



# St. John's Episcopal Church

**Sunday, June 25th, 2023, 10.30am**  
**The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**with Baptisms**

*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. Children's activity bags are available in the back of the church.*

**HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)**

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**THE PRELUDE** *Allegro, Grave, & Fugue (Concerto in d)* J S Bach after Vivaldi  
*Prelude on Tallis' Canon* Paul Manz

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

**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.

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; 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: GENESIS 21:8-21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**PSALM 86::1-10, 16-17**

*Sung by choir.*

- 1 Bow down your ear, O Lord, and answer me, \*  
for I am poor and in misery.
- 2 Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; \*  
save your servant who puts his trust in you.
- 3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; \*  
I call upon you all the day long.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, \*  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, \*  
and great is your love toward all who call upon you.
- 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, \*  
and attend to the voice of my supplications.
- 7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, \*  
for you will answer me.
- 8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, \*  
nor anything like your works.
- 9 All nations you have made will come and worship you, O Lord, \*  
and glorify your Name.
- 10 For you are great;  
you do wondrous things; \*  
and you alone are God.
- 16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; \*  
give your strength to your servant;  
and save the child of your handmaid.
- 17 Show me a sign of your favor,  
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; \*  
because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

**THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 6:1B-11**

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever

has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**THE SEQUENCE HYMN 678** *Surely it is God who saves me*

**THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10:24-39**

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

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

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

*Priest* 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 N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

*The Celebrant asks the parents and godparents*

Will you be responsible for seeing that the children you present are brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and God parents*

**I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant*

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

*Parents and God parents* **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 these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

*A Person appointed leads the following petitions*

*Leader* 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.**

*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**

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

N., 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 for all candidates, the Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these 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. **Amen.**

*Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying to each one.*

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

*When all have been baptized, 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 sit.*

Offertory Voluntary *Meditation on 'Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether'*

Gerre Hancock



*All stand to sing the Offertory verse when the offertory is brought up to the altar.*

**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.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)**

*All stand. 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.**

*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.*

## 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.*

*The Celebrant blesses the people*

Go now and walk in newness of life, for Christ has been raised from the dead. Take up your cross and follow Christ. 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 296** *We know that Christ is raised and dies no more*

## THE DISMISSAL

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

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

## THE POSTLUDE

*Engelberg*

David Cherwien

## 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:** Susannah Miller, Bobby Bradford, Parker Mantooth,  
Eloise Carlisle

**Lector and Intercessor:** Mary Hughes, Reg McLane

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Betsy Cannon, Will Gunter, Fairley McDonald

**Ushers/Greeters:** Margaret Ann Selman, Mark Chappell,  
Allison Prillaman, Debbie Schremser

**Altar Guild:** Jean Drummond

**Flower Guild:** Camilla Armstrong, Margaret Peoples

**Flower Delivery Team:** Jeanne Drummond, Bette Smith,  
Debbie Schremser

**Videographer:** Anne Tippet

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

### **Altar Flowers given in memory of:**

Jeanne Stockner Brunschwyler, Richard Grant Brunschwyler,  
Rosemary Brunschwyler Kenney, Sarah McDonald Armstrong,  
George Luther Armstrong, Jr., Sarah Katharine Brooks.

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

Anne Phillips Arrington, Bill Bowman, Bob Hill, Eddie McDowell,  
Marilyn Pickett, Shirley Price, Larry Worriow.

**Prayers are also requested for these friends:** Gigi Boyd, James Buzard,  
Wilber Hill, Sr. (VA), Wilber Hill, Jr. (VA), Ashley Freeman, Karen and  
Angelo Pacheco, Robert Proctor, Michael Slagle.

*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 June:**

Elizabeth Via Brown, Betty Beale, Marney Garzon, Arthur Mazyck

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Anger and Meekness: Spiritual Insights.** Through July 2nd, Deonna is leading a course exploring anger and meekness through the spiritual teachings of the 4th century desert monastic and ascetic Evagrius Ponticus. The course uses the book *Dragon's Wine and Angels Bread* by Gabriel Bunge. The book can be purchased in the bookstore or online.

**Summer Sermon Series: From Eden to Egypt.** This summer the Old Testament readings will come from the books of Genesis and Exodus. Each week, we will read an episode of a grand and inspiring story. We will hear of heroes and villains, patriarchs and matriarchs, sinners, and saints. We'll see God's hand at work in happy circumstances, and tragic. Then we will learn from Duncan and Deonna as they preach about these Old Testament characters. We will see what lessons these ancient personalities can teach us and discover how we can live more faithful Christian lives. Join us every Sunday at 7:30 and 10:30am or on YouTube and Facebook at any time.

**Eden to Egypt Companion Bible Study: Beginning Sunday, July 9th** Join Duncan and Deonna at 9:15, in the library, for a deeper discussion of the weekly Old Testament readings.



**Meals on Wheels:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays, starting in May. St. John's will be partnering with MACOA to deliver meals to Seniors. Use the QR code to sign up. Ride along training is available, email [constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org) to schedule.

**Mercy House:** Volunteers are needed from 11:00 AM -1:00 P.M each Thursday to serve hot meals at Mercy House. Mercy House is a day shelter serving West Montgomery by providing access to food, clothing, shower facilities and laundry facilities. For questions or more information please contact Stephanie Norrell at 334-467-6989.

**Text to Give:** You now have an additional way to give at St. John's. Whether it's a pledge payment, a memorial, or any other type of payment, you can text "stjohnsmgm" to 833-251-1449.

**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.

