



St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, September 3rd, 2023, 10.30am
The Fourteenth 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. Children's activity bags are available in the hallway outside the bookstore.

HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

THE PRELUDE *Trumpet Tune* Frederick Swann
 Prelude William Harris

THE OPENING HYMN 10 *New every morning is the love* Omit "*" stanzas.

THE SALUTATION

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

People **And blessed be his 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.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through

Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 3:1-15

All sit.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' What shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE: PSALM 105:1-6, 23-26, 45C

Sung by choir.

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
 make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
 and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
 let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *
 continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
 his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
 O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 23 Israel came into Egypt, *
 and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.
- 24 The LORD made his people exceedingly fruitful; *
 he made them stronger than their enemies;
- 25 Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, *
 and dealt unjustly with his servants.
- 26 He sent Moses his servant, *
 and Aaron whom he had chosen.
- 45 Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 383 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 16:21-28

All stand

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston

All sit.

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Parents and Godparents **I present Baylor Mae Mills to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

The Celebrant asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that Baylor is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

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

Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

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

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 the 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.**

After all have been presented, the Celebrant 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.**

The Celebrant then says

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

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers? **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? **I will, with God's help.**

THE PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

The Celebrant then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for Baylor who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open her heart to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send her into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant says

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 forever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

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. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

The candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant who pours water upon the candidate, saying

Baylor, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

When this action has been completed, the Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over the person, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her 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. **Amen.**

Then the Priest places a hand on Baylor's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying.

Baylor, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

When the baptism has been completed the Celebrant says
Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

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 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.

Offertory Hymn 577 *God is love, and where true love is*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)

Remain standing. 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. Because in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and

given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven 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.

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.

The priest receives the Sacrament, and then serves the people with these words:

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

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

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

Go now and follow Jesus in the way of the cross. Rejoice in hope, hold fast to what is good, persevere in prayer. Overcome evil with good, and as far as is possible, live peaceably with all. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN 675 *Take up your cross and follow me*

THE DISMISSAL

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE *Fuga (Concerto in d minor)*

JS Bach after Vivaldi

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TODAY'S SERVERS

Rector: The Reverend Duncan H. Johnston, DMin

Assoc. Rector: The Reverend Deonna D. Neal, PhD

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministry: Connie Tapia

Acolytes: JM Longshore, Susannah Miller, Lawton McCollum,
Ella Claire Corsino, Suzanne Holmes

Lector and Intercessor: Keith Miller, Debbie Schremser

Eucharistic Ministers: Betsy Cannon, Kat Dailey, Callie Dietz

Ushers/Greeters: Jim Marshall, Kathleen Bradford,
Dustin Holmes, Anne Hamner

Altar Guild: Chuck Moore

Flower Guild: Anne Elizabeth McGowin, Betsy Cannon

Flower Delivery Team: Carma Marks, Jeannette Lynn, George Mathews

Videographer: Sam Collier

Instrumentalists: Robert Scott, *flute*; Barbara Shanks, *oboe*;
David Simpson, *bassoon*.

Turner Christian Cameron, Jr.

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Anne Phillips Arrington, Jim Bennett, Bob Hill, Eddie McDowell,
Shirley Price, Richard McCrory, Barbara Wells, Larry Worrilow,
Fay Warrilow.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Frankie McAdams Barlow,
Gigi Boyd, Mac Burton, James Buzard, Wilber Hill, Sr. (VA),
Wilber Hill, Jr. (VA), Ashley Freeman, Karen and Angelo Pacheco,
Michael Slagle, Joe Wendel.

We pray for one who has died: Robert Proctor. 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 September: Emmi Harrell, Meri Moody,
Nancy Bradford, Carma Marks, Mary Helen Mahan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ministry Fair: Sunday, Sept. 10th, 9:15 AM, in the Parish House. Have you
always wanted to be more involved at St. Johns, but just didn't know where
you were needed? Come learn more about the many volunteer service
groups available and see where your talents can shine.

Kick-off Sunday: Sunday, Sept. 10th, following the 10:30 Service. Join us
for lunch and water inflatables as we celebrate the beginning of Fall
programming. Please remember your swimsuits, towels, and sunscreen.
Lunch will be provided. Kona Ice will be available for purchase.

Heavenly Hosts: Adults covered dish supper Tuesday, Sept, 12th, 6-8 PM.
Please bring your favorite covered dish and join us at the home of Bobby &
Cindy Siebels, 3532 Thomas Ave, Montgomery, AL. Soft drinks will be
provided by the church, but you are welcome to bring additional beverages.

Organ Concert Sunday, Sept 17, 4pm: Music of Bach, Frescobaldi,
Gigout, Buxtehude, and others. A reception follows in the Parish Hall.