

# St. John's Episcopal Church



**Easter Vigil**

Year B

**March 30, 2024**

7:00 p.m.

# Welcome

**Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church.** Whether you are passing through or looking for a church home, we are honored by your presence and we invite you to worship with us fully—singing, praying and receiving communion. We are a multigenerational community that strives to serve Christ through invitation, inclusion, faith and action. Most Sundays we have two services: a contemplative 7:45 a.m. service and a choral service at 10:00 a.m.

**Children are welcome at all services.** Children's coloring bulletins, books and crayons are available near the back of the sanctuary. Children in PreK – 4th grade are invited to their own children's worship service upstairs at 10:00 a.m. and will return to the sanctuary for communion. Nursery is available for infants and toddlers beginning at 9:45 a.m. until noon.

**All are welcome to receive communion at St. John's.** This includes children of all ages. At the 7:45 service we gather around the altar. For the later services we have communion in stations, the right side for the bread and the left side is for the wine. We receive the Body of Christ, the bread, in our outstretched hands. Wine will be available to all who wish to take it via the common cup. If you do not wish to receive any part of the communion you may still come forward for a blessing. Crossing your hands over your chest lets us know you wish to receive a blessing.

**If you would like more information about St. John's** or to be included on our mailing list, please fill out the visitor book found near the entrance to the sanctuary or email <admin@stjohnsoakland.org>.

## **Land Acknowledgment:**

Oakland and Berkeley sit in the territory of Huichin, part of the stolen land of the Chochenyo Muwekma Ohlone, the successors of the historic and sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. We acknowledge the land and labor of the Ohlone people, whose connection to this land we remember, and whose presence—past, present, and future—we respect. We acknowledge that the land we are meeting on today is the original homeland of Ohlone people. We seek to show respect by rejecting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people's history and culture, while seeking to invite and honor the truth.

**Photo and Video Release:** by attending an event or worship service held by St. John's you enter an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur. By taking part, you consent to such recording media and its release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for news, webcasts, social media, or other promotional outlets of St. John's.

# Lighting the Paschal Candle

*The congregation gathers in the empty church. In the darkness the fire is kindled.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Celebrant*

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Celebrant leads the procession around the congregation, pausing three times and proclaiming.*

<i>Cantor</i>	<i>People</i>
	
The light of Christ	Thanks be to God.

*At the second and third pause, the Versicle and Response are sung successively a step higher. During the procession, light is spread from the Paschal Candle to the congregation members.*

*Cantor:* Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,  
and let your trumpets shout Salvation  
for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,  
bright with a glorious splendor,  
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,  
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,  
resound with the praises of your people.  
All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame,  
pray with me to God the Almighty  
for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light;  
through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God ...

*Cantor* *People*

... for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

*Cantor*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

And al - so with you.

*Cantor*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning-he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns...

The musical notation consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are as follows: a quarter note for the first dot, a quarter note for the second dot, a quarter note for the third dot, a quarter note for the fourth dot, a half note for the first dot of the second phrase, a half note for the second dot of the second phrase, and a half note for the third dot of the second phrase. The notes for the first phrase are grouped under the label 'Cantor' and the notes for the second phrase are grouped under the label 'People'. The lyrics are: ... for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

# Stories of God's People

*Celebrant*

Let us hear stories of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved God's people in ages past and continues to save God's people today; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

*Please be seated.*

## **FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-2:4a – The Story of Creation**

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

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

**Reflection**

**Lara Pierpoint**

*Silent Meditation*

## **SECOND READING: Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 – Wisdom’s Call**

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs.

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: “To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

“My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries.”

To those without sense she says, “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

*Reader*            Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

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

**Reflection**

**Jennifer Kitt**

*Silent Meditation*



### **THIRD READING: Ezekiel 36:24-28 – A New Heart and a New Spirit**

A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: “To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

“My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries.”

To those without sense she says, “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

*Reader*            Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

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

**Reflection**

**Keller Lukens**

*Silent Meditation*

**Canticle**

“The Hummingbird,” by Wangari Maathai  
**read by Jaden Lukens**

Please stand as you are able.

## Hymn of Response

All Are Welcome

Marty Haugen

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly live,  
2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are strong and true,  
3. Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and wheat,  
a place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for - give.  
where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to dream God's reign a - new.  
a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where peace and jus - tice meet.  
Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace;  
Here the love of God, through Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space;  
here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
here as one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

*Celebrant*

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

## The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

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

*People* **I do.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

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

*Celebrant* 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.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

*Celebrant* 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**

*Celebrant* 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.**

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

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

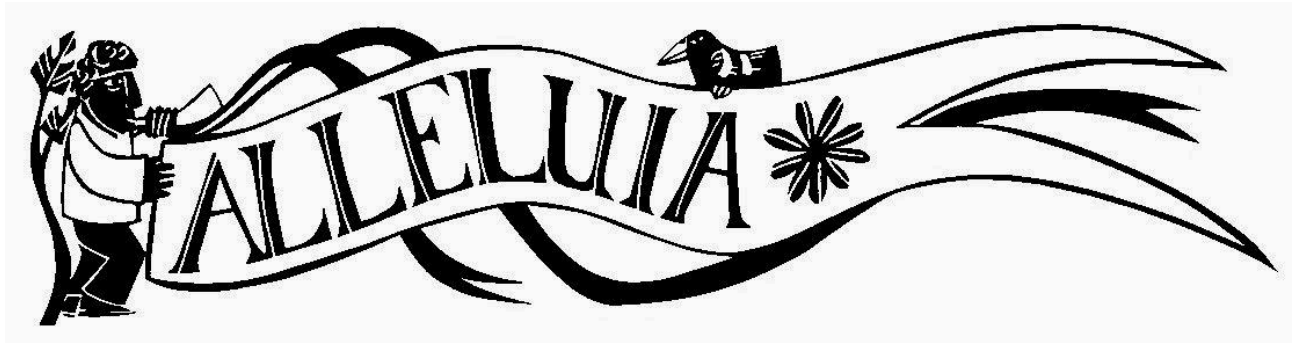
*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

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

*Celebrant* 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.**

*Celebrant* 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.**



## Easter Acclamation

*Celebrant* Alleluia. The Lord is risen!


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

*Celebrant* Alleluia. The Lord is risen!

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

*Celebrant* Alleluia. The Lord is risen!

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



1. Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. But the pains which he en dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4. Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray. O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Gospel****Mark 16:1-8***Gospeler*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

*Gospeler*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People***Praise to you, Lord Christ.****Reflection****The Rev. Kathleen Moore***Please stand as you are able.***The Peace****BCP p.360***Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People***And also with you.***We greet those nearest us in the name of Christ.*



# The Great Thanksgiving

## Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p.361

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* 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:

## Sanctus WLP 858

*Land of Rest*

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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



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 pray:

**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**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. All are welcome.

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the altar.*

*You may consume the bread and then drink from the cup, or you may choose to receive bread only.*

*If you do not wish to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.*

*Gluten-free vegan wafers are available on request.*

*The bread and cup are given to the people with these words:*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

Please stand as you are able.

**Recessional Hymn 182** Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

*Truro*

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands  
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -  
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,  
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the  
3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the  
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet  
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.  
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.  
3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.  
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.  
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

**Dismissal**

*Subdeacon*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People**

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## ***Altar Flower Arrangements by Carrie Leadingham***

**Rector:** The Rev. Scott Denman  
**Associate Rector:** The Rev. Kathleen Moore  
**Director of Children and Youth Ministries:** Lori Robinson  
**Minister of Music:** Dr. Ben Riggs  
**Associate Clergy:** The Rev. Ed Bonsey  
**Associate Clergy:** The Rev. John F. Dwyer  
**Associate Clergy:** The Rev. Dr. John Kater  
**Associate Clergy:** The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy  
**Finance & Operations:** Kathy Araujo  
**Parish Administrator:** Siv Ricketts  
**Altar Guild Director:** Ken Fuller  
**Flower Guild Director:** Pauline Felder

### **2024 Vestry:**

Steve Baronian — Senior Warden  
Sarah Jones — People's Warden  
Michael Daly, Jen Howard-Lukens, Judy Kridle,  
Ann Lester, Nancy Lehrkind,  
Edward Likely, Anne Meyer,  
Gene Williams, Linda Williams  
Tina Popenuck – Clerk of the Vestry

### **St. John's Episcopal Church**

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***The vision of St. John's is to manifest God's love  
through invitation, inclusion, faith and action.***

***St. John's mission is to manifest the love of God through the Holy Spirit with each other,  
our community, and the world through worship, spiritual growth, and Christian service.***