



St. John's Episcopal Church

March 10th, 2024, 10:30am

The Fourth Sunday in Lent with Confirmation

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)

THE PRELUDE *Adagio (Trio Sonata in G)*
Wondrous Love

Johann Sebastian Bach
Craig Phillips

THE OPENING HYMN 610 *Lord, whose love through humble service*

THE WORD OF GOD

Bishop Blessed be God who forgives all our sins.
People **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Bishop continues

There is one Body and one Spirit
People **There is one hope in God's call to us.**
Bishop 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.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

Sung by choir.

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.
- 19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.

- 21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 467 *Sing my soul, his wondrous love*

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 3:14-21

All stand.

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

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

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light

because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry

All sit.

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Presenters I present these persons for confirmation.

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates **I do.**

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates **I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.**

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 have renewed their commitment to Christ.

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

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For Confirmation

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. **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)

All stand.

p.361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

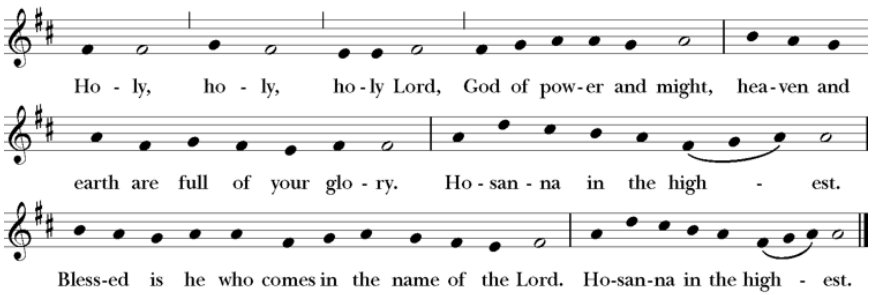
People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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 Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

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.

During communion the choir sings the Agnus Dei

ANTHEM AT COMMUNION *Remember O Thou Man* Thomas Ravenscroft

Remember, O thou man, thy time is spent. Remember, O thou man, how thou art dead and gone, and I did what I can, therefore repent. Remember Adam's fall, O thou man, from heaven to hell. Remember, O thou man, how we were condemned and all in hell perpetual therefore to dwell. Remember God's goodness, O thou man, and his promise made, how he sent his Son doubtless our sins for to redress, be not afraid. Give thanks to God always with heart most joyfully (as we await that day), let all men sing and say "Holy, Holy!"

Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor. Upon receiving the bread and the wine, the communicant responds "Amen."

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 SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

All kneel as they are able.

The Celebrant says “Bow Down before the Lord”

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN 646 *The King of love my Shepherd is*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE *Fantasia in c minor*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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Confirmation Candidates

Sarah Arrington

Thomas Arrington

Eloise Carlisle

Will Evans Clark

John David Collier

Samuel Collier

Suzanne Holmes

Maggie Mantooth

Ethan Tapia

Sydney Jolley

H. Mawande Mzongwana

Mark Sanders

Katie Wood

TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Rt. Reverend Glenda Curry, PhD
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: Molly Selman, JM Longshore, Bobbie Bradford, Susannah Miller

Lector and Intercessor: Mark Chappell, Mary Hughes

Eucharistic Ministers: Betsy Cannon, Morgan Chappell, Dudley Perry

Ushers/Greeters: Margaret Ann Selman, Mark Chappell,
Allison Prillaman, Ashley Roseboro

Altar Guild: Chuck Moore

Flower Guild: Caroline Lawson, Laura McLemore

Flower Delivery Team: Anne & Reggie Hamner, Marla Foster,
Maria Pacheco

Videographer: Scott Mitchell

Instrumentalists: Barbara Shanks, *oboe*; David Simpson, *basoon*,

Altar Flowers given in memory of: Dr. Milton L. Wood, Sallie W. Wood,
George M. Wood, Mattie P.s Wood, Milton L Wood, Jr., Roberta H. Wood,
Elizabeth L.W. James, Sallie W. W. Marks, Eloise Hawkins,
Eugene T. Millsap, Jr., George M. Wood, Jr.

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Anne Phillips Arrington, John Durr, Bob Hill, Carma Marks,
Eddie McDowell, Martha Collier Moseley, Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price,
Richard McCrory, Ethan Tapia, Barbara Wells, Larry Worrilow.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Emma Allshouse,
Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton, Michael Finnen, Roger Jobe, John Allen
Jones, Seeley Lewis, Maureen McCloskey, Karen and Angelo Pacheco,
Pam Slate, Ron Skoneki, Chandler Taylor, Connie Thomas, Denise Tinney,
Joe Wendel, Frank Winkler, Patti Worrilow

*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 March: Florence Young, Jeanne Drummond,
Marla Foster, Laura Knapp

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Teaching Series: Legacy: What are you leaving? This Lent please join us at 6pm for dinner and presentations on aspects of end-of-life planning. We'll be joined by experts in their field who will lead us more deeply into practical ways we can show our love for the people we leave behind. Topics include Faith and Funerals, End-of-Life Medical Care, Ethical Wills, Financial Matters, and Legal Matters.

Children's Lenten Series: Wild Willy's Candy Factory: A new look at the prodigal son. K-6th Children will meet with Sarah immediately following dinner. A modified program will be available in the nursery for Pre-K and toddlers.

Art and Music: Meditations on the Paintings of the Stations of the Cross. Sunday, March 17th at 4 pm. Camilla Armstrong's deeply evocative Stations of the Cross paintings will be displayed throughout the nave accompanied by short readings from the Gospels and Psalms on the themes of the Passion. Music emphasizing the pathos of the Passion will accompany visual art in our sacred space.

Revelation Winter Bible Study: Sundays, at 9:15 a.m., in the library, join Deonna for a Bible study on the book of Revelation. We will use the book *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation* by Bruce Metzger. Books are available in the bookstore (\$15) or can be purchased online.

Rector's Forum: Welcome Course- Duncan is leading an engaging program of presentations and discussions about the Christian faith and the Episcopal tradition. Sunday mornings, 9:15 a.m. in the Archives. Please email duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org to register.

Honduras Mission Trip: Can you use an automatic blood pressure machine or weigh yourself on a scale? These are just a few of the many tasks that we need help with on the Honduras Mission trip this summer in Tela Honduras. You don't need to speak Spanish to join us. If you are interested or just want to find out more information, please talk to Jon or Kat Dailey at church email us at katdailey@icloud.com.



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

Margaret Ann Selman, *Senior Warden*

Keith Miller, *Junior Warden*

Richard Bradford, *Treasurer*

Class of 2024

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

Class of 2025

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

Class of 2026

Elizabeth Lawlor, Liam McMullan, Mary Martin Mitchel, Chuck Ocheltree
Ashley Roseboro, Cole Wise

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