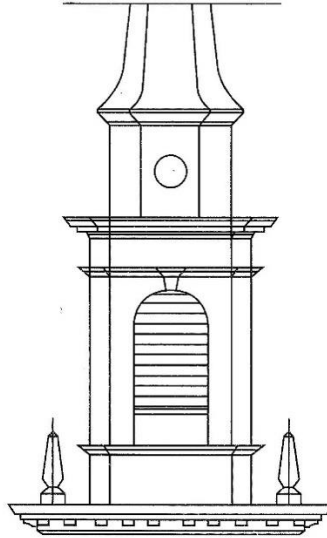


St. John's
Lutheran Church

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STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT



HOLY EUCHARIST
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 15, 2026 | 10:30AM

Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.

PRELUDE ***THE PRELUDE SIGNALS A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION.***

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be God: ✙ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, asking him, in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O most merciful God, who has given your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to you Word, that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *Eternal Lord of love*

HYMN 321

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

SOTHO

mp 1. Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.
mf 2. Kri - - sti, re hau - he - le.
p 3. Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.
 Kri - - sti, re hau - he - le.
 Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.
 Kri - - sti, re hau - he - le.
 Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

I SAMUEL 16:1-13

A reading from I Samuel

THE Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Here ends the readings.

GRADUAL PSALM

23

HYMN 778 *Sung by all*

A reading from Ephesians.

FOR once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE

SING VERSE 1

HYMN 326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon-ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

GOSPEL

JOHN 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born

blind;²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

SING VERSE 2

We sit.

SERMON

THE REV^D MARTHA MCCREIGHT

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

What God ordains

HYMN 776

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
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.
Amen.

We kneel or sit.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We sit.

GREETINGS

MEAL

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Marching to Zion
LUTHERINGS



We stand.

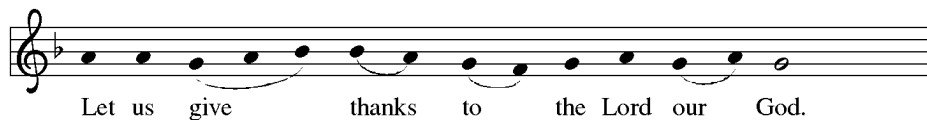
HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION CREATE IN ME

HYMN 188

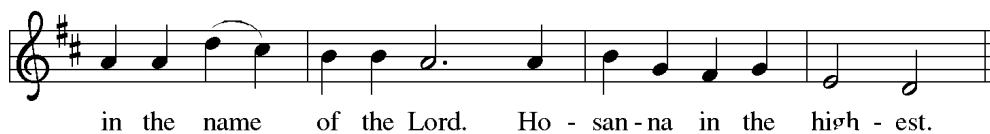
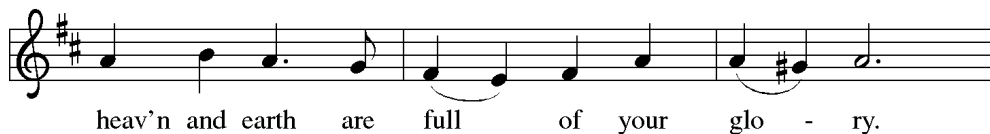
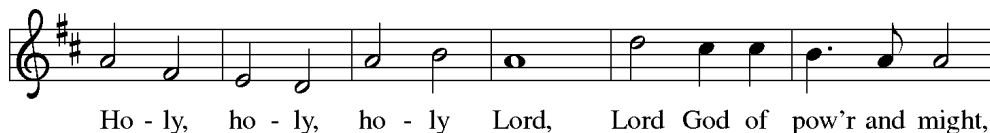
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



It is indeed salutary . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:*
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



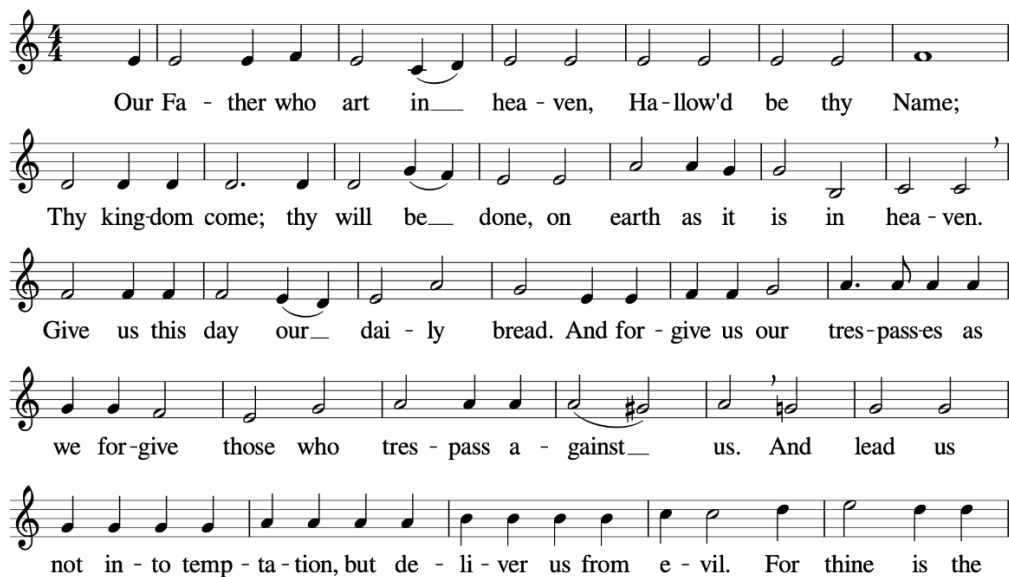
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
 his life-giving passion and death,
 his glorious resurrection and ascension,
 and the promise of his coming again,
 we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
 not as we ought but as we are able;
 we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
 and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
 and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
 so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
 may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
 and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
 may be formed to live as your holy people
 and be given our inheritance with all your saints.
 To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.



Our Fa - ther who art in__ hea - ven, Ha - llow'd be thy Name;
 Thy king - dom come; thy will be__ done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.
 Give us this day our__ dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pass - es as
 we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst__ us. And lead us
 not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For thine is the

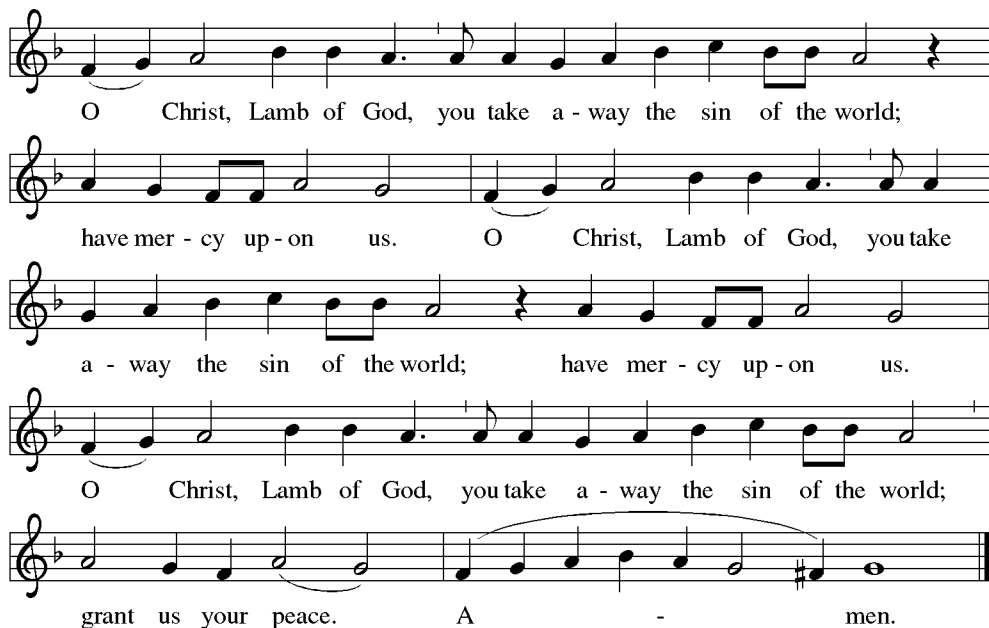


INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin and promising eternal life, are welcome to the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

LAMB OF GOD



We sit.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

Bring peace to earth again

HYMN 700

We stand.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our **Lenten pilgrimage**: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son,
and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

In the cross of Christ I glory

HYMN 324

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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The Lord's Prayer, trad. Afrikaans, arr./translated by Marnus Lively-Greyling

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight, Pastor
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Pat Fisheer
Reader	Peter Coffin
Communion Assistants	
Acolyte	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett, Cathy Mahler
Counters	Cheryl & Joe Milukas, Shirley Schulz, Michele Taylor
Coffee Hour	Kathy Caraballo, Sheila Koch, Janet Segerdell
Little Free Pantry	Cathy & Mike Mahler

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, March 16

4:30 pm First Communion Class - Sweden Room

Tuesday, March 17

7:00 pm Sneak Peek Bible Study

Wednesday, March 18

11:15 am Weekly Lenten Lunch and Bible Study

12:00 pm Weekly Lenten Eucharist in the Nave

12:15 pm Weekly Lenten Organ Meditation

4:30 pm Confirmation Class



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 22

11:30am - Worship and Hospitality Guest: Eden Refaelovich

-AROUND THE PARISH-

First Communion classes are on Mondays at 4:30 PM in the Sweden Room. **First Communion is scheduled for Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 PM.**

Lenten Wednesdays@ St. John's

11:15 AM Book study ("Lent" by Esau McCaulley) and brown bag lunch

12 PM Noon Eucharist

12:15 PM to 12:45 PM Lenten Organ Meditations

If you're **interested in joining St. John's**, reaching out to the church office is a great first step. The church office can provide information on membership, upcoming events, and the various ministries and programs you can get involved with. Whether you're looking to deepen your faith, find a spiritual community, or volunteer, the church office is there to support and guide you. Don't hesitate to contact them with questions or to schedule a visit to learn more about what St. John's offers.

Join us for our upcoming service by accessing the **livestream link** on our website—please note that this link is available for live viewing only. To watch the service after it airs, check your Sunday morning email for the link, or wait for our Tuesday newsletter, which provides

access to the previous Sunday's service. We are currently updating our church's website to make it even easier to find the livestream link. **Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to enhance your viewing experience.**

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, READERS, USHERS, COFFEE HOUR, AND LFP SIGN-UP



PRAYER LIST



Beryl, Charlotte, Diane, Robert, Valerie, Gary, Br. Ian, Pr Harv Weitzel, Trish, Pam, Robert, Charlotte, Paul, Becky, Margaret, Jack

If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please email the parish office.
Contact Pr Martha for pastoral needs at 406-565-3592.

Laetare Sunday

This Sunday in Lent is known as Laetare Sunday, from the Latin word *laetare*, meaning “rejoice.” The name originates from the traditional entrance verse for the day: “Rejoice with Jerusalem...” (Isaiah 66:10). Falling halfway through the Lenten season, Laetare Sunday provides a brief moment of joy and encouragement as the church continues its journey toward Holy Week and Easter, similar to Gaudete Sunday in the penitential season of Advent.

Because of this note of hope in the midst of Lent’s more penitential tone, the liturgical color shifts from purple to rose. Rose vestments symbolize a softening of the season’s austerity and remind us that the joy of Easter is drawing nearer. Even in the midst of repentance and reflection, the church pauses to rejoice in God’s promise of redemption.

CHORAL EVENSONG

Laetare *Sunday*

FR. ANDREW KRYZAK

RECTOR ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL,
STAMFORD, PREACHING

CHOIRS FROM ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL, ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN,
AND ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL

WITH MUSIC BY HOWELLS, CHILCOTT, AND MACDONALD

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 5PM
ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH | STAMFORD

LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
STAMFORD, CT

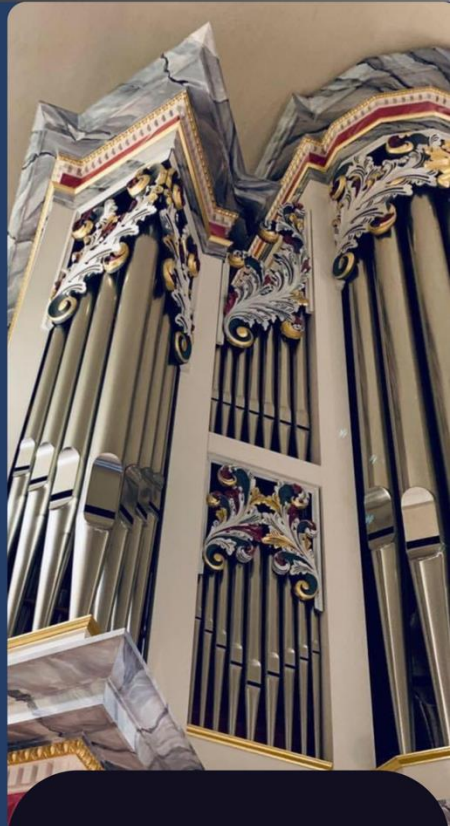
FEBRUARY 25
NATHAN LIVELY-GREYLING

MARCH 4
JAN LUCIE

MARCH 11
INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF
PENNSYLVANIA ORGAN DEP

MARCH 18
LIYA PETRIDES

MARCH 25
MARNUS LIVELY-GREYLING



Join us each
Wednesday for
30-minute
meditations from
12:15pm-12:45pm





Palm Sunday

JOIN THE PROCESSION!

*@ St. John's
March 29 / 10:30*

holy week



maundy thursday

7pm | Choral Eucharist

& First Holy Communion

8pm-12midnight

Altar of repose in the chapel

good friday

12noon | Stations of the Cross

First Presbyterian | 7:30pm

Concert: "Crucifixion" by Stainer



easter vigil

7.30pm | Choral Eucharist
with baptisms

easter

8:30am | Eucharist

9:30am | Easter Egg Hunt

10:30am | Choral Eucharist

