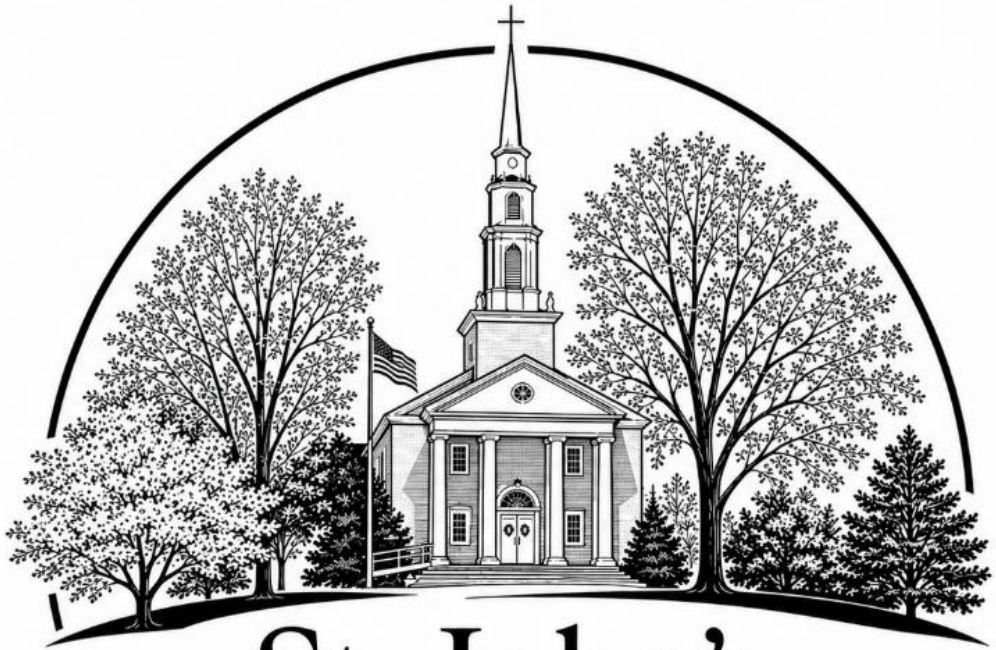




St. John's Lutheran Church

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STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

REFORMATION SUNDAY
October 25, 2026 | 10:30am

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

PRELUDE

*Eine festa Burg ist unser Gott
Prelude for Solo Violin in G Minor*

Dietrich Buxtehude
Henry Purcell

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

We kneel or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his

authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **✝** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Thy Strong Word

HYMN 511

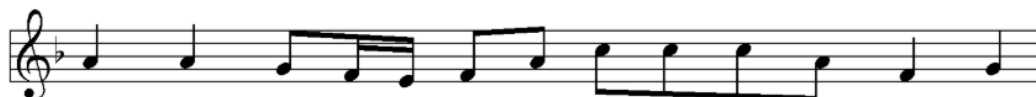
GREETING

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.

GLORIA



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the

Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts,

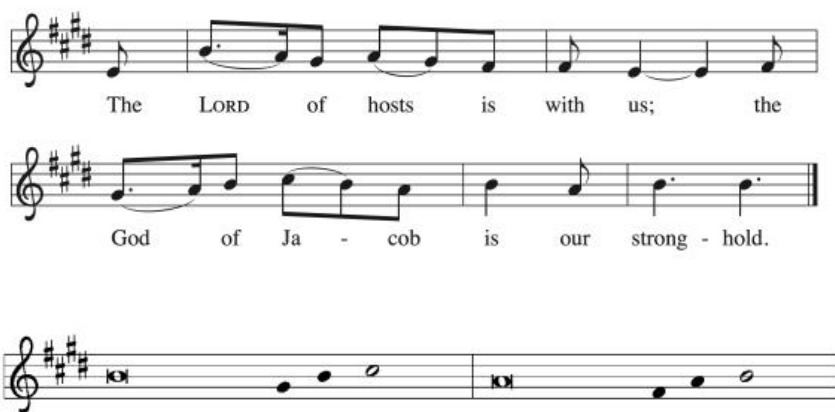
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

PSALM 46



¹ God is our ref-¹ uge and strength,
a very present¹ help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the¹ earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths¹ of the sea;**

³ though its waters¹ rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble¹ with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-¹ y of God,
the holy habitation of¹ the Most High. R**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall¹ not be shaken;
God shall help it at the¹ break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the¹ kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth¹ melts away.**

⁷ The Lord of¹ hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob ¹ is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works ¹ of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought up- ¹ on the earth; R**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in ¹ all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the ¹ shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that ¹ I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted ¹ in the earth.”**

¹¹ The Lord of ¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob ¹ is our stronghold.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 3:19-28

A reading from Romans

Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

JOHN 8:31-36

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

CHILDREN’S SERMON SERMON

REV. MARTHA MCCREIGHT

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Our Father, God in Heaven Above

HYMN 746

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

We kneel or sit for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each intercession ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We sit.

GREETINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
Stopford

Christ Is Our Cornerstone

Philip W. J.

*To support the mission and ministry of St. John's, you can give online at
www.stjohnelca.org or scan the QR code above.*

We stand.

MEAL

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

HYMN 182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
 cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
 seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
 prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



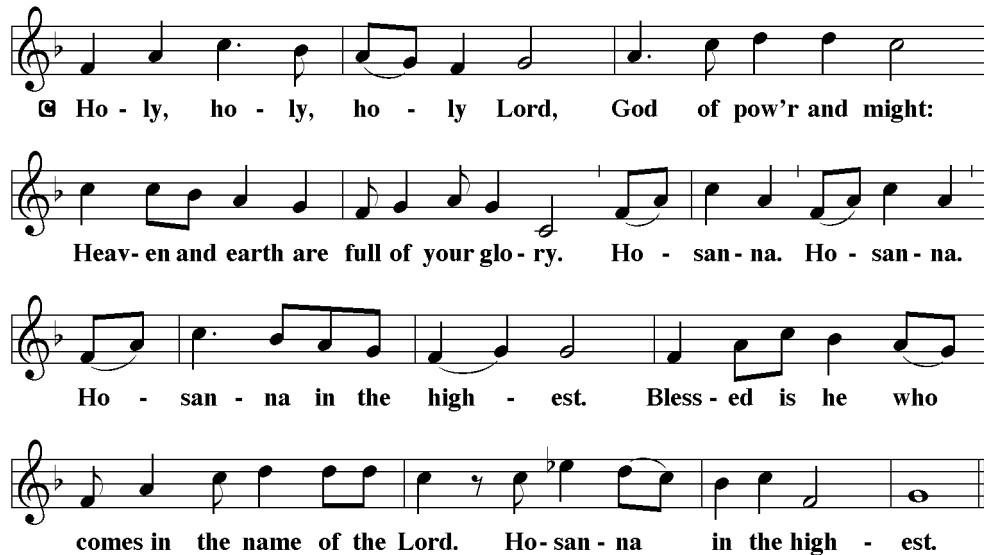
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Here the minister continues with preface for the day, concluding: we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav- en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

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.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God;
you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will
and accomplished our salvation.

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 his promise to come again,
we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought, but as we are able;
and we implore 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;
that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son
may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body,
and have our portion with all your saints.

All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, now and forever.

Amen

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

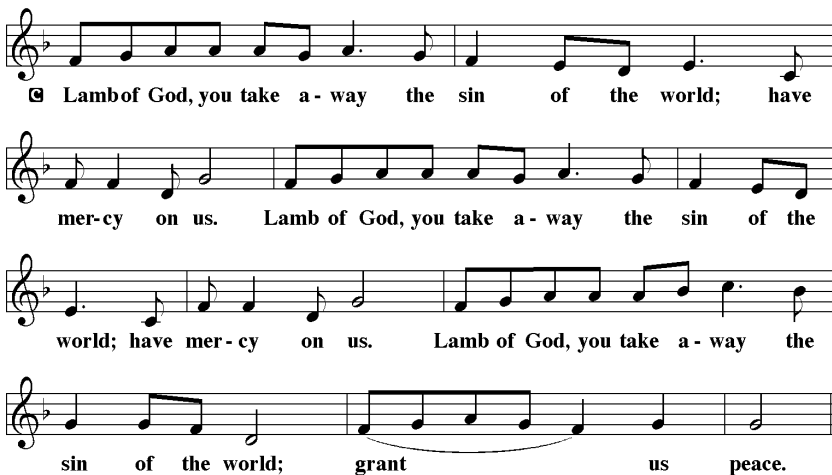
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

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

We sit.

LAMB OF GOD



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

HYMN 241

We stand.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen**

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

HYMN 504

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C

J.S. Bach

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Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight
Organist	Patrick Walker
Worship Assistant	
Reader	
Communion Assistant	
Acolyte	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Janet Segerdell
Counters	David Hendrickson, Pat Fisher
Little Free Pantry	Peter Coffin
Coffee Hour	Greta & Mark Schneider

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, October 26

7:00 pm Finance Meeting

Tuesday, October 27

6:15pm Executive Meeting

7:15pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 28

12:00 noon Weekly Eucharist - Chapel

4:30 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Hand Bells

7:00 pm Choir

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 1: All Saints

8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

Tuesday, November 3

7:00 pm Concert - Richard Gowers

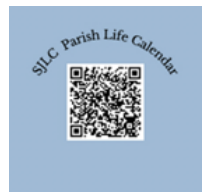
Wednesday, November 4

12:00 noon Weekly Eucharist -
Chapel

4:30 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Hand Bells

7:00 pm Choir



WE NEED YOU!

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP



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



This week we pray for . . . Aiden, Andrew, Barbara, Beryl, Cat, Chrissy, Cody, Debbie, Gary, Gerald, James, Julie, Kelly, Kim, Lily, Marie, Sandra, Shirley, Toby, Valerie, Volter, Barbara, Kim, Debbie, and Chrissy . If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please email the parish office. |

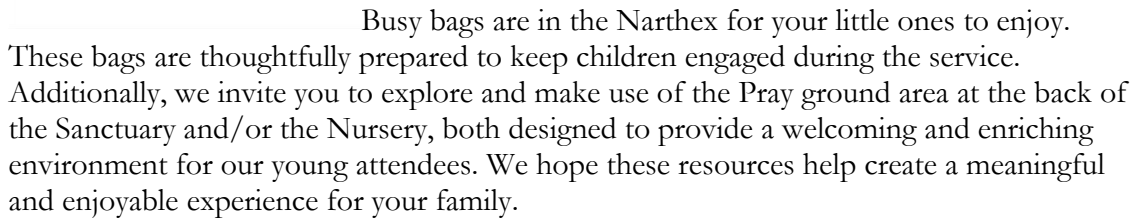
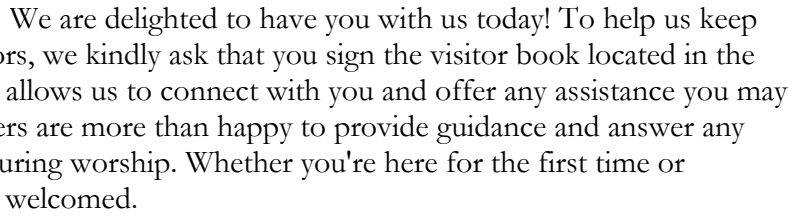
Contact Pr Martha for pastoral needs at 406-565-3592. |

Parish Office: parishoffice@sjlcstamford.com |

Pastor Martha: MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com |

Interim Director of Music: musicdirector@sjlcstamford.com

Finance: finance@sjlcstamford.com



All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.



Everyone's Help Is Needed At the Patch

Please don't forget to sign up to work at the Patch throughout October...all help is needed.

This project is an all congregation effort. All of the funds raised are given away to Building One Community, Kids In Crisis, and Future Five. As such, it is the biggest mission project of the year for St. John's.

Don't delay signing up – do it now. Thank you!

A reminder that Consecration Sunday is coming up on November 8. Over these past weeks of our Stewardship Campaign, we have reflected on Jesus' words, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" and on what it means to give with intention and love.

Please continue to pray about your Giving intention for the year ahead, any level that is possible for your household makes a difference. On November 8, we will all bring our Giving Intention slips forward at church (don't forget there is only one service that day!). Then, please stay for Sundae Fun, an ice cream social in the Welcome Room right after worship.

Thank you for all the ways you give to St. John's.



GIVING WITH LOVE

Our 2026 Giving Intention Campaign

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” • Mark 12:31

This fall, St. John’s begins a six-week journey of faith, gratitude, generosity, and love.

How do we love our neighbors through St. John’s?

Our gifts help make possible the worship, care, fellowship, outreach, and ministry we share together.

- ♥ **Why St. John’s matters**
- ♥ **Why Giving Intentions matter**
- ♥ **Giving with ease and consistency**
- ♥ **Making faithful commitments**

Giving with Intention. Giving with Gratitude. Giving with Love.

MAKE YOUR GIVING INTENTION ONLINE

Scan the QR code to complete your Giving Intention through our secure Google Form.



💡 **SAVE THE DATE!** 💡

CONSECRATION SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 8, 2026



Bring your Giving Intention to worship, then stay for our Ice Cream Social!

Sundae Fun for Everyone!

The St. John’s Stewardship / Giving Intention Committee