



# St. John's Episcopal Church

**Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 10:30am**

**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Welcome to Our Guests**

*We are so glad you have chosen to worship at St. John's today. You are very welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any Christian Church. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest.*

**HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)**

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**THE PRELUDE**      *Vivace (Trio Sonata in G)*      *Johann Sebastian Bach*  
*Voluntary in a minor*      *John Blow*

**THE OPENING HYMN 477** *All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine*

**THE OPENING ACCLAMATION**      *All stand.*  
*Celebrant* Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People*      **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

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 SONG OF PRAISE (CANTICLE 13) RUTTER**

*MUSIC IS 5236 IN THE HYMNAL*

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;  
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim;  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths;  
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### THE LESSONS

*All sit.*

##### THE FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**THE RESPONSE: PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16**

*Sung by choir.*

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; \*  
    incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; \*  
    I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,  
    and what our forefathers have told us, \*  
    we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come  
    the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, \*  
    and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, \*  
    in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; \*  
    he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, \*  
    and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness \*  
    and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, \*  
    and the waters gushed out like rivers.

**THE EPISTLE: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work

out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**THE SEQUENCE HYMN 601** *O day of God draw nigh*

**THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:23-32**

*All stand*

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

*Reader* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**THE SERMON** The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston

*All sit.*

## THE NICENE CREED

*All stand.*

*The Celebrant and People say together*

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 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 II)

*All kneel as able.*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops, Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Glenda and Brain our bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially\_\_\_\_\_.  
Pray for those who have died. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for \_\_\_\_\_. *Silence.*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

*The Celebrant then bids the confession with these words.*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Priest and People*

**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.**

*Celebrant* 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**

*The people stand to greet one another.*

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

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

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*The celebrant will say an offertory sentence. The people stand to sing.*

**THE OFFERTORY HYMN 435** *At the Name of Jesus*

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)**

*p. 361*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## THE SANCTUS S125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*All kneel as they are able*

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,

*People and Celebrant*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

*The Celebrant presents the holy gifts to the congregation saying*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with Thanksgiving.

*Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor.*

*Communicants may receive the wine by intinction or by drinking directly from the cup.*

*During communion the choir sings*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.



## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*All kneel as they are able.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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

*All kneel as they are able.*

*The Celebrant blesses the people*

May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## THE CLOSING HYMN 492 *Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness*

## THE DISMISSAL

*Minister* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## THE POSTLUDE *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee* Johann Ludwig Krebs

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## TODAY'S SERVERS

**Clergy:** The Reverend Duncan Johnston, DMin  
The Reverend Deonna D. Neal, PhD

**Director of Children's Formation:** Sarah Collier

**Director of Youth Ministry:** Connie Tapia

**Acolytes:** Susannah Miller, Nancy Bradford, Parker Mantooth,  
Will Evans. Clark, Maggie Mantooth.

**Lector and Intercessor:** Ashley Hamlett, Debbie Schremser

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Rich Anderson, Mary Hughes, Maria Pacheco

**Ushers/Greeters:** Margaret Ann Selman, Kathleen Bradford,  
Catherine McLemore, Wyatt Wells

**Altar Guild:** Ashley Hamlett

**Flower Guild:** Bette Smith, Mary Helen Mahan

**Flower Delivery Team:** Carma Marks, Jeanette Lynn, George Mathews

**Videographer:** Sam Collier

**Instrumentalists:** Joel Gregory, *organ*; Robert Scott, *Flute*; Jihye Choy,  
*violin*; David Simpson, *bassoon*.

**Altar Flowers are given in memory of:** Annie Paul Thorington,  
Olivia Goldthwaite Thompson, Theresa Goldthwaite,  
Lizzie Andrews Goldthwaite, James Drury Flowers, Sr.,  
Mary Van Thornton Flowers, James Drury Flowers, Jr.  
Donna Winslow Flowers, Dr. Willard D. Bennett, Martha Bennett,  
Anna Cecile Bennett, Cecile Morgan Webb.

**Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:**

Anne Phillips Arrington, Jim Bennett, Bob Hill, Katie Keller, Valerie Lee,  
Richard McCrory, Eddie McDowell, Shirley Price, Anne Ramsey,  
Barbara Wells, Fay Worrilow, Larry Worrilow.

**Prayers are also requested for these friends:** Frankie McAdams Barlow,  
Mac Burton, James Buzard, Michael Finnen, Wilber Hill, Sr. (VA),  
Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Alice Sarrett, Michael Slagel, Ron Skoneki,  
Chandler Taylor, Joe Wendel, Frank Winkler

**We pray for one who has died:** Mercer Stone. Rest Eternal Grant unto  
him, O Lord. Let Light perpetual shine upon him.

*Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care.  
The prayer list will be updated monthly, please notify us if names need to remain longer.*

**Pastoral Care Team for October:** Carrie Shaw, Margaret Peeples,  
Caroline Lawson, Doris Ball, Murray Bennett

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Blessing of the Animals:** Today, October 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. All pets and their owners are invited to join in this popular service held in the labyrinth. All animals must be in a crate or on a leash. The Montgomery Zoo Animal Ambassadors and the Petting Zoo will be present. The Rosemary Bistro food truck will be here, [www.therosemarybistro.com](http://www.therosemarybistro.com).

**Men's Focus:** Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 8-9 a.m., in the Parish Hall. Please join Duncan for breakfast and a discussion on the topic of *Men and Work*. Please RSVP by Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, to ensure we have plenty of food. You may email RSVPs to [duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org)

**Fall Teaching Series.** *No Family Left Untouched: Drugs and our community.* Wednesday nights, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>-Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. Join us for a sobering and in-depth study of the problems of drugs in our community. Over the four weeks, we will hear from experts who offer unique perspectives on a phenomenon that is tearing at the heart of our local communities, including a medical practitioner, a law enforcement officer, a mental health practitioner, and a legal expert. Dinner is served at 6:00, speakers begin at 6:30.

**Children's Fall Program:** During the Fall Teaching Series, children will enjoy an alternate program, *Jesus' "Upside Down" Way of Living*. The life that Jesus offers is radically different than the one the world offers. When we go "all in" with Jesus, he turns our ordinary life upside down in the most incredible way. Nursery care is available.

**Deonna's Fall Class:** Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the archives room. *The Life We're Looking for: Reclaiming Relationship in a Technological World* The book is available in the bookstore.

**Fall Rector's Forum:** Sundays, at 9:15 a.m., in the library. *The Future isn't what it used to be Heaven, the second coming, judgment, and all that apocalyptic jazz.* We'll be using the book *Surprised by Hope* by N. T. Wright. It is available in the bookstore.

**Bazaar Pantry Cooking:** Tuesday and Thursday Mornings at 10:00 a.m. Join us in the St. John's kitchen.

**Chamber Music Concert:** Sunday, October 22, 2023 4 pm. The concert is held in the nave with a reception following in the Parish Hall



**Visitors:** Welcome! We are so glad you decided to visit with us today. Please use this QR code to provide us with some information about you and your family so that we can better serve you.



# St. John's Episcopal Church

## **The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama**

The Right Reverend Glenda S. Curry, PhD, *Bishop of Alabama*

The Right Reverend Brian N. Prior, *Assisting Bishop*

The Reverend Duncan H. Johnston, DMin, *Rector*

The Reverend Deonna D. Neal, PhD, *Associate Rector*

Joel Gregory, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Sarah Collier, *Director of Children's Christian Formation*

Connie Tapia, *Director of Youth Ministry*

Heather Herring, *Financial Administrator*

Constance Rodgers, *Director of Communications*

Anne Tippett, *Assistant to the Rector*

Myron Smoke, *Maintenance Superintendent*

### Vestry and Officers

William Haynes, *Senior Warden*

Margaret Ann Selman, *Junior Warden*

Richard Bradford, *Treasurer*

### Class of 2023

Kathleen Bradford, Ellen Habermacher, Cam Hughes,

Michelle Shaw, Wyatt Wells

### Class of 2024

Christy Anderson, Jim Bennett, Josie Eskridge, Dustin Holmes,

Debbie Schremser

### Class of 2025

Melissa Carter, Mark Chappell, Anne Hamner, Catherine McLemore,

Keith Miller, Allison Prillaman

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