Who We Are

**Zion Episcopal Church** and **St John’s Chapel** - both in Manchester Vermont - seek a **Priest in Charge** for a dual ministry. Since 1782 residents in the Manchester area have worshiped at Zion Episcopal Church. As Manchester became a popular summer destination, the Diocese of Vermont established a Mission Church, St John’s Chapel. The doors of this beautiful Chapel first opened in 1867 welcoming permanent as well as summer residents. Both are vibrant mission-based churches dedicated to worship, service and spiritual growth.

The Manchester/Dorset area presents an abundance of opportunity to experience the outdoors, the arts, excellent schools and the appeal of two authentic New England villages. As such, the Priest and the members of both congregations often find one another sharing these experiences and activities.

The Priest in Charge position is for three years with the opportunity to become Rector.

To Know Christ’s Love and to Share it.
Our Mission
To Know Christ’s Love and to Share it.

Our Vision
Zion Episcopal Church is a vibrant community deeply rooted in prayer, spiritual growth and service.

Our Values
Christ Centered - Compassionate - Joyful - Intentional

“A word about our mission “To know Christ’s love and to share it.” Sounds simple, right? Yes, because the author of the perfect plan for us is Christ Himself. We just need to stay close and listen; for He will continue to place upon our hearts everything there is to know - and do - together.” Jamie Hastings, Senior Warden
Mission to Ministries

A mission-based church, Zion, strives to make our mission manifest and vibrant. National and International Outreach through The Community Food Cupboard and the Peruvian Feeding Ministry, and the Kagando Mission in Uganda are examples of our commitment to our local community and to others far beyond us.

To Know Christ’s Love and to Share it.

But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Hebrews 13:16
Who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort which we ourselves are comforted by God.   2 Corinthians 1:4

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

Stephen Ministries, the Prayer Team and Pastoral Care Team offer opportunities for lay and clergy to share in and live our Mission while providing support and comfort. The Alpha Course affords lively conversation-to members and non-members of Zion - about the basics of the Christian faith whether a new or lifelong inquirer.
WORSHIP

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. Psalm 29:2

The Book of Common Prayer and The 1982 Hymnal are our liturgical and musical texts. Worship at both Zion and St. John’s is Low Church. Both Rite I and Rite II are celebrated weekly. Lay involvement is essential to a vibrant church. At Zion and St John’s Chapel everyone is invited to become a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Acolyte, Altar Guild Member, Choir Member or Usher. Participation in the Stewardship Committee offers another way to be involved. Christian Formation for both adults and children relies upon lay volunteers to make this another vital way to serve.
Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.  Luke: 18-16

Other Ministries
The future of the Episcopal Church lives within the hearts and minds of our children. The array of secular distractions present in their lives means programs for children and youth must be current and engaging as well as spiritually relevant. Traditions such as the Christmas Pageant, Easter Services, the Blessing of the Animals and joyful play have taken on new forms of expression grounded in the past.

To Know Christ's Love and to Share it.
Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. Isaiah 33:20

COVID has changed the way we worship, gather and serve. So, too, has technology. A gift that was a result of COVID was that during the spring, summer and early fall we gathered each Sunday in a large tent on Zion’s campus. Worshiping in such a serene outdoor space caused a new sense of connection with the beauty with which God has surrounded us. For those who are unable to attend in person technology has been the lifeline. Although COVID has meant that worship, communal prayer and service look different at Zion our commitment is as strong as ever.

To Know Christ’s Love and to Share it. 
Zion and St John’s Chapel have a rich tradition of celebrating important days during the liturgical year. At Easter and Christmas we pray, sing and celebrate in our usual locations as well as a few additional iconic places. The Easter Sunrise Service has been held at Stratton Mountain, Bromley Mountain and Equinox Mountain and affords the opportunity to praise the Risen Lord in the majesty of the surrounding mountains. On Christmas Eve, St John’s Summer Chapel is opened and is beautifully decorated for a glorious celebration honoring the birth of Christ.

COVID has caused us to alter these celebrations. Adults rather children assumed all roles in the Pageant. The Sunrise Service, although outdoors, called for masks and distancing.

Despite the challenges our congregation has remained steadfast in its commitment to liturgical celebration steeped in tradition.

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20
Christmas Eve 2021

Lessons and Carols
St John’s Chapel

To Know Christ’s Love and to Share it.
Christmas Eve 2021

The Pageant
Zion Church

To Know Christ’s Love and to Share it.
Zion and St John’s seeks a Priest who is inspired to share in living our Mission, our Vision and our Values. As a church we are committed to finding fresh and relevant ways to keep our Mission a hallmark of who we are. Recently, a Canon from the Diocese of Vermont, joined us for worship and conversation. He repeatedly commented on how actively involved we are with one another and with communities beyond as we strive to be an authentic Mission driven Church.

If you believe that God is calling you to join us in this sacred journey please contact us at: MDC.Zion@gmail.com or visit our website for more information.