

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 a.m.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome to St. John's! We invite you to help create the experience of silence before our service. Our hope is to calm our hearts as we prepare to enter into an intensity of shared presence. To ensure newcomers feel welcomed, position prompts are provided throughout our bulletins. If standing or kneeling is uncomfortable for you, please know it is fine to remain seated.

Prelude **Prelude to "Te Deum"** **Marc-Antoine Charpentier**

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn 494, standing **Crown him with many crowns** **DIADEMATA**

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Glory to God S-278 *Gloria in excelsis* **W. Mathias**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
 Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
 God the Fa-ther. A-men.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

You may be seated.

The First Lesson: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm is sung by the Choir. Please remain seated.

Psalm 93 *Dominus regnavit*

G. Elvey

1 The LORD is King;
he has put on splendid apparel; *
the LORD has put on his apparel
and girded himself with strength.

2 He has made the whole world so sure *
that it cannot be moved;

3 Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; *
you are from everlasting.

4 The waters have lifted up, O LORD,
the waters have lifted up their voice; *
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

5 Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea, *
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.

6 Your testimonies are very sure, *
and holiness adorns your house, O LORD,
for ever and for evermore.

The Second Lesson: Revelation 1:4b-8

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 483, standing **The head that once was crowned with thorns**

ST. MAGNUS

Holy Gospel: John 18:33-37, standing

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed

over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Carol Gadsden

Silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.

The Nicene Creed, *standing*

**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.**

Prayers of the People, *standing*

Intercessor: Let us offer our prayers to Christ, the King of Heaven, who is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end, responding to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

For the Church, that it may be a place where the sinner finds a home, and the penitent discovers the liberating love of the Savior; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That the leaders of the nations may envision a world free of strife and discord, and bring that vision to life through humility, a respect for boundaries, shared power, and economic security; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That we will take our Episcopal and Anglican gifts to those outside the walls of our churches, commending its worship, fellowship, and outreach to those seeking a community of faith; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That we may be conscious of the energy we consume as the days become darker and the night cold is upon us, and be good stewards of nature's bounty; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For homeless families, and those who are anxious about the welfare of their children, that we respond generously to those who cannot find employment or who have little means to attend to their needs; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That the sick may derive strength from the prayers of others and be supported by the presence of family and friends; we pray for Patty Atkinson, Jen Benevento, Jinny Buracchi, Connie Cliffe, Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Pedro Frigola, Raymond Guarino, Nancy Gould, Mindy Hoffman, Erna Jensen, Chris Miller, Vicki Morrison, Gianna Porcelli, Marguerite Quigley, Dorothy Rider, Chantel Volcy, and Jerry Williams.

Silence

Intercessor For our sisters and brothers who, living with the promises of Christ, have died in his merciful arms; may they and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace; we pray especially for those who are dear to us and whose names we now say aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Silence

Intercessor O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

The people kneel as able. A moment of reflective silence is kept.

People **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.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace, standing

Presider The peace Christ be always with you!

People **And also with you!**

Then the ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Presider Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

The congregation's offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received.

Anthem At the Name of Jesus

R. Vaughan Williams

At the name of Jesus, Every knee shall bow, Every tongue confess Him King of glory now; 'Tis the Father's pleasure We should call Him Lord, Who from the beginning Was the mighty Word. Mighty and mysterious In the highest height, God from everlasting, Very light of light: In the Father's bosom With the Spirit blest, Love, in love eternal, Rest, in perfect rest. At His voice creation Sprang at once to sight, All the angel faces, All the hosts of light, Thrones and wide dominions, Stars upon their way, All the heav'nly orders, In their great array. Humbled for a season, To receive a name From the lips of sinners Unto whom He came, Faithfully He bore it, Spotless to the last, Brought it back victorious When from death He passed. Bore it up triumphant with its human light, through all ranks of creatures, to the central height, to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast; filled it with the glory of that perfect rest. Name Him, brothers, name Him, with love strong as death but with awe and wonder, and with bated breath! He is God the Savior, He is Christ the Lord, ever to be worshiped, trusted, and adored. In your hearts enthrone Him; there let Him subdue all that is not holy, all that is not true. Crown Him as your captain in temptation's hour; let His will enfold you in its light and power. Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again, with His Father's glory, with His angel train; for all wreaths of empire meet upon His brow, and our hearts confess Him King of glory now.

Presentation, standing

The congregation's gifts of bread, and wine are presented and placed on the Holy Table. Weekly donations to the Shoreline Pantry are placed before the Altar.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God 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.. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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 S-128

Holy, Holy, Holy

W. Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel, as the Presider continues

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:

Presider and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider 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.**

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

The Lord's Prayer, said by 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on
 us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.
 Je - sus, re-deem - er of the world: give us your peace.

The Invitation to Communion

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, place your hands across your chest. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding one arm across your chest. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.

Hymn 382 King of glory, King of peace

GENERAL SEMINARY

Post Communion Prayer, standing

Presider Let us pray.

People **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.**

Sending of Eucharistic Visitors, as requested

The Blessing, standing

Hymn 481, standing Rejoice, the Lord is King

GOPSAL

The Dismissal, standing

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Grand Choeur in C

Théodore Salomé

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Coffee Hour

Directly following the service, all are invited to attend coffee hour in the Parish Hall.

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God with thanksgiving for the 33 wedding anniversary of Rhode van Gessel and Rick Weiner.

Stewardship Update

The 2025 Annual Every Member Canvas is in progress. So far, we have received 113 pledge cards, totaling \$395,436 in giving commitments. Thank you for your generosity. If you haven't already done so, please submit your pledge card (available in pew racks) as soon as possible to support the 2025 budgeting process.

Bible Study on Tuesdays at St. John's Handel's Messiah

Tuesday, November 26 & December 3 — 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall

All our invited to these very special classes presented by St. John's member Patricia Schuman. Patricia brings an astonishing background in music and opera, helping participants hear Handel's beloved Messiah with new ears. Patricia has enjoyed a musical career at the highest international level. She has sung worldwide, including at the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Covent Gardens, and the Salzburg Festival.

Don't miss the rare opportunity to prepare for the Christmas season. There also may be a surprise guest on November 26, yet to be announced. Bring your friends and neighbors!

St. John's Winter Coat Drive

Help keep our community warm this winter! We're collecting new or gently used, clean winter clothing items (coats, jackets, gloves) and new socks only. Please drop off your donations in the designated box located in the church entry (Narthex) on Main Street by December 22. All items will be shared with guests of the Shoreline Soup Kitchen on Christmas Eve. Thank you for your generosity!

Giving Tree Begins Sunday, December 1

The Giving Tree returns! Help local families this Christmas by fulfilling Christmas wishes. The program begins on Sunday, December 1. You may grab a tag or two in the Narthex. Please return all gifts to St. John's by Sunday, December 15, and they will be delivered to Middletown and our local Essex Social Services. Gifts can be left in the office or near the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Please sign out your tag on the clipboard with your contact information, and please DO NOT wrap your gifts. A gift bag with loose tissue paper is perfect. Thank you for your generosity!

Advent Wreath & Craft Making

Sunday, December 1 at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Join us on Sunday following the 10:15 a.m. service as we prepare for the season of Advent. Create your own Advent wreath and illuminate your home with the glow of Advent candles throughout the season. This Advent wreath making will be parishioner-led; we've got you covered with all the greens and wreath supplies. You're encouraged to bring your own cuttings or decorations to add a personal touch. Please bring clippers for shaping the greenery! For the younger members of our community who may be less enthusiastic about wreath-making, we have a magical ornament-making station that is sure to ignite their creativity. As we gather to mark the beginning of this festive season, join us for time together and food. Let's make this Advent a shared experience to remember!

Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.

For many, the holidays are a time of feeling out of sync with the festive spirit typically associated with this time of year. A relationship may have ended abruptly, a loved one died, or a family is in chaos, or absent. This Advent, St. John's will offer a Blue Christmas Service, a time where these feelings are honored and given space to be reflected upon. This contemplative service will be a time apart from the busyness of the season and an invitation to be still. Spread the word and invite those whom you think could benefit from the Blue Christmas Service, which hopes to bring a sense of comfort during the holiday season.

Essex Holiday House Tour

Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

St. John's is thrilled to be a part of the Essex Holiday House Tour with the Essex Historical Society, Connecticut River Museum, and the Essex Art Association this year. The Essex Art Association will be selling member artwork at their last show of the year, and offering chili and refreshments to visitors. Also, St. John's will feature small tours of the church, hot cocoa and treats. Purchase your tickets (<https://www.essexhistory.org/hht2024/>) through the Essex Historical Society.

Advent Evening Prayer

Thursday Nights — December 12 & 19 at 6:00 p.m.

The Advent season is a time of hopeful anticipation and waiting. These two Thursday evenings are an opportunity to step outside of the busyness of the season and into a space of calm reflection. This service of Evening Prayer includes candlelight and is led by parishioners who preside.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 15 at 5:00 p.m.

As we enter the season of Advent, we look forward to annual traditions that help us anticipate the birth of the Christ Child. One such tradition is the beautiful service of Advent Lessons and Carols. This service is intended to prepare and focus us on the expected coming of Christ rather than the celebration of Christmas. Advent Lessons and Carols includes choral music, hymns, voluntaries, and anthems interspersed between scripture. It is part of our Anglican tradition celebrated around the world during this season.

We look forward to a beautiful candlelit service of scripture and song and hope this time will bring you a sense of God's love and presence this Advent season. Directly following the service, Lessons and Carols reception will be in the Parish Hall. If you would like to contribute appetizers, desserts, or beverages a sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex beginning December 1.

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Carol Gadsden, *Interim Co-Pastor*
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The Rev. Wilk Miller, *Interim Co-Pastor*
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Manuel Matute, *Sexton*
Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS

Nancy Haslam, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*
Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*
Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*
Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*
Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*
Ernie Brainard, *Candle Master*
Paulette Rider, *Outreach Committee*
Jan Perruccio, *Newcomers Committee*

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*
Greg Perruccio, *Stewardship Chair*
Dave Rogers, *Treasurer*
Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer*
Shawn Honan, *Investment Oversight Committee*

VESTRY Scott Konrad, *Warden*; Sandy Loether, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*;
Dave Rogers *Treasurer*; Carol Beisser, Lois Blood Bennett, Tony Custodio, Nat Eddy,
Wesley Henry, Stephanie Patterson, Patti Pickering, Rob van der Horst, Kevin Walsh

**WORSHIP**

SUNDAYS | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.
WEDNESDAYS | Midweek Holy Eucharist — 12:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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