura Daly, *Clerk Pro-Temp*
Larry Littlefield, *Treasurer*
Hunter Brown, *Assistant Treasurer*
Class of 2021
Robert Futh, Larry Littlefield, MB Witt
Class of 2022
Sara Coles, Mary Davis, Andris Kalnins
Class of 2023
Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Joseph Claro

Diocesan Delegates: Sara Coles, MB Witt.

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St. John's YouTube Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOwTnqIRss4BT8VwFul4qg>