



# St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, February 12th, 2023, 10.30am

The Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

## 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** *All Glory Be to God on High* Johann Sebastian Bach  
*Prelude on 'Land of Rest'* Sam Batt Owens

**THE OPENING HYMN** 556 *Rejoice, ye pure in heart* (Omit stanzas 6 & 7)

## THE WORD OF GOD

*p. 355*

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

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

*Celebrant* 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 GLORIA

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-

might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For  
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the  
Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of  
God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through

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

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*All sit.*

### THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

### PSALM 119:1-8

Chant: John Goss

*Sung by choir.*

- 1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, \*  
    who walk in the law of the Lord!
- 2 Happy are they who observe his decrees \*  
    and seek him with all their hearts!
- 3 Who never do any wrong, \*  
    but always walk in his ways.
- 4 You laid down your commandments, \*  
    that we should fully keep them.
- 5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct \*  
    that I might keep your statutes!
- 6 Then I should not be put to shame, \*  
    when I regard all your commandments.

7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, \*  
    when I have learned your righteous judgments.  
8 I will keep your statutes; \*  
    do not utterly forsake me.

### **THE EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-9**

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN 304** *I come with joy to meet my Lord*

### **THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:21-37**

*All stand*

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

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

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the

way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. “Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

*Priest* The Gospel of our 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 VI)**      *All kneel as able. p. 392*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work; **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world; **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Glenda and Brian our Bishops, and Duncan and Deonna our priests, and all bishops and other ministers; **For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence (The People may add their own petitions.)*

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence (The People may add their own thanksgivings)*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence (The People may add their own petitions)*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence*

*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 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 Anthem *Strengthen for Service Lord the Hands* Healey Willan

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

**All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad; the Trinity whom we adore for ever and for evermore.**

## **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, for sending him to reconcile us to one another and to you, so that the righteousness of your law might be planted in us, and following your ways, life can be blessed. 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 (S128)**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,  
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 heaven 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. p. 366*

*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 be a people of reconciliation and integrity, and in all the paths you walk may God the Father hold you steady and close. May God the Son bless you and every place you enter. And may God the Holy Spirit give you length of days and fullness of life.

And the blessing of God the Holy Trinity be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**THE CLOSING HYMN 594** *God of grace and God of glory*

**THE SENDING OUT**

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

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

**THE POSTLUDE** *Fugue in G*

J S Bach

## TODAY'S SERVERS

**Acolytes:** Brett Westhauser, Allie Fitzpatrick, Helen Johnston,  
Bobbie Bradford, Eloise Carlisle, Robert Wells

**Lector and Intercessor:** Rich Anderson, Virginia Banister

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Mary Hughes, Leale McCall, Dudley Perry

**Ushers/Greeters:** Margaret Ann Selman, Christy Anderson,  
Mark Chappell, Josie Eskridge

**Altar Guild:** Chuck Moore

**Flower Guild:** Kitty Coleman, Marguerite Wood

**Flower Delivery Team:** Ann & Reggie Hamner, Nancy Buzard,  
Maria Pacheco

**Videographer:** Sam Collier

**Instrumentalists:** Barbara Shanks, *oboe*; David Simpson, *basoon*;  
George Crosby, *guitar*.

**Altar Flowers given in memory of:** Clifford A. Lanier,  
Mary Seibels Ball Lanier, Phillipa Ball Stratford,  
Minnie Louise Lanier, Clifford Lanier, Sr.  
Mary Seibels Lanier Branch

**Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:** Jim Bennett,  
Bill Bowman, Rod Frazer, Leslie Little, Ken Mahan, Christopher Marshall,  
Richard McCrory, Eddie McDowell, Marilyn Pickett, Shirley Price, Evelyn  
Sherbert, Tommy Tyson, Larry WorriLOW.

**Prayers are also requested for these friends:** Hope Hamblin,  
Matthew Hendricks, Johnathan Pace, Karen and Angelo Pacheco,  
Robert Proctor, Thomas Storie, Sarah Stone Walker

**We pray for one who has died:** Lida Bowman. Rest Eternal Grant unto  
her, O Lord. Let Light perpetual shine upon her.

*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 February:** Cindy Seibels, Florence Tyson,  
Margaret Ann Selman, Anne Hamner, Susan Harris

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2023 Pledge:** Please remember to fill out your 2023 pledge card. If you do not have one, you may ask a vestry member, or call or email the office. We are 6% of the way there. We have received \$1,310,552.24 and have \$56,563.33 outstanding.

**Ephesians Winter Bible Study-** Deonna is leading an 11-week Bible study on Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Two identical sessions will be offered to provide a variety of participation options, Sunday mornings (in-person) from 9.15 to 10.15am in the Archives room and Tuesday nights (via Zoom) from 7pm to 8pm.

**Rector's Forum: Welcome Course-** Duncan will lead an engaging program of presentations and discussions about the Christian faith and the Episcopal tradition. Sunday mornings, 9:15 to 10:15 am in the Library.

**Backpack Program FUNdraiser-** Thursday February 16th, 6:30-9:30. Join us for a fun filled Mardi Gras Whodunit at The Fitz! Enjoy delicious appetizers, drinks and a spirited time in support of St. John's BackPack Program. More information and tickets are available on the website.

**Cello and Violin Concert:** Sunday, February 19, 4.00 pm. Alexie Romanenko and Jonathan Kuo will perform works by Kodaly, Servais-Ghys, Reger and Handel. Alexei and Jonathan are both players in the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, with Alexei holding the position of principal cello. He and Jonathan concertize extensively. Alexei held the Cello Fellowship for the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra 2000 - 2004 and plays frequently for our worship when in Montgomery.

**Service Opportunities-** Several of our service groups are looking for additional help, including: Brass Polishing, Flower Guild, Flower Delivery Team, Men's Breakfast Brigade and Pastoral Care Committee. If you would be interested in any of these ministries, please email

[Constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:Constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org)

**Paper Eagle-** If you would like to start or stop receiving the paper Eagle, please email [constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org)

**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