

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025

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 **Improvisation on "St. Botolph"**

A. Pandolfe (b. 1989)

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn 492, standing **Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness**

FINNIAN

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen!

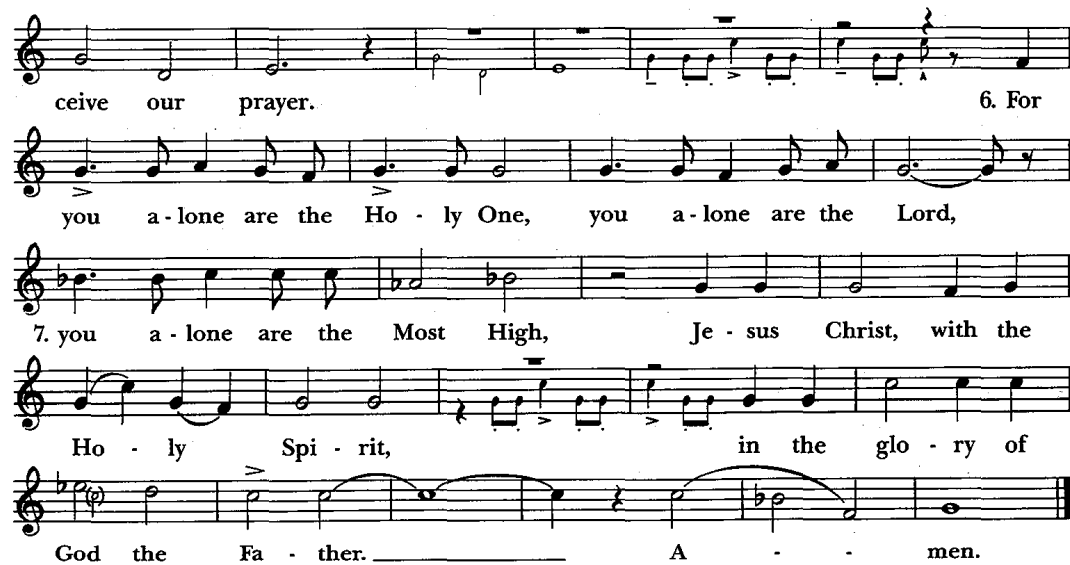
People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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 -



The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

You may be seated.

The First Lesson: Acts 5:27-32

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

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 118:14-29

Confitemini Domino

G. Elvey

14 The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.

15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:

16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

17 I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the Lord.

18 The Lord has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.

20 "This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter."

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! *
Lord, send us now success.

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; *
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

27 God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; *
you are my God, and I will exalt you."

29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

The Second Lesson: Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: 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 194, standing Jesus lives! thy terrors now

ST. ALBINUS

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31, standing

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon *The Ants in the Pants of Faith*
Silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.

The Rev. Wilbert “Wilk” Miller

THE BAPTISM OF COLIN TAYLOR POTTER

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate, *seated*

Presider The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents & Godparents I present Colin Taylor Potter to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Presider Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents & Godparents I will, with God’s help.

Presider Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents & Godparents I will, with God’s help.

Then the Presider asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children.

Presider Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Candidates I renounce them.

Presider Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Candidates I renounce them.

Presider Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Candidates I renounce them.

Presider Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Candidates I do.

Presider Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Candidates I do.

Presider Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Candidates I do.

The congregation is invited to stand.

Presider Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Colin in his life in Christ?

People **We will.**

Presider Let us join with Colin who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant, *standing*

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Presider 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.

Presider 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.

Presider 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.

Presider 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.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

Presider 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.

Presider Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider 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.**

Prayers for the Candidate, *standing*

Presider Let us now pray for Colin who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Intercessor Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Open his heart to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Presider Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water, *standing*

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. 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 your Son, 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.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The baptismal candle is presented

The Baptism

Colin, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Colin, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Asperges

As a reminder of our own incorporation into the household of God, the congregation is sprinkled with water. By custom and as a symbol of the sign under which we were adopted as children of God, the faithful sign themselves with the cross, bow, or say "amen," as they are sprinkled.

The Peace, standing

Presider The peace of the risen 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

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

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

Anthem Most Glorious Lord of Life

W. H. Harris (1883–1973)

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day didst make thy triumph over death and sin and, having harrowed hell, didst bring away captivity thence captive, us to win, this joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin, and grant that we for whom thou didst die, being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin, may live forever in felicity; and that thy love we weighing worthily, may likewise love thee for the same again; and for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy, with love may one another entertain. So let us love, dear love, like as we ought; love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

Presentation, standing

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

In keeping with ancient tradition and Easter joy, the people are invited to remain standing for the Eucharistic Prayer and to receive Holy Communion throughout the Easter season.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

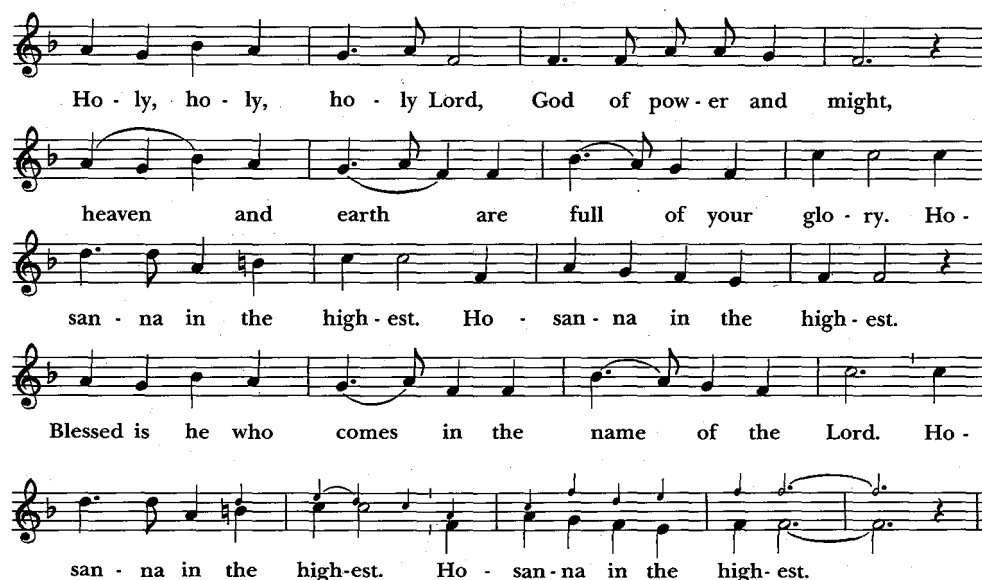
Presider Lift up your hearts.

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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. 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 people stand 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:

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

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.**

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, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S-155

Christ our Passover

G. Near

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider

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 seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, cross your hands over 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 209 We walk by faith, and not by sight

ST. BOTOLPH

Prayer after Communion, *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.**

The Blessing, *standing*

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and those you love, and those for whom you pray this day and forever more. **Amen.**

Hymn 481, *standing* Rejoice, the Lord is King

GOPSAL

The Dismissal

Presider Alleluia, Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude Prelude in F, BWV 556

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

St. John's Essex maintains a OneLicense.net license (#711931-A) for the reproduction of music that is under copyright.

Easter Liturgical Notes

During the Easter season, St. John's will observe a number of changes in our liturgical practice:

- 1-We will stand throughout the Eucharistic Prayer and when we receive Holy Communion;
- 2-There will be no Confession of Sin during these days of Easter (of course, should you wish to confess your sins, please arrange a time with our pastor; also, please see "The Reconciliation of a Penitent," pg. 447 in the Book of Common Prayer).

These changes are ways we give voice to the total joy of the Easter season. Rather than emphasizing contrition, sinfulness, and restraint, we celebrate the wondrous joy of Christ's resurrection.

As always, should you have any questions, please see our interim pastor, Wilk Miller.

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Richard and Margot Calder.

St. John's Prayer List

Pat Brainard, Jinny Buracchi, Max Bowers, Brandon, Connie Cliffe, Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Ed Donovan, Sherley Furgueson, Jeff Going, Raymond Guarino, Nancy Gould, Erna Jensen, Pauline Kezer, Ken Kemer, Terry Parkinson, as she mourns her mother's death, Astrid Pensa, Gianna Porcelli, Marguerite Quigley, Dorothy Rider, Jimmy Savoie, Janet Schuman-Andrew, Kathe Woodside.

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Wilbert "Wilk" Miller, *Interim Pastor*
wilk@stjohnsessex.org / 860-767-8095 x.12

Chelsea DiDonato, *Communications Director & Parish Administrator*
chelsea@stjohnsessex.org / 860.767.8095 x. 10

Anthony Pandolfe Jr., *Director of Music & Organist*
anthony@stjohnsessex.org / 860.767.8095 x.17

Meghan Wrinn, *Program & Events Coordinator*
meghan@stjohnsessex.org

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*
Nat Eddy, *Outreach Committee*
Jan Perruccio, *Newcomers Committee*

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*
John Rogers, *Treasurer*
Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer*
Charlie Walden, *Investment Oversight Committee*

VESTRY Wesley Henry, *Warden*; Jan Perruccio, *Warden*; Stephanie Patterson, *Vestry Clerk*; John Rogers, *Treasurer*; Lois Blood Bennett, Linda Board, Tony Custodio, Leigh Dorrington, Nat Eddy, Peter Holland, Patti Pickering, Jane Riggio, Kevin Walsh



WORSHIP

SUNDAYS | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

TUESDAYS | Bible Study — 10:00 a.m.

TUESDAYS | Midweek Holy Eucharist — 11:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3 Cross Street, / (P.O. Box 422) Essex, CT 06426
860.767.8095 | www.stjohnsessex.org