

St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another in Christ

www.sjparish.net



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II & THE BAPTISM OF
Atlas Ford Higelmire and Peyton Olivia Layfield

September 10, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Welcome!

It is our custom to be silent before the service, so as you take some time to pray, please turn off all electronic devices. All you need to participate in the service is found in this bulletin and in the blue hymnals in each pew.

If you are new to St. John's, or have been attending a while but the parish office doesn't yet have your information, please fill out our online newcomer form by scanning the QR code or going to sjparish.net/newcomer



Scan to fill out online newcomer form.

Our ushers are here to create a welcoming and safe space for worship; please let them know if you have questions, need assistance, or become aware of a health or safety concern. They have hearing assist devices available for those who need them. We're glad you're here!

Children are always welcome to be in church with their families. We encourage you to sit up front, as children will be more engaged if they can see and hear what's going on. Children are welcome here just as they are; please don't feel you must leave every time your little one makes a sound! We have children's bulletins, books, and other quiet activities available in the narthex (the entrance with the red doors) for children's use during the service. Our professionally staffed nursery for children age 0 to 5 is open from 9 a.m. until after the 10:30 service; parents/caregivers are welcome to drop off their children in the nursery for part or all of the service. The nursery is also equipped with a changing table and rocking chair for parents/caregivers to use as needed.

Photo credit: David McCary



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Prelude on *Abbott's Leigh*, 1991

Carl D.N. Klein

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 518 Christ is made the sure foundation
All stand and sing.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God and Father of all.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; 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 12:1–14

All sit.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 149 (paraphrase)

The psalm is chanted by the choir; the people sing the antiphon as indicated.

Antiphon and chant: Michael Guimont

Sing praise, sing praise in the as - sem - bly of the faith - ful.

Sing a new song to the Lord,*

Sing praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in its Maker,*

let Zion's people exalt in their king.

Antiphon

Let them praise God's name with dancing*
and make music with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people,*
and crowns the poor with salvation.

Antiphon

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,*
shout for joy and take their rest.

Antiphon



THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:8–14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 581 Where charity and love prevail

CHESHIRE

All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15–20

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

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Todd FitzGerald

All sit.

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The Priest says

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents I present Atlas Ford/Peyton Olivia to receive the sacrament of baptism.

Priest Will you be responsible for seeing that he/she is being brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents I will, with God's help.

Priest Will you by your prayers and witness help him/her to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents I will, with God's help.

Then the Priest asks the following questions of the parents and godparents, who speak on behalf of the child.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

The Priest addresses the Congregation saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

Priest Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

All stand.

Priest Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Priest Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, the 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 to the dead. 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.**

Priest Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

- People* **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.**
- Priest* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
- People* **I will, with God's help.**
- Priest* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
- People* **I will, with God's help.**
- Priest* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
- People* **I will, with God's help.**
- Priest* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- People* **I will, with God's help.**
- Priest* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
- People* **I will, with God's help.**
- Priest* Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?
- People* **I will, with God's help.**

THE PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

- Leader* Let us now pray for these children who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth. Deliver them O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
- People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
- People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
- People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
- People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
- People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Send them into the world in witness to your love.
- People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
- People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Priest* Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

- Priest* The Lord be with you.
- People* **And also with you.**
- Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

The Priest says to the candidate

Atlas Ford/Peyton Olivia, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Then the Priest places a hand on the candidate's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying
You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.

All **Amen.**

Priest Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

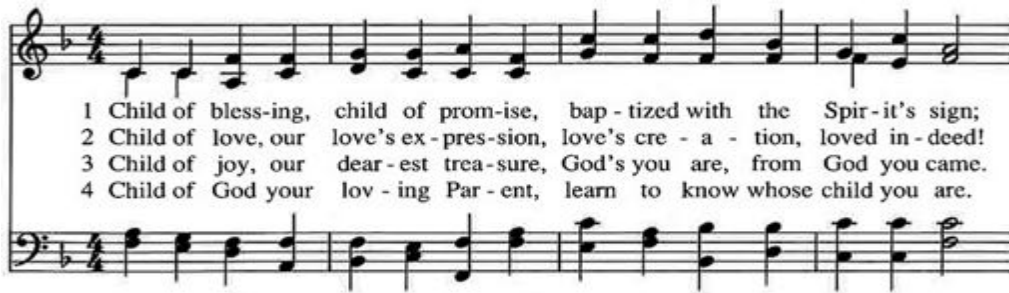
All **Amen.**

Priest Let us welcome the newly baptized.

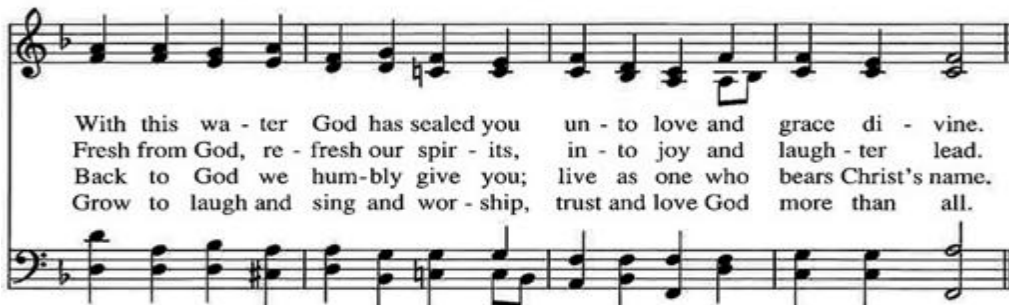
All **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

THE BAPTISM HYMN Child of blessing, child of promise

STUTT GART

All sing as the baptismal parties return to their seats.


1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap - tized with the Spir-it's sign;
 2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in - deed!
 3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you are, from God you came.
 4 Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
 Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
 Back to God we hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

THE PEACE

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

THE WELCOME

All sit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM The spirit of the Lord

Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

Text: from Isaiah 61

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord, to give unto them that mourn a garland of ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that he might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before the nations.

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100TH*All stand and sing.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise him, all creatures here below;
 Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift 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.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are
 full of your glo-ry. 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. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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

All remain standing or kneel.

And so, God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

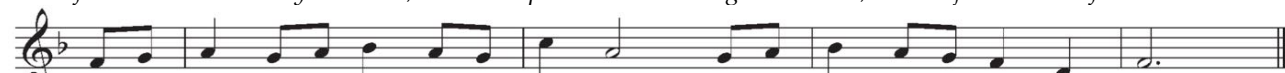
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE FRACTION ANTHEM Be known to us, Lord Jesus Gary James (b. 1957)

The refrain is introduced by the choir, then all repeat. The choir sings the verses, and all join in the refrain.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

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 INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant Take this bread, share this wine. In these Christ comes to us with love from God. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at St. John's. To receive, please kneel or stand at the altar rail. You may choose to receive bread only, intinct (dip) your wafer in the wine, or drink from the cup.

If you would like a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

If you have mobility limitations and would like a priest to bring Communion to you in your seat, please let an usher know.

If you would like to pray with our healing prayer volunteer, go to the baptismal font at the back of the church after receiving Communion.

THE COMMUNION MOTET Ubi caritas

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Words from the Maundy Thursday liturgy

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one.

Let us rejoice and be pleased in him. Let us fear and let us love the living God.

And may we love each other with a sincere heart.



Ola Gjeilo writes: The first time I sang in a choir was in high school; I went to a music high school in Norway and choir was obligatory. I loved it from the very first rehearsal, and the first piece we read through was Maurice Duruflé's Ubi Caritas. It will always be one of my favorite choral works of all time; to me, it's the perfect a cappella piece. So when I set the same text myself a few years later, it was inevitable that the Duruflé would influence it, and it did. While Duruflé used an existing, traditional chant in his piece, I used chant more as a general inspiration, while also echoing the form and dynamic range of his incomparable setting of the text.

THE COMMUNION HYMN Shall we gather at the river

AT THE RIVER

All remain seated and sing.

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod; —
 2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver spray; —
 3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down; —
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease; —

1. With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?
 2. We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py gold - en day.
 3. Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.
 4. Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of peace.

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

Words and music: Robert Lowry (1826–1899)

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*All stand or kneel.**Celebrant* Let us pray.

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 the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. 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 HYMN IN PROCESSION 379 God is Love, let heaven adore him

ABBOTT'S LEIGH

All sing.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE VOLUNTARY *Toccata on Great Day*

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)



Adolphus Hailstork is an American composer and educator. He grew up in Albany, New York, where he studied violin, piano, organ, and voice. As a child, he joined the choir of the Episcopal cathedral. From this experience he developed an interest in vocal melodic writing that asserts itself in his choral works and art songs. Hailstork's works blend musical ideas from both the African-American and European traditions. His principal teachers were H. Owen Reed (Michigan State University), Vittorio Giannini and David Diamond (Manhattan School of Music), Mark Fax (Howard University) and Nadia Boulanger (American Institute at Fontainebleau).

*The closing voluntary is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for God's Word as it has been experienced this day. All are invited to say **Amen** at the end of the Voluntary as a conclusion to our worship.*

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**Celebrant:** The Reverend Margie Baker**Preacher:** The Reverend Todd FitzGerald**Deacon:** The Reverend Walter McKenney**Layreader:** Jane Harris**The St. John's Adult Choir & Choir School****Organist and Choirmaster:** Scott Lamlein**Acolytes:** Bradley Crocker, Atticus Finkell**Ushers:** Jo Ann Burgh, Steve Crocker, Robert Eikel, Julia O'Brien**Healing Prayers:** Annabel Clapp**Livestream Oversight:** Francis Lamlein**Altar Guild:** Bill Lockery, Buffy Ineson**Sunday School Teachers:** Jenn Baker, Akilah Williams, Leah Lorenzo, Matt Ciscel, Angela Allen-Peck**Nursery Staff:** Sheryl Simoni, Lilah Lorenzo**Coffee Hour Host:** Julia O'Brien

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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. Residents of the Caleb Hitchcock Center at Duncaster, and the George Beach Apartments, Allen Place, Hartford. All those whose hurts, burdens, and fears are unspoken or unknown.

Those in need of healing, help, and comfort:

Kim Green	Susan	Ellie Brown	Paul Epstein
Janet Ray	Sue	Anita Winters	Wendy
Brad Babbitt	Whitney Lynch	Mary Jo Keating	Bob Norton
Paul L. Peck	Tessa Trussell Wolf	Robert Connolly	Sean Kuruvilla
Virginia Skeele	Gina Giusto	Anne Beyersdorfer	Joseph
Grant Loevenbruck	Mima Esponda	Alison Gillespie	Sarah Carroll
John & Barbara Spannaus	The Yelland family	Joyce Flynn	Greg Highland
Jennifer Blean	Harry Barber	Steve Chambers	Jane Nelson
Tori	Doug Larson	Rachel Boccio	Rachel
Deborah	Dennis Simoni	Joan Ackley	Guy Russo
Hale Walkoff	Brenda	Guy Russo	Deborah Seid
Rod Farrell	Nick Willke	Harriet Odlum	Joanna Jones
Hillary Lord	Marnie Mueller	Joan Warner	Jimmy

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton
Christian Dahlstrom

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

Benjamin Clapp	Cabot Rosen
Matteo Donnelly	Chris Byrd
Carol Davis	Joy Pond

Those celebrating anniversaries this week:

Paul & Susan Murphy Thaxton

Those who have died:

Sam Cooley, *member of St. John's and husband of Trig Cooley*
Ward Farrell, *friend of Sarah Kieffer*
Tom Reichenbach, *father of Lisa Mahoney*
Eunice McKenney, *sister of Walter McKenney*

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for L'Eglise de L'Epiphanie, Stamford; St. Andrew's, Stamford; St. Francis', Stamford; 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; Provincial Synod; and all Provincial Networks.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the The Church of Ireland.

Kick-off Sunday activities for youth and adults TODAY!

- Immediately following the 10:30 service, we'll have an **acolyte training with pizza lunch**. Children and teens in 3rd grade and above, including those in the Choir School, are eligible to serve as acolytes, and we ask that both new and returning acolytes attend the training.
- There will also be a brief **usher training** for all ushers after the 10:30 service.
- **Then at 1:30 p.m., ALL children, youth, and parents/caregivers are invited for an ice cream social** and a sneak peek at the program year ahead.

Coffee hour returns: Hosts needed! Coffee hour resumes after the 10:30 service today in Hubbard Hall. Coffee hour is held each week either outdoors or in Hubbard Hall, and we need people to sign up as hosts. **Hosting is easy!** Your primary job as host is hospitality—staffing our Information Station cart and greeting people. You do not have to make coffee, and providing food is welcome but optional. In addition, **any parishioner is welcome to bring food to any coffee hour to share**, with no sign-up required. Go to sjparish.net/sundayvolunteers to sign up as a host.

Welcome to our new nursery supervisors! We are delighted to have Nichole Segar and Sheryl Simoni join us as our new nursery supervisors. One of them will be in the nursery every Sunday, along with one or two of our high school or young adult nursery assistants. Nichole and Sheryl both have professional experience working with children and are excited to join the St. John's team.

Online Bible study: New session begins tomorrow, September 11 at 7 p.m. Our popular Monday evening online Bible study returns from summer hiatus with a new series on the stories of Joseph in the Old Testament. All are welcome to attend any or all sessions, which are held in Zoom. The Zoom link is shared in the Thursday e-news, or you can sign up to receive an email reminder and Zoom link on Mondays by contacting Margie at margie@sjparish.net.

Next Sunday's adult forum at 9 a.m.: "I have questions!" Throughout this program year, we'll be offering a monthly adult forum titled "I have questions!" We'll begin each session with an introduction to core Christian beliefs and practices as expressed in our baptismal covenant, followed by Q&A time. Whether you're new to St. John's or the Episcopal Church, or are a long-time member, this is your chance to discuss your questions about God, the Church, our church, Christian belief, liturgical practices, Christian ministry, and more.

Women Together discussion group resumes on Tuesday, September 19 at 2 p.m. Women Together gathers weekly to explore our Christian faith and practice through book discussion, prayer, and fellowship. We will resume meetings on September 19 in the Reception Room at St. John's, when we will begin discussing *The Night is Long but Light Comes in the Morning: Meditations for Racial Healing* by Catherine Meeks. For the first meeting, we will discuss the foreword and part 1 (through page 34), although if you aren't able to read to that point before the first meeting, please come anyway! The books we choose are usually available at libraries, Amazon, and through other booksellers. Women Together has been attended by women from several local Episcopal churches, including St. John's, Trinity, St. James's, and St. Monica's. Please contact Sarah Kieffer at kieffer2468@gmail.com if you would like additional information.

Choral Evensong, Sunday, September 24, 5 p.m. The first Choral Evensong of the new program year will feature music from the St. John's Schola. Evensong is an ancient and beautiful service featuring music, chant, and prayer offered in a contemplative setting. Please join us and bring a friend.

Dreams: A musical journey with Afro-Cuban inspired jazz, dance, and drums, Friday, September 29, 7:30 p.m. You'll find it impossible to sit still during this evening—our first major Music at the Red Door event of the new program year—featuring Afro-Cuban influenced rhythms and soulful, creative music and dance. We will welcome dancers Chantal Edwards and Savanna Jones, along with Ed Fast and Congabop for this upbeat treat for young and old alike! This event will be presented in person and by livestream. Free admission with no tickets required; donations are welcome.



Kick-Off Sunday

for children, youth, and families
Sunday, September 10

**Sunday School,
Nursery,
and
Choir School
return!**

PLUS Acolyte Training
for new and returning
acolytes at 12:00
& an Ice Cream Social
for ALL families at 1:30

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED!

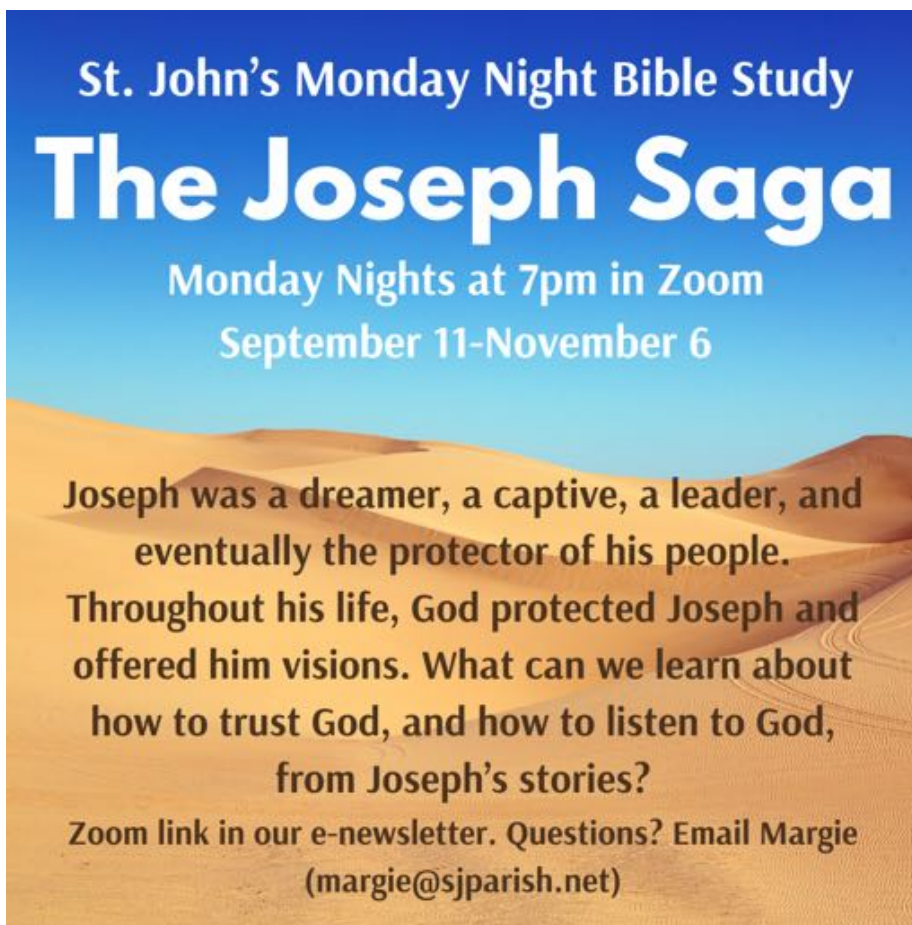
The coffee hour host's main job is **hospitality!**

- Staff the Information Station info cart and answer questions about the church. (If you don't know the answer to a question, that's okay! You can refer someone to another parishioner, a staff member, or the parish office.)
- Greet people, especially those who are new or whom you don't know.
- Bring the Information Station Cart and the "Free Coffee" sign outside when coffee hour is outdoors.
- Provide food (OPTIONAL). While fruit, pastries, bagels, or other light fare are welcome, the host is not obligated to provide food.
- In addition, ANY parishioner is always welcome to bring food to share at coffee hour, even if they are not serving as host.

Please sign up today!



SIGN UP AT
SJPARISH.NET/SUNDAYVOLUNTEERS



St. John's Monday Night Bible Study
The Joseph Saga
Monday Nights at 7pm in Zoom
September 11-November 6

Joseph was a dreamer, a captive, a leader, and eventually the protector of his people. Throughout his life, God protected Joseph and offered him visions. What can we learn about how to trust God, and how to listen to God, from Joseph's stories?

Zoom link in our e-newsletter. Questions? Email Margie (margie@sjparish.net)



I have questions!:
A faith forum series where we discuss your questions about Christianity and the church

We are hosting this faith forum series throughout the program year, approximately once a month. Whether you're new to St. John's or the Episcopal Church, or you are a long-time church member who has questions or just enjoys talking about theology, liturgy, and the Christian life, you're invited! Bring your questions and your curiosity! Each forum will begin with introducing specific Christian beliefs, values, and practices as expressed in our baptismal covenant, and then move into Q&A.

Next session:
September 17
9:30 a.m.
Hubbard Hall

EVENSONG

St. John's Schola



September 24, 5pm

St. John's Episcopal Church, West Hartford

MUSIC AT THE RED DOOR, INC.

Events are also available livestreamed
at www.reddoormusic.org



Presented by
Music at
the Red Door

DREAMS



Afro-Cuban Jazz, Dance and Drums

- Free admission
- In-person and livestreamed
- Donations welcome (suggested donation: \$20)
- Reception to follow



Friday, September 29, 2023
7:30pm

The Edward C. & Ann T.
ROBERTS
FOUNDATION

HOWARD H. GERSHAW FUND
at
Hartford Foundation

Music at the Red Door
St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06109
RedDoorMusic.org



St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another in Christ

www.sjparish.net

679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut 06119

860 523 5201 office@sjparish.net



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Sunday: Holy Eucharist in the Cloister Garden

10:30 a.m. Sunday: Holy Eucharist in the church and livestreamed

Daily Morning Prayer by phone at 6:45 a.m. Monday through Friday

Contact parish office for call-in details.

STAFF

The Rev. Todd FitzGerald (todd@sjparish.net)	<i>Priest in Charge</i>
The Rev. Margie Baker (margie@sjparish.net).....	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
Scott Lamlein (scott@sjparish.net).....	<i>Director of Music</i>
The Rev. Walter McKenney	<i>Deacon</i>
Ellen Painter Dollar (ellen@sjparish.net).....	<i>Parish Manager</i>
Dwight Latif (dwight@sjparish.net).....	<i>Sexton</i>
Peggy O'Toole (peggy@sjparish.net)	<i>Financial Administrator</i>
Christa Rakich	<i>Organ Artist-in-Residence</i>
Ralph Valentine.....	<i>Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus</i>

VESTRY

Ginger Gillespie	<i>Warden</i>
Stewart Murchie.....	<i>Warden</i>
Anne Harney and David McCary	<i>Co-Treasurers</i>

2021–23: Annabel Clapp, Robert Eikel, Julia O'Brien

2022–24: Lissie Brooks, Marcos Donnelly, Rosa Guzzo, Mary Honyotski

2023–25: Angela Allen-Peck, Eleanor Barnes, John Nowacki, Tom Oberholtzer