THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M. SUNDAY, MAY 4, 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 Christ lag in Todesbanden

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn 182, standing Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

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**.

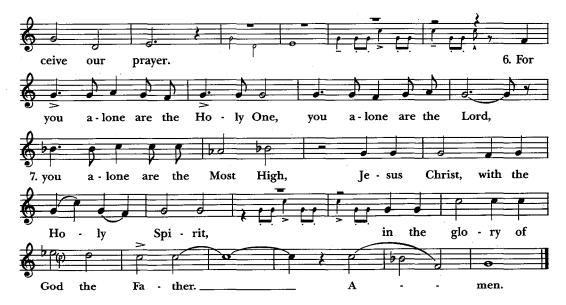
Glory to God S-278 Gloria in excelsis



W. Mathias

TRURO

F. W. Zachau 1663 - 1712



The Collect of the Day

Presider	The Lord be with you	
People	And also with you.	
Presider	Let us pray.	
- $ -$	11 10 11.	

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

You may be seated.

The First Lesson: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your

sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

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 30Exaltabo te, Domine

R. F. Brown

1 I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up * and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you, * and you restored me to health.

3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; * you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; * give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.

5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, * his favor for a lifetime.

6 Weeping may spend the night, * but joy comes in the morning.

7 While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed. * You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

8 Then you hid your face, * and I was filled with fear.

9 I cried to you, O Lord; * I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

10 "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? * will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

11 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; * O Lord, be my helper."

12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; * you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.

13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; * O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

The Second Lesson: Revelation 5:11-14

I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might

and honor and glory and blessing!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

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

Hymn 495, standing Hail, thou once despised Jesus

IN BABILONE

Holy Gospel: John 21:1-19, standing

PresiderThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But

when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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

The SermonGoing Fishin'Silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.

The Rev. Wilbert "Wilk" Miller

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	Continuing to celebrate Christ's victory of love over death during these days of Easter, let us offer our prayers to God.
Intercessor	God who comes in bread, you sustain life through the most ordinary of foods. Show us your risen presence in the basics of life. Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People	The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Intercessor People	God who comes in wine, you enrich life through community and celebration. Teach us how to live together in peace and joy. Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.	
reopie	The Lord is fisch indeed. Antenna.	
Intercessor	God who comes in story, you remind us who we are through familiar words. Open our hearts to the story you are telling us, the story of which we are a part,	
People	the story you are composing for the sake of creation. Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.	
Intercessor	God who comes amidst sadness, your presence is promised most profoundly when we overwhelmed and see no hope. Reassure us that you walk with us in our most difficult days; give us faith when we lose hope. Alleluia! Christ is risen!	
People	The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.	
Intercessor	God who comes in illness, we remember those who are sick, those who are facing death, and all those dear to us. May we support one another in all that life brings. Alleluia! Christ is risen!	
People	The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.	
Intercessor	God who comes in the ordinary, free us from looking for you only in the extravagant or the extraordinary. Inspire us to encounter you in the everyday moments of life. Alleluia! Christ is risen!	
People	The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.	
Intercessor	We pray all this in the name of our risen and living Saviour, Jesus the Christ. Amen.	

The Peace, standing

PresiderThe peace of the risen Christ be always with you!PeopleAnd also with you!Then the ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements, seated

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 Thy Perfect Love

J. Rutter (b. 1945)

Jesu, my love, my joy, my rest Thy perfect love close in my breast That I thee love and never rest; And make me love thee of all things best And wound my heart in thy love free That I may reign in joy evermore with thee

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.

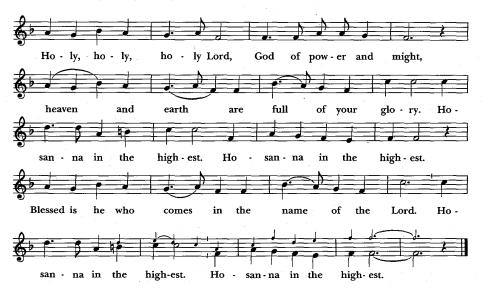
The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A			
Presider	The Lord be with you.		
People	And also with you.		
Presider	Lift up your hearts.		
People	We lift them to the Lord.		
Presider	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.		
People	It is right to give God thanks and praise.		

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:



R. Proulx

BCP p. 361



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:

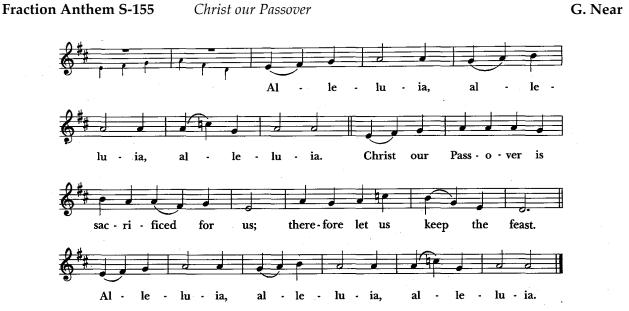
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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 gloryfor ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread



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 305 Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest

ROSEDALE

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 460, standing	Alleluia! sing to Jesus	
(Verses 1, 3 - 5)		

HYFRYDOL

The Dismissal

PresiderAlleluia, Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!PeopleThanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude Sortie

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

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.

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, Brigida Matute, Astrid Pensa, Gianna Porcelli, Marguerite Quigley, Dorothy Rider, Jimmy Savoie, Janet Schuman-Andrew, Kathe Woodside.

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration for Rob van der Horst in honor of his birthday by Karen van der Horst.

The flowers near *The Saint John's Bible* are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Margot Calder by her family.

Available Sunday Altar Flowers Dates

There are many dates available for 2025! If you want to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, or remember a loved one with your church family, please contact Chelsea DiDonato at 860-767-8095 ext. 10 or chelsea@stjohnsessex.org.

Dates Available:

June 1, June 22, June 29, July 20, July 27, August 10, August 24, August 31, September 7, September 14, September 21, September 28, October 5, October 12, October 19, December 7, December 14, December 21, December 28

Tuesday Morning Eucharist During Easter Season

11:15 a.m. — (Immediately following Bible Study)

At the 1/2 hour Tuesday morning Eucharist during the Easter season.

Tuesday Night Bible Study at 5:30 p.m. Parish Hall — May 13, 20, and 27

Before Galatians became scripture, it was a letter.

It was a letter written by Paul to a congregation he had founded, a congregation of gentiles who were being convinced by other christian missionaries that to be a proper follower of Jesus, you had to be Jewish. Since the early church was still trying to figure out what Jesus meant, this could be expected, but Paul is not happy about it — no, he is not. In the argument he makes in defense of the Gospel he preached, we can see the working out of what we understand Christianity to be — this is one of the fundamental texts of our religion. I'm going to try something different in this class. Galatians was meant to be read aloud — not many people back then were able to read, and, even now, it is easier to understand when spoken. So we are going to be reading aloud - if you have been itching to overemote, this class might be your big chance.

Honoring Service Members for Memorial Day

Help us remember members of the military who served and have died since Memorial Day last year. Their names will be included in the meditation garden at the front of the church on Memorial Sunday. Email or text Marlene Going the name of the person, the branch of the military in which he or she served and the person's date of death. (email: <u>mjgosxct@gmail.com</u>; text: 860-581-0533).

If you are new to the parish and have relatives or friends who previously died in service to this country or since, please provide their name, branch of service, and conflict in which served so that we may add them to our parish military lists. These will appear in the parish hall or in the church on Memorial Sunday.

Remember and Celebrate Memorial Day at St. John's

Come together on Sunday, May 25, following each service as we lay a wreath at the foot of the cross in the Memorial Garden in remembrance of the deceased who have served our country. Join us afterward for a reception in the parish hall between services in celebration of the ten year ministry we have shared with the Old Lyme VFW providing assistance to retired servicemen and women with a variety of needs. During the reception we will receive an update on some of these.

Tuesday Morning Bible Studies 10 - 11 a.m. in the Parish Hall

May 6

The Post Resurrection Experiences of the Disciples with Dan Welch

May 13

The Very Strange Easter Ending of Mark's Gospel with Wilk Miller

May 20

How the Disciples Were Turned Around by Christ's Resurrection with Patricia Schuman Pittsinger

11130 3 1

May 27 How We Catch Fire and Are Turned Around with the Holy Spirit with Patricia Schuman Pittsinger

June 3

Go Therefore and Make Disciples: Inviting Others to Faithfulness with Wilk Miller

June 10

The Believers Share Their Possessions with Allison Fresher

June 17

The Persecution and Martyrdom of Jesus' Followers with Dan Welch

Ways to Give Back at St. John's

Bill's Blessing

Support Bill's Blessings, a ministry that provides essential hygiene and household items to those in need. Everyday necessities like soap, toothpaste, and laundry detergent can be found affordably at local stores, while larger items like paper towels and toilet paper can be ordered in bulk and shipped directly to St. John's. Donations may be placed downstairs in the Undercroft for distribution to Soup Kitchen guests. For questions, contact the office, speak with an Usher, or connect with Mary Bowers. Thank you for your generosity!

Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries: Westbrook Food Pantry

Each week, St. John's delivers your generous donations to the Westbrook Food Pantry, part of the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries. Let's keep the momentum going by contributing non-perishable items from their current wish list, including cereal, juice, soup, peanut butter, tuna, canned fruit, canned corn, pasta, pasta sauce, oatmeal, white rice, dried beans, protein bars, and breakfast items. Donations can be placed in the Cross Street hallway near the offices. For questions, please contact the office or speak with an Usher. Thank you for your continued support!

Start Spring Cleaning for Rummage Sale

It is spring cleaning time, so now is the time to prepare for our Annual Rummage Sale. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m,

Opportunities for you to help: Start packing away items you want to donate (please be sure they are clean). Volunteer (contact Lois Bennet at loibb@gmail.com)

Unfortunately, we are unable to store items for you this year.

Acceptable Items: house hold and decorative items, antiques and collectables, clothing, shoes, belts, scarves, etc, vintage wear, collectible artwork, sporting goods, tools and garden equipment, bicycles, jewelry (including kids jewlry), and boutique items.

Unacceptable: toys, books, textbooks, magazines, linens, bedding, decorative pillows, cushions, electronics (TVs, computers, etc), exercise equipments.

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* <u>meghan@stjohnsessex.org</u>

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