

# Saint John's Episcopal Church

*The Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

January 25 and 26, 2025

**The Prelude** *"Praise to the Lord; the almighty, the king of creation"*

*Johann Gottfried Walther*

**The Opening Hymn** *Hail to the Lord's anointed*

*The Hymnal 1982, 616*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant may say*

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.**

**The Gloria** *said at 5pm, sung at 9:30*

*The Hymnal 1982, S 280*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**The Collect**

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The First Lesson**

**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

*The Hebrew scripture lesson recalls a great day in the history of Israel: in the restored city of Jerusalem, Ezra gathers the people together so that they may hear and understand the law of Moses. It would seem that many of the people were unfamiliar with their traditions, and this reading may have taken place at a time when their laws and stories had been newly gathered together and edited.*

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The Word of the Lord.

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

## The Response, Psalm 19

*Caeli enarrant*

*This psalm is a hymn which glorifies the Creator God, with special praise for God's law and a prayer for avoidance of sin.*

*We will read this psalm responsively, breaking at the half-verse.*

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
**and the firmament shows his handiwork.**
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, \*  
**and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
- 3 Although they have no words or language, \*  
**and their voices are not heard,**
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*  
**and their message to the ends of the world.**
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;  
**\*it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.**
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; \***nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; \*  
**the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.**

- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; \*  
**the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; \*  
**the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, \*  
**sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
**and in keeping them there is great reward.**
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
**cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; \*  
**then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.**
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
**O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

## The Second Lesson

**1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

*In this passage Paul describes Christians as the body of Christ. Each individual is a necessary part of the body. Against any tendencies toward disunity, it must be remembered that all have been baptized into one body and have drunk of one Spirit. Just as there are different organs limbs of the body, so individuals have different abilities and ministries. But none can be dispensed with. They are all joined together to care for one another.*

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of

leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord.

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

**The Gradual Hymn** *How wondrous and great thy works*

*The Hymnal 1982, 533*

**The Gospel** *all standing, as able*

**Luke 4:14-21**

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

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

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

**The Reverend Alan R. Hesse**

**The Nicene Creed**

*Enriching our Worship 1*

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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the  
Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped  
and glorified,  
who 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.

**The Prayers of the People, Form VI**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;

***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

For the just and proper use of your creation;

***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

For our minister Alan. For our bishop Julia, all bishops and other ministers.

***For all who serve God in God's Church.***

We will exalt you, O God our King;

***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

***Who put their trust in you.***

I ask for your prayers of thanksgiving for those we remember in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: **The Churches of the Boston Harbor Deanery: St. Stephen's Church (Boston), Trinity Church (Boston), B-SAFE, and B-PEACE for Jorge.** *Silence*

We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for those on our prayer list: **Mary, Christy, Brian, Steve, Charlie, Bruce, Dave, Leo and Sunny, Alannah, MaryAnn, Dave, Susan, Luke, Bruce, April and Andrea.** *Please add your prayers silently or aloud.*

Hear us, Lord;

***For your mercy is great.***

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Please add your thanksgivings silently or aloud.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence may be kept.*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*All stand, as able.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

## **The Offertory Anthem *What Star Is This***

## **The Doxology**

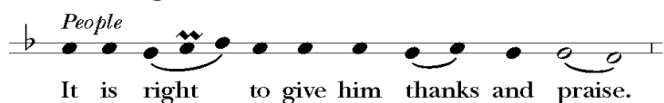
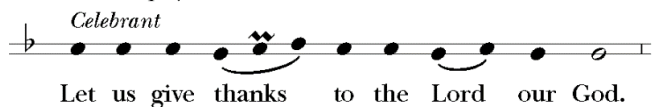
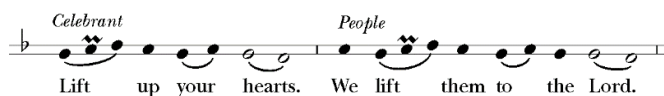
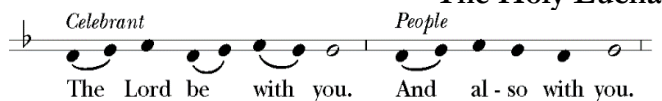
*Offertory Prayer at 5pm: All things come to Thee O Lord, and of Thy own have we given Thee.*

*Offertory Hymn at 9:30am*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!***



## The Holy Eucharist ~ Eucharistic Prayer B



It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

*The Hymnal 1982, S 127*

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel, as able.*

*Then the Celebrant continues* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*      **We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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 forever. **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,  
 and the power, and the glory,  
 for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Fraction Anthem / The Breaking of the Bread**

*Said at 5pm,*

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy upon us.**  
 O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy upon us.**  
 O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,  
**grant us thy peace.**

*Sung at 9:30am –*

*Wonder Love and Praise, 867*

The bread which we break is a shar - ing in the  
 Bo - dy of Christ. We be - ing ma - ny are one  
 bread, one bo - dy, for we all share in the one bread.

*Celebrant* These are the gifts of God, for you the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Christ in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**All who seek God and are drawn to Christ, are welcome at the Lord's Table.**

Please hold out your hand to receive the host.

You may ask for the chalice or receive the wine in the small cups offered to you in a tray.

If you prefer not to receive the wine, please cross your arms and wait for the minister to say "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

**As you return to your seats, deposit your cup in the place provided in a white pedestal table.**

If you **prefer to receive a blessing** you may cross your arms across your chest.

If you would like to **remain in your seat** and receive communion, please **let an usher know.**

**The Communion Hymn** *God is love, and where true love is*

*The Hymnal 1982, 576*

**The Postcommunion Prayer**

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.

**The Blessing**

## Welcome, Announcements, and Celebrations

The Recessional Hymn *O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling*

*The Hymnal 1982, 539*

### The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

The Postlude *Organ Voluntary*

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## Serving This Weekend

**Celebrant:** The Reverend Alan R. Hesse

**Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Lillian Woo (5pm); Jared Cohen (9:30am)

**Lectors:** Mary Ames (5pm); Celia Bailey-Ochoa and Susan Carliss (9:30am)

**Musicians:** Misao Koyama and St. John's Choir

**Altar Guild:** Sylvia Connor, Bev Messersmith, Phyllis Helfrich, and Anne Miller

**Sunday School Leader:** Mary Ames

**Ushers:** Mary Howe and Lynn Tozier

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## Announcements

**Scam Alert:** Father Alan will never ask you for gift cards in an email. It is a scam. Always check the sending email and it will not be his email. This is a scam that happens to nearly all ministers. If you have received a solicitation, please ignore it. Always feel free to contact Father Alan if you are ever in doubt.

**Giving Envelopes:** Pre-addressed envelopes are available in the narthex if you would like them. If you don't find your name listed on a set and you would like envelopes, please let the office know.

**Annual Reports:** Please have your ministry chair report into the office by January 29 (extended from Jan. 22).

**2025 Budget Presentation:** The St. John's Budget will be presented following worship services on February 1 and 2.

**Annual Meeting:** Please join us after the service on Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Rite of Baptism:** at the worship service on February 9, we welcome Vanna Lyn Girard into the church. If you have a child you would like baptized or are an adult interested in baptism, please contact Father Alan.

**Volunteer of the Year Award:** Nominations will be closing soon for the Rev. Allen Swain Award for Outstanding Voluntary Service to St. John's. Please submit names, using the blue form in the Narthex or contact the church office by January 30. On behalf of the Vestry and the Rector, please know that all of our volunteers are valued and the work done by our volunteers contributes greatly to the on-going work of St. John's.

**Volunteer Opportunity:** We need you! A *Ways and Means Committee* is planning 2025 fundraising activities. The fundraisers will help support the ministries of St. John's. From the treasurer Celia Bailey-Ochoa, "It was important to begin this planning in late Fall, 2024, to have related revenue and expenses from these activities included in the 2025 operating budget. One of the first events is a Saturday, March 15 concert featuring Stage Door Canteen, a popular band that includes our own Glen Carliss. There may even be a hint of "green music" given the timing of the event! Stay tuned for additional information on ticket sales, etc.

Currently the Ways and Means Committee is composed of Fr. Alan, Debbie Roberts, Glen Carliss, Ann Geary Roche, Tom Greene, Kathy Uggerholt and Celia Bailey-Ochoa. You are always invited our zoom meetings please contact Celia or Father Al for the zoom link. There are many ways to contribute to this effort - you could join the Committee and bring your ideas and planning talents, participate during the events, or perhaps sponsor a portion of an event to help reduce expenses. If you would like to learn more, please contact any current Committee member listed above. We look forward to your ideas and participation.

**Coffee Hour:** Are you looking for a way to help out on Sunday morning in the kitchen? We are looking for a chair to help organize the current and new volunteers (could it be you?) to make coffee after the Sunday service. Set up is simple. As Father Al says, "It's coffee hour, not an extravagant feast. If there is only coffee, that is fine, if there is a donut great. But the key ingredient for coffee hour is you and the rest of the people." If you are interested, please contact the office.

A note from a volunteer - Celia: Coffee Hour after the Sunday services is enjoyed by many of us and allows us to catch up with our church family and friends. We are changing the format a bit to make it a little easier to deliver hospitality. Sometimes you might want to drop off baked goods without signing up in advance, just let the Spirit move you when it's the right time to share some of your favorite recipes or grocery store finds! No fancy presentation is necessary. Thank you!

**Can you add 1+1?** Then you are hired. Counters are needed and if you would be willing to count money after each weekend service this is a perfect ministry for you. This confidential and important ministry requires 2 people for about 15 minutes following the services. If you think you could offer your time once a month (or more), please contact Celia Bailey-Ochoa, or call the office.

**Flowers:** The new Floral Chart for 2025 is located in the Narthex. You may sign up for floral remembrances on the chart or call the office to reserve a date. Thank you to all who have contributed to the altar arrangements in 2024.

**St. John's Thrift Shop:** St. John's Thrift Shop re-opens on Tuesday, February 4th. Please consider being a new volunteer. You would be most appreciated in this ministry. Please contact Thrift Store Manager, Dee McLaughlin with questions or contact the office for her contact information.

**Inclement Weather:** In the event of weather-related service cancellations, there will be a notification via Facebook, and you will receive a Constant Contact emailed newsletter in your inbox.

**Offering Financial Support for the Episcopal Relief and Development:** Episcopal Relief and Development (formerly the Presiding Bishops Fund) is seeking your help with victims of the fires in California and other disasters. Please visit <https://support.episcopalrelief.org/wildfire-2025> for ideas on how you may help.

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## January 25-February 2, 2024

### Saturday, Jan. 25

9:30am AA, Parish Hall  
5pm Worship with Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, Jan. 26

9:30am Worship with Holy Eucharist  
Hospitality/Coffee Hour following worship,  
Parish Hall

### Monday, Jan. 27

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall  
6pm Lasit Performing Arts, Parish Hall

### Tuesday, Jan. 28

12noon AA, Parish Hall

### Wednesday, Jan. 29

10am Craft Group, Parish Hall  
7pm Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall

### Thursday, Jan. 30

12noon AA, Parish Hall  
4:30pm Lasit Performing Arts, Parish Hall  
6pm AA, Undercroft

### Friday, Jan. 31

1pm Caring for Creation, Zoom  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/892976341>

### Saturday, Feb. 1

9:30am AA, Parish Hall  
5pm Worship with Holy Eucharist  
6pm Budget Presentation, Parish Hall

### Sunday, Feb. 2

9:30am Worship with Holy Eucharist  
& Sunday School  
Following worship - Hospitality/Coffee Hour,  
Parish Hall  
Budget Presentation

## Welcome to St. John's!

*Whether this is your first visit to St. John's or you are a long-time member, please know that there is a warm welcome for you here!*

Please feel free to participate fully in our service today and in the life of the parish. We are glad you have come and hope you leave feeling closer to God! At several points in the service, you may notice that some people are kneeling, some are standing and some are sitting. We are given this choice and you should feel free to do whichever is most appropriate for you. Please know that you are invited to fully participate in the Holy Eucharist as a Baptized Christian.

If you would like to know more about St. John's and may be interested in membership or interested in being placed on our email mailing list, please contact the church office.

## Saint John's Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church of Sandwich Est. 1854

159 Main St, Sandwich, MA



Office Hours, Tues-Fri 9am-2pm

Parish Office 508-888-2828

Susan Sharpe, Parish Administrator [parishadmin@sjchurchsandwich.org](mailto:parishadmin@sjchurchsandwich.org)

Misao Koyama, Music Director [music@sjchurchsandwich.org](mailto:music@sjchurchsandwich.org)

The Rev. Alan R. Hesse, Rector; 508-505-5668 cell, [Rector@StJohnsSandwich.org](mailto:Rector@StJohnsSandwich.org)