

Welcome to St. John's Church



"The Epiphany," Giotto di Bondone, c. 1320

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY A Celebration of a New Ministry

*January 5, 2025
10:00 a.m.*

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
78 Green Hill Road
Washington, CT 06793**

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Parish Office Hours: *Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOwTnqlRss4BT8VwFul4qg>

THE RENEWAL OF MINISTRY WITH THE WELCOMING OF A NEW RECTOR

Choral Prelude *O Magnum Mysterium* Tomás Luis de Victoria (c.1548-1611)

Text: O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Opening Hymn #390 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Descant

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -
4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
reign - - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his
fend - - thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound - from his
 health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.
 or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - - - tion.
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - - - eth?
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

The Gathering of the Community

The people standing, the Bishop may say

Bishop Blessed the one, holy, and living God.

People ***Glory to God for ever and ever.***

The Bishop continues

Bishop There is one Body and one Spirit.

People ***There is one hope in God's call to us.***

Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism

People ***One God, Creator of all***

Bishop God with you.

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

Bishop Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world

see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

The Wardens stand near the Bishop.

The Bishop states the purpose of the gathering; and concludes

People of St. John's, you have reflected on your ministry
and discerned your choice for a new Rector.

Wardens We have chosen and called the Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman
to be our Rector, and he has accepted.

Bishop I commend your choice and affirm this call.

The Letter of Institution is read.

The Bishop continues Are you, the people of St. John's, ready to continue
in your ministry, with Geoffrey as your priest?

People **We are.**

The Wardens escort the Priest from the nave to the front of the assembly

The Word of God

A Representative of the parish's Readers presents the Lectionary and says

Geoffrey with this Bible we proclaim and hear God's living Word.
Join us in the ministry of telling the Good News to the World.

Rector Amen. Let us hear again the Good News of salvation

The Readings

INTRODUCTION: In our Hebrew Scriptures, we hear the Prophet Isaiah envision the end of exile and the glorious restoration of Jerusalem.

A Reading from the Scroll of the prophet Isaiah (60:1-6)

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

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

Psalm 96 *the congregation is invited to join the Refrain*

Refrain

All na - tions shall be - hold the won - ders God has done.

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

INTRODUCTION: Here is set forth the great theme of St. Paul's apostolic commission: the revealed mystery that Christ's salvation extends beyond Judaism to include all peoples.

A Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (2:11-14)

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.


Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn # 488

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!

thou my best thought,— by day or by night,
 thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
 Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
 still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

INTRODUCTION: Our Gospel is the story of the wise men from the east, who, guided by a star, come to worship the child born to be king.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew (2:1-12)

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered

him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Right Reverend Laura Ahrens, Suffragan Bishop

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Bishop Geoffrey; people of St. John's: in Holy Baptism we received full adoption through God's grace and full empowerment for ministry through the Holy Spirit. Will you work together as partners in the mission of the Church, to reconcile all people to God through Christ?

People We will, with God's help.

Bishop The water of baptism signifies our eternal covenant with God. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to Christ, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Water is brought forth by a representative of the Flower Guild.

The Bishop may bless the water.

We pray you, O God, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit, that all who in baptism are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Rector Let us renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we renounce Satan and all his works, and promise to serve God faithfully in God's holy Catholic Church.

Water is poured into the font and the Rector leads the renewal of baptismal vows.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil
and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People I do.

Rector Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Rector Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People 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.*

Rector Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People ***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.***

Rector Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Rector Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Rector Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Rector Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Rector Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

The Bishop concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

Hymn # 516

Come Down, O Love Divine

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Come Down, O Love Divine". It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are arranged in three verses, with the first verse starting at the beginning of each system. The lyrics are: Verse 1: "1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine, 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long, and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing; to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing; shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing; O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear, and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight, for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing. and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing. where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing."

The Prayers of the People

A symbol of prayer is brought forward by a representative of the parish's Prayer Leaders.

Geoffrey with this Book of Common Prayer, we offer our prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings to God.

Rector Amen. In the Spirit of God, who searches the heart and knows our deepest needs, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who yearn for Christ's healing.

A Litany of Thanksgiving for a Church

The Prayer Leader continues

Let us thank God whom we worship here in the beauty of holiness.

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the prayers

Eternal God, the heaven of heavens cannot contain you, much less the walls of temples made with hands. Graciously receive our thanks for this place, and accept the work of our hands, offered to your honor and glory.

For the Church universal, of which these visible buildings are the symbol,

We thank you, O Lord.

For your presence whenever two or three have gathered together in your Name,

We thank you, O Lord.

For this place where we may be still and know that you are God,

We thank you, O Lord.

For making us your children by adoption and grace, and refreshing us day by day with the bread of life.

We thank you, O Lord.

For the knowledge of your will and the grace to perform it,

We thank you, O Lord.

For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us,

We thank you, O Lord.

For the pardon of our sins, which restores us to the company of your faithful people,

We thank you, O Lord.

For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness,

We thank you, O Lord.

For the faith of those who have gone before us and for our encouragement by their perseverance,

We thank you, O Lord.

For the fellowship of the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John, our Patron, and all your Saints,

We thank you, O Lord.

After a brief silence, the Celebrant concludes with the following Doxology

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty;

People ***For everything in heaven and on earth is yours.***

Celebrant Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom;
People ***And you are exalted as head over all. Amen.***

The Peace

All stand. The new Rector says to the people
The peace of God be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

The Bishop says to the people
The peace of God be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

Representatives of the Altar Guild bring the people's offerings of bread and wine. Addressing the Rector, they say

Geoffrey when we share the bread and the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Join us at God's table to offer and bless our gifts of bread and wine.

Rector Amen. Together, let us keep the feast.

Offertory Anthem *We Have Seen His Star* Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)

Text: We have seen His star in the East, and are come with our offerings to worship the Lord

The Ushers bring the alms forward

Bishop We offer thanksgiving to God for the ministries represented by these symbols, and ask God's grace to live ever more fully into the commitments we have made in Baptism.

People ***Amen***

The Great Thanksgiving

Bishop God be with you.

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

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

Sanctus *Missa O Magnum Mysterium* Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611)

Translation: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is the one that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the consecration prayer.

Then the Bishop continues

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,

Bishop and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

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 the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John, our Patron, and 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. **AMEN**.

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

*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 Bishop breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Agnus Dei *Missa O Magnum Mysterium* Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611)

Translation *O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

Facing the people, the Bishop says the following Invitation

Behold 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.

All baptized Christians of all ages and denominations are welcome to receive Communion in this place. This is God's house and the Lord's table, not ours

INSTRUCTIONS: Those wishing to receive Communion should come forward to the Altar rail as directed. Please speak with an Usher if you need to receive Communion in the pew. The consecrated host will be placed in the hands or upon the tongue of the recipient, as desired. If one wishes intinction, then either the chalice bearer or the communicant may take the host and dip it in the wine. Otherwise, communicants may sip from the chalice, assisting by taking hold of its base. If the communicant does not wish to receive the wine, one can simply cross their arms across their chest so to indicate.

Gluten free wafers are available. Just ask at the altar rail if you wish one.

Communion Hymn # 324 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*



1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
on the way, as the Light of Light de -
sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
he will give to all the faith - ful
that the powers of hell may va - nish
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"



for online worshippers, and for those who for other reasons choose not to receive, here is a Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer our praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest desire that we may always be united to you. And since we are not now receiving you physically, we ask you to come into our hearts spiritually. We embrace you with all the affections of our souls, confident that nothing can ever separate us from the love God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray.

***Loving God,
 we give you thanks
 for restoring us in your image
 and nourishing us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood.
 Now send us forth
 a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
 that we may proclaim your love to the world
 and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.***

After Communion, the Bishop says

We have celebrated this new pastoral relationship in the great prayer of the Church. Geoffrey, I commend to your love and care the people of St. John’s. My brothers and sisters in Christ, I commend to your love and care your new Rector, colleague, and friend, Geoffrey.

The Bishop gives the blessing

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn # 410

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Unison or harmony

1 Praise, my soul, the King of hea - ven; to his feet thy tri - bute bring;
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple in dis - tress;
 3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;

ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing:
 praise him still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless:
 in his hand he gen - tly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
 sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Descant for use with unison singing

4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;
 sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise — with us the God of grace.

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

Worship Ministers Today:

The Right Reverend Laura Ahrens, *Suffragan Bishop, ECCT*

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman: *Rector*

Tom Brand: *Organist & Choirmaster*

Joseph Claro: *Crucifer*

Worth Bracken: *Representative of the Wardens*

John Magee: *Representative of the parish Readers*

Holly Flor: *First Reader*

Tom Hollinger: *Second Reader*

Penny Bardel: *Representative of the Prayer Leaders*

Veronique Dulack: *Representative of the Flower Guild*

Camille Gillespie, Susie Magee: *Representatives of the Altar Guild*

MB Witt, Rebecca Bent: *Chalicers*

Joseph Claro, Veejay (VJ)

Bob Futh, Natalie Dyer: *Ushers*

MB Witt *et al*: *Altar Guild*

Veronique Dulack, Susie Markert: *Flowers*

MB Witt, Corinne Johnson, Holly Flor, Penny Bardel, Carolyn Macdonald, Susie Markert, Justin Ormand, Joseph Claro: *Reception hosts*



Reception

There is a Reception in the Parish Hall following the Service.

All are invited. Please join Bishop Ahrens and the Parish Leaders.

Concerning the Service

The catechism of the Book of Common Prayer (1979) indicates that there are four categories of ministers, beginning with the laity. Baptism is seen as the sacrament that initiates Christians and empowers them for ministry. As articulated by one of the pioneers of renewed appreciation of baptismal ministry: "...*there is one ministry of the one body, which is Christ's ministry as exercised through that body. All vocations contribute to the efficacy of that one ministry, expressed in mission. All baptized people – lay and ordained – participate in it according to the gifts given them.*" (Stewart C. Zabriskie, *Total Ministry*. 1995: Alban Institute, page 7) Hence, pastoral leadership and oversight both spring from and need to be celebrated within the community of the baptized.

From a baptismal-ministry frame of reference, the rite entitled "A Celebration of New Ministry" in the Book of Common Prayer focuses almost entirely upon the priest, with little recognition of the ongoing ministry of the congregation. Since the development of that rite, the imbalance has been noted and further attention has been paid by the Church to naming and celebrating the role of all the baptized.

This rite, entitled "The Renewal of Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Rector or Other Pastor," incarnates mutuality among the ministers of the Church. By setting ordained leadership within the context of baptism, and commending a variety of gifts, this liturgy serves as an alternative to its predecessor, with the caveat that its differences from 1979 are intentional. "Blending" portions of the two liturgies is discouraged. Instead, adapting the rite to the requirements of architecture, culture, language, personnel and other resources of the congregation is expected. Rubrics within the rite offer suggestions and options.

The presence of the Bishop is assumed throughout, although a representative may function in that capacity. The Bishop's presence brings together the elements of mutuality and continuity. A rubric directs that "*The Bishop states the purpose of the gathering,*" providing an opportunity for education and encouragement. It is the Bishop's prerogative to preside at the font and the table.

As an alternative to the Prayer Book rite "Celebration of a New Ministry," this order is for use when a priest is being instituted and inducted as the rector of the parish. It may also be used for the installation of deans of cathedrals, or the inauguration of other ministries, diocesan or parochial, including vicars of missions and assistant ministers.

Alterations in the service are then made according to circumstances. Primary symbols of ministry are presented within the liturgical context. At the time of the Offertory, other gifts may be brought to the altar which reflect the diversity already present in the congregation.

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

Mary Davis, Worth Bracken: *Wardens*

David Gillespie: *Treasurer*

Andris Kalnins: *Assistant Treasurer*

Laura Daly: *Clerk*

Class of 2023

Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Joseph Claro

Class of 2024

Rebecca Bent, Michael Del Nin, Susan McFeely

Class of 2025

MB Witt, Sara Coles, Andris Kalnins

Diocesan Delegates: Sara Coles, MB Witt, Laura Daly: **Alternate**



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