

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome to St. John's! We are glad you have joined us today. Everything you need is in this leaflet or the blue Hymnal 1982 found in the pew. We invite you to prepare for worship in silent prayer during the prelude, and we encourage you to participate throughout this liturgy in singing the hymns and service music and saying the portions in bold type. Prompts are provided for you to stand, sit, or kneel where appropriate and as you are able.

Prelude Prelude on "St. Botolph" Anthony Pandolfe (b.1989)

Welcome and Announcements, *seated*

All rise at the sound of the bell.

Hymn 212 "Awake, arise, lift up your voice" *Richmond*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant 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 -

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant 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 2:14a,22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,
 for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
 moreover my flesh will live in hope.
 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
 or let your Holy One experience corruption.
 You have made known to me the ways of life;
 you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had

sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Lector The Word of God for the people of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16 *Conserva me, Domine*
Sung by the choir

R. H. P. Coleman

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

The Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by

fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Lector The Word of God for the people of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Alleluia, *standing as able*

Celtic Alleluia

F. O'Carroll & C. Walker

Verse by A. Pandolfe

Refrain



Choral Verse: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

The Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Silence for reflection.

The Nicene Creed, *standing as able*

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

Celebrant

Jesus Christ is risen indeed. In the glorious light of the resurrection, let us bring our prayers before the Risen One whose deepest desire is that all might know the transforming power of God's love.

Intercessor

God of Love: All creation sings your praise this day. Bless this world and all that dwells in it. We give thanks for the many gifts you have showered on us, especially eternal life in the mighty resurrection of your Son. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

God of Truth: The Church Universal sings with joy this Easter Day. Be with all who lead in your Church: vestries and lay ministers; our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our bishops, Jeff and Laura; Elaine, our priest; and all who serve in your name. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

God of Justice: Shed your wisdom on this nation and its leaders, the state of Connecticut and all who govern it, and this community and all who seek to create a better world. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. 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, joining with angels and archangels and the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing

Sanctus S-125

Holy, Holy, Holy

R. Proulx

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

The people may remain standing or you may kneel or sit as is your preference.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever.



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

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Alleluia! Christ our Passover

J. Rickard (b. 1942)

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ our Pass - o -
- ver has been 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

Celebrant 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 are welcome at God's table no matter where you are in your walk with Christ. If you need gluten-free bread, simply ask the priest. If you prefer to receive a blessing, indicate that by crossing your hands over your chest when you come to the altar rail. The first chalice following the bread is for you to drink the wine. The second is if you choose to dip (or intinct) the wafer in the wine. If you are unable to come forward for any reason, 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 as able*

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Hymn 194

"Jesus lives! thy terrors now"

St. Albinus

The Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Risen Lord.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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St. John's Prayer List

Holding each other's joys, sorrows, and concerns before God in prayer is a spiritual practice that characterizes our life together at St. John's. In our worship services, we pray each other's prayers together. Outside of our time together many parishioners make it part of their daily lives to pray the prayers of the parish community. You are invited to participate in your own way.

Thanks be to God

for the gift of eternal life in the resurrection of our Lord;
for all whose dedication to St. John's created beautiful and meaningful worship experiences for Easter;
for those discerning a call to serve this community more deeply;
for all the blessings of our lives, and for the faith, fellowship, and ministries of this parish;

Your prayers are requested

for an end to the war in Iran;
for a path to sustained peace in Israel, Palestine, Russia, and Ukraine;
for an end to political and hate-fueled violence in our public spaces;
for the elected leaders of the United States that they will govern with wisdom, compassion, and concern for the poor and outcast;
for lasting peace to come to areas of violence in our world, especially Sudan, Nigeria, and Congo;
for an end to gun violence in this country and the courage for each of us to work toward that;
for all LGBTQI+ people who face bias and violence each and every day;
for members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble, including Eileen Aiken, Ed Birch, Reginald Brulotte, Jinny Buracchi, Connie Cliffe, JoAnne Connor, Bea Comstock, Tony Custodio, Evelyn, Michael Furgueson, Sherley Furgueson, Nancy Gould, Robert Henry, Ethel, Julia, and Jim Gribbins, Hazel, Erin Kraten, Dorothy Rider, Leona Savoie, Dione Solan, Gary Young, Jean Shaw, Tim Thomas, Leigh Dorrington;

Please note that any names on the prayer list will remain for a period of one month. At the end of each calendar month, the list will be cleared. If you would like to continue to have a name on the list, please contact the office after the first of the month.

for the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, including Todos Los Santos / All Saints, Meriden and St. Andrew's, Meriden;
for the Anglican Communion, including Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola.

We commend to God's never-failing care

those who have died, remembering especially the civilians and military personnel who have died this week in Iran; the dead in the ongoing violence in Sudan, Congo, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Gaza; in gun violence around this country; those who are dying in climate-related disasters; immigrants who have died seeking a better life; and for U.S. civilians and service personnel who have died in the line of duty;

and all whom we love but see no more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are welcome this afternoon for Second Sundays at St. John's!



Bible Studies and Midday Eucharist

Morning Bible study resumes on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. with an introduction to the next series on the gospel of Mark. Please bring a bible and your questions!

Holy Eucharist is also on Tuesday at 11:15 a.m. in the chancel (choir area) of the church.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study continues this week at 5:30 p.m. with *Paul Among Jews and Gentiles*, by Krister Stendahl.

Visio Divina: Saturday, April 18, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Come enjoy a time of prayer, creativity, and contemplation with *The Saint John's Bible*.

Westbrook Food Pantry Needs

Please continue to bring non-perishable food items for our neighbors at the Westbrook Food Pantry. Donations are collected each Sunday after morning services.

This week's collection is for **Cereal**.

Next week we will collect **Soup**.

Bill's Blessings: This week we are collecting **Dental Floss**.
Next week we will collect "**All Free Clear**", **Laundry Detergent (small bottles)**.

Coming Soon!



ST. JOHN'S SPEAKER SERIES

Creation Care as a Spiritual Practice

———— **WITH THE REV. RACHEL FIELD** ————

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026 AT 11:45 A.M.

Rooted in a lifelong love of the natural world, the Rev. Rachel Field invites us to explore creation care as a spiritual practice. With more than 15 years of experience leading creation-centered retreats in the Episcopal Church, she draws on her work in emerging ministries and her current role as Co-Owner and Co-Director of Heartberry Hollow Farm & Forest, a regenerative farm and retreat center in Vermont.

Rev. Field holds a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School and a certificate in Contemplative Leadership from the Shalem Institute.



Support the Speaker Series:
Donations help make future events possible.

St. John's Episcopal Church
3 Cross Street, Essex, CT 06426



Easter Flowers and Music Dedications

Given by

Linda Bierrie

Caroline Rhoades

Sandra Lynch

Pam duPont

Bill Chatman

Lois & Ken Thomsen

Paul & Sandy Loether

Elaine & Tim Thomas

Tony Custodio and Vickie Corbett

Meghan Clarke & Rudy Vila

Peggy Tuttle

Connie Cliffe

Chris & Jennifer Miller

Ann Cocchiola & Jeff Lemire

Greg & Jodie Godbout

Dennis & Robin Fischer

Susan & David Guernsey

Marlene Going

The van der Horst Family

Jim Scala

Ellen Pfarr

In Memory of

Peter Bierrie

My parents, Dr. Leonard A. DeFusco & Mrs. Carole R. DeFusco

Lynda Beichner

The Gordon and Jones Families

Helen Chatman, Bill Atwater and Roger James

Janet Schuman and Bobby Thomsen

All whom we have loved but see no more

Seth Alan Peterson, Debbie Durey, Leland & Diane Ellis and Albert & Dorothy Thomas

Sandra Custodio, Anthony & Bridget Custodio, Ed Custodio, Adelbert & Cecelia Bell, Thersea Tracey, Konagunda Custodio, Peter & Anastica Jotka, and Doris & Walter O'Riley

Doris Portyrata

Howards S. Tuttle Jr.

Fred Cliffe

Evans Dorman, Sheila Dorman, Ellen Dorman, George & Amelia Miller, and James Miller

Our parents, Joseph & Catherine Ciccomascolo, and Henry & Eleanor Lemire

The Godbout and Daris Families

Our parents, Elliott & Sofia Fischer, and Don & Gloria Liebert

Our parents and David's sister, Lucie

Roy Black, Carol MacElwee, and Roger Deakin

Pieter & Elizabeth Kemp, Johannes & Teddy van der Horst, Walter & Sara Aronson and John Aronson

Gale Scala and Richard Scala

John Pfarr

Sam Quigley
Terry Parkinson
Paul & Jane Riggio
Tim & Patti Pickering
Yolanda Lowe
Brian & Kelsey Tewart
Ann Dixon

Kathleen Maher

Marguerite d'Aprile Quigley and Mary T. Quigley
Ann and Samuel Parkinson
Our loved ones
Frederick & Elise Pickering and Francis & Lois Basquill
Bill Lowe
David Rogers
Robert Dixon and deceased members of the Staples and
Dixon families
Doris & William Maher and Virginia & Ernest Goodrich

Given by

Elaine & Tim Thomas

Lois & Ken Thomsen
Paul & Sandy Loether
Meghan Clarke & Rudy Vila
George R. (Rod) Lucas
Tika & Kevin Walsh
Marlene Going
Brian & Kelsey Tewart
Ann Dixon
Maggie & Charlie Walden

In Thanksgiving for

The people of St. John's and the skill of Tim's medical
team
Lives well lived
Our families and friends
The health and happiness the Lord has blessed us with
St. John's families
Tanner, Reilly & Cam Walsh and Kate Woods
Jeff
The Muir, Eberle and Tewart families
My family
Our family

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas, *Rector*
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Manuel Matute, *Sexton*

Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS

Mary Bowers, *Bill's Blessings & Soup Kitchen Ministry*

Ernie Brainard, *Candle Master*

Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*

Nancy Haslam, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

Sandy Loether, *Newcomers Committee*

Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*

Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*

Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*

Kevin Walsh, *Mission and Justice Committee*

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Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer*

John Rogers, *Treasurer*

treasurer@stjohnsessex.org

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*

Charlie Walden, *Investment Oversight Committee*

VESTRY Wesley Henry, *Warden*; Jan Perruccio, *Warden*; Peter Holland, *Vestry Secretary*;
John Rogers, *Treasurer*; Lois Blood Bennett, Linda Board, Tony Custodio, Leigh
Dorrington, Pam duPont, Chip Goodrich, Donna Moeller, Jane Riggio, Kevin Walsh

WORSHIP

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

TUESDAYS | Bible Study — 10:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAYS | Contemplative Prayer — 5:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3 Cross Street, / (P.O. Box 422) Essex, CT 06426

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