St. John's Episcopal Church

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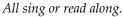
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
September 13, 2020
10:30 a.m.

THE VOLUNTARY Fanfare

Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

THE OPENING HYMN 397 Now thank we all our God

Nun danket alle Gott





Words: Martin Rinkart (1586-1649); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.

Music: Nun danket alle Gott, melody Johann Cruger (1598-1662); harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), after Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1947)

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant 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.

People Amen.

THE SONG OF PRAISE Dignus es

Benjamin Straley (b. 1986)



For you created every thing that is,

and by your will they were created and have their being; Refrain

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,

for with your blood you have redeemed for God,

From every family, language, people, and nation,

a kingdom of priests to serve our God. Refrain

And so, to him who sits upon the throne,

and to Christ the Lamb,

Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,

for ever and for evermore. Refrain

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that

your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON Exodus 14:19–31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 114

The people say the words in **bold**.

1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, * the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary * and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; * Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, * and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? * O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? * you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, * at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water * and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

THE SECOND LESSON Romans 14:1–12

Telcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 671, vv. 1, 4, 5 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

New Britain



The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus Music: New Britain, from Virginia Harmony 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919)

Copyright: Music: Harmonization copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 18:21–35

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow

slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Margie Baker

THE NICENE CREED

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one hantism for the forgiveness of sins

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

A period of silence is kept. The people say the words in **bold**.

As we the faithful live to the Lord and die to the Lord, let every tongue give praise to God and pray for all in every danger and need.

For Michael our presiding bishop, for Ian and Laura our bishops, for our clergy, for this holy gathering, and for all who share the bread of life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our parish community of St. John's, that we will be guided by God's wisdom, protected by God's strength, and filled with God's goodness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who lead, and for mercy, peace, and justice among all peoples. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

For abundant fruit from the earth, for travelers, and for safety from violent storms. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and the suffering; prisoners, captives, and their families; the hungry, homeless, and oppressed; and all those in desperate need, especially those whose health, well-being, safety, and livelihood are threatened by the pandemic, and those affected by the wildfires in the West. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For our community and those who live in it; for our families, companions, and all those we love; and for those on our parish prayer list. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

For those who rest in Christ and for all the departed. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Officiant God of infinite mercy, hear the prayers we offer this day, and as you forgive us, teach us to forgive our neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All remain standing or kneel.

All Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

THE WELCOME

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE ANTHEM How beautiful are the feet of them from Messiah

G.F. Handel (1685–1759) Text: Romans 10:15 *Erica Shippee, soloist*

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.

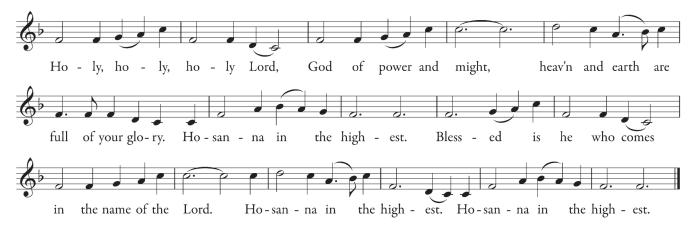
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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:

THE SANCTUS



Music: Land of Rest, arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889–1983)



Annabel Morris Buchanan was an American composer and folklorist. The author of the book Folk Hymns of America (1938) as well as myriad journal articles, Buchanan (along with John Powell) helped found a festival that promoted music of the people in the Appalachian Mountains. Buchanan's documenting practices are credited for preserving many folk songs that might have otherwise gone on unrecorded. She harmonized and produced many hymntunes familiar to us, including Land of Rest.

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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues.

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**.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All 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 Be known to us, Lord Jesus

Gary James (b. 1957)



The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ. *Refrain* One body are we, alleluia, for though many, we share one bread. *Refrain*

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THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant

God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar you assure us of your presence within us and within the body of Christ, the faithful through all the generations; grant that we who have witnessed anew these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord, Amen.

People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in this gathering of the community he formed. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant gives the blessing and the people respond, **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The Minister dismisses the people, and the people respond. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE VOLUNTARY Marche Triomphale: Now thank we all our God Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877–1933)



If an organ composer wants to be recognized in Germany, he writes music based on chorales (i.e., German hymns). Such was the case of Karg-Elert when he composed his 66 Chorale Variations, Op. 65, in which this setting is found. He was influenced by the music of Bach (no surprise there; every composer is influenced by Bach!), Claude Debussy, and Max Reger. This is perhaps his most famous composition for organ. Fragments of the tune are heard in the soprano voice, but in a disguised manner. Flourishes and chromaticism abound, though within the strict parameters of tonality – hallmark traits for this romantic / impressionistic / expressionistic composer.

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Margie Baker
Organist: Scott Lamlein
Cantor: Erica Maas Shippee
Livestream Oversight: Francis Lamlein
Altar Guild: Buffy Ineson

The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons, except where noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.

In your prayers this week, please pray for:

Peace in our world, for those serving our country in the armed services, and for all victims of war and violence.

The parish of Santa Cruz del Norte, our companion parish in Cuba, and Saint Sauveur School, Les Cayes, Haiti.

Séminaire de Théologie d'Église Épiscopale d'Haïti (STEEH), the Episcopal Seminary in Haiti.

Residents of the Caleb Hitchcock Center at Duncaster; the George Beach Apartments, Allen Place, Hartford; and the Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Our postulant, Michael Corey.

All those whose hurts, burdens and fears are unspoken or unknown.

Those in need of healing, help, and comfort:

Jim Evans	Susan	Michael	Whitney Lynch
Kim Green	Edith Connolly	Beth	Lee
Janet Ray	Sue	Chris	Patricia
Susan Murray	Gwain Gillespie	Ellie Brown	Seamus
Brad Babbitt	Maureen Carrol	Billy Ulrich	Deedy
Steve Chambers	Robert E. Eikel	Carlos Diaz	Beverly
Barbara	Dhaliwal Family	Lowenstein Family	Moghadam Family

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Cabot Rosen	Lisa Farrell
Chris Byrd	Maggie Mahoney
Joy Pond	Abigail Brunjes
Jacqueline Smith	Mac Mahoney
Phoebe Carlisle	Katie Mahoney

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. John's, Stamford; Calvary, Stonington; St. Mark's, Storrs; and for the Province of New England: the Dioceses of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Western Massachusetts; their bishops, clergy, parish and diocesan staff, and congregations; the Provincial Synod; and all Provincial Networks.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the Anglican Church of South America.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Go to our web site at www.sjparish.com for details and links.

Sunday School (elementary through middle school), 9:30 a.m. Sundays on Zoom

Sunday morning livestream service, 10:30 a.m. on YouTube, Facebook and the web site

Sunday evening outdoor service, 5 p.m. on the West Lawn

Masks are required and we will observe socially distanced seating. Please bring your own lawn chairs or blanket to sit on. Stay afterward for socially distanced conversation and games; you're welcome to bring food or non-alcoholic beverages for you/your family.

Online Noonday Prayer, Monday through Friday at 12 p.m. on Zoom

Online Bible Study, Mondays at 7 p.m. on Zoom

Online Morning Prayer, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m. on Zoom

Family Happy Hour, Tuesdays at 5 p.m. on Zoom

After the 5:00 outdoor service, we're offering several activities to encourage safe and socially distanced connections.

- Healing prayers are available in the Cloister Garden.
- You're welcome to bring food or non-alcoholic beverages.
- We'll have safe outdoor games for all ages after the services on 9/13, 9/20, 10/11, and 10/18.
- On September 20, we'll host an informal newcomers' gathering.
- On September 27, we'll have a BYO picnic followed by a family-friendly movie.

The book study discussion group on *Just Mercy* **by Bryan Stevenson** will meet virtually on Zoom on two Wednesdays: September 16 and September 30 at 7 p.m.

Fall Quiet Day, September 26, 9 a.m. to noon. Join us for a morning of quiet, prayer, and rest at St. John's. We will begin and end in prayer, with time in between for walking the labyrinth, prayer, contemplation, art, and journaling. This event is limited to 20 participants. Social distancing and masks will be required. Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/sjpquietday

Dine Around Dinners, September 25–27. The Stewardship Committee is happy to announce that the annual St. John's Dine Around Dinners will take place this year, with some changes to ensure everyone's safety. There are two options you may choose from.

Option 1 - Virtual Hosted Dinners on September 25 and September 26. Four dinner hosts will each make a main dish, and guests will supply their own sides and beverages. Guests will be assigned to one of the hosts, and pick up their main course at church. If a guest is unable to pick up their meal, a member of the Stewardship Committee will deliver it to their home. At a designated time, the diners will gather virtually with their host and other diners on Zoom, where the host will talk about their recipe and people can chat.

Option 2 - Picnic and a movie outdoors at St. John's on September 27. This option is designed especially for families with children, but anyone is welcome. After the 5 p.m. service, guests will bring their own picnic, along with chairs or a picnic blanket, and enjoy socially distanced conversation outdoors. At 7 p.m., we will show a family-friendly movie.

Sign up online at https://tinyurl.com/sjpdinearound OR e-mail Ellen in the parish office.

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

"To everything there is a season..." With fall comes our annual stewardship campaign. Stewardship is defined as the job of taking care of something. To fulfill our mission and carry out our ministries, we rely on each other to promise financial support to St. John's. Our stewardship campaign is a community giving campaign in which we each evaluate how we can contribute to St. John's and its varied ministries in the year ahead. Even though Covid-19 has limited our ability to meet and worship in person as we have in the past, St. John's is a vibrant and flourishing community that needs our ongoing assistance.

We will be providing weekly information about stewardship at St. John's. Look for "Stewardship Notes" in the weekly church correspondence and service bulletins to learn more. You will also be receiving letters from our rector and other parishioners about why they give to St. John's, and hear more from the pulpit. Our campaign will culminate with Commitment Sunday on November 8th, at which time we hope to have received your completed pledge cards.

If you have any questions about the stewardship campaign at St. John's please reach out to one of our committee members – June Aziz, Janet Babbitt, Eleanor Barnes, Kim Byrd, Matt Ciscel, Susan Clemow, Dave McCary, Stewart Murchie and John Wilcox.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration to our annual giving campaign,

Kim Byrd and Matt Ciscel, Co-Chairs, Stewardship Committee

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another www.sjparish.net

679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut 06119 860 523 5201 office@sjparish.net



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. (livestream video) and 5 p.m. (outdoors). Noonday Prayer online via Zoom at 12 p.m. every weekday, except on holidays. Morning Prayer online via Zoom at 8 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

STAFF

The Rev. Susan Pinkerton (susan@sjparish.net)	Rector			
The Rev. Margie Baker (margie@sjparish.net)	Curate			
Scott Lamlein (scott@sjparish.net)	Director of Music			
The Rev. Walter McKenney (walter@sjparish.net)	Deacon			
Ellen Painter Dollar (ellen@sjparish.net)				
Dwight Latif (dwight@sjparish.net)	Sexton			
Peggy O'Toole (peggy@sjparish.net)	Financial Administrator			
Christa Rakich	Organ Artist-in-Residence			
Ralph Valentine	Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus			
VESTRY				
Geoff Emerick	Warden			
Virginia Van Dyk	Warden			
Tim Goetz and John Roche	Co-Treasurers			
Ellen Painter Dollar	Scribe			
2019 20. Chara Crandray Ann Hatabirean Alan Nalaan				

2018–20: Steve Crocker, Ann Hutchinson, Alex Nelson 2019–21: Ellen Flynn, David Grimaldi, Teresa Lohr 2020–22: June Aziz, Jyothsna Diaz, Anne Harney