

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 92% of the way there. We have received \$1,305,403.07 and have \$61,712.50 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.

Camp McDowell listening session-THIS Monday, January 30 at 7:00 pm. Join us for an informal Camp McDowell listening session led by Bishop Prior.

King Cakes: Richard Anderson will again be making king cakes for charity. Cakes will be available for a \$30 donation. Cakes can be picked up during business hours Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13 and 20. Proceeds will benefit Child Protect Children's Advocacy Center. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Richard at rich.d.anderson@gmail.com or call him at 334-333-2453.

Holy Comforter Food Pantry: Our January ingathering is Holy Cross Food Pantry. Donations may be left on the table outside Duncan's office.

Service Opportunities- Several of our service groups are looking for additional help. If you would be interested in any of these ministries, please email Constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org

Cello and Violin Concert: Sunday, February 19, 4 pm. Alexei Romanenko and Jonathan Kuo will perform works by Kodaly, Servais-Ghys, Reger and Handel.

1920's Mardi Gras Whodunit FUNdraiser: Thursday, February 16, 6:30-9:30 pm. Fun mystery evening at the Fitzgerald Museum in support of the Backpack Program. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages included, participation in the mystery is optional.



St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, January 29th, 2023, 10.30am

The Fourth 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)

THE PRELUDE *Allegro (Sonata I)* Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude William Harris

THE OPENING HYMN 518 *Christ is made the sure foundation*

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 -

praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
 might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
 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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE POSTLUDE

Prelude in G

Johann Sebastian Bach

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TODAY'S SERVERS

Acolytes: Jeb Clark, Suzanne Holmes, Sara Johnston, Thomas Lawler, Walton Norrell, Robert Wells

Lector and Intercessor: Reg McLane, Nick Prillaman

Eucharistic Ministers: Kat Daily, Will Gunter, Keith Miller

Ushers/Greeters: William Haynes, Debbie Schremser, Michelle Shaw, Cam Hughes

Altar Guild: Michelle Shaw

Flower Guild: Betty Beale, Amy Marshall

Flower Delivery Team: Emmi Harrell, Tracey Campbell, Debbie Wakefield

Videographer: Anne Tippet

Instrumentalists: Jihye Choi, *violin*; David Simpson, *basoon*.

Altar Flowers given in memory of: Essie Whitefield Reese, Warren S. Reese, Sr., Gen. Warren S. Reese, Warren S. Reese, Jr. Margaret Billingsley Reese

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Jim Bennett, Bill & Lida Bowman, Rod Frazer, Leslie Little, Ken Mahan, Christopher Marshall, Richard McCrory, Eddie McDowell, Marilyn Pickett, Shirley Price, Evelyn Sherbert, Tommy Tyson, Larry Worrirow.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Philip Eagerton, Hope Hamblin, Johnathan Pace, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Robert Proctor, Sarah Stone Walker

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 January: Virginia Banister, Martha Tyson, Ashley Hamlett, Britney Schremser, Kathleen Bradford, Laura Knapp

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 into the world and walk with integrity. Do only what is right, and speak the truth with courage.

And may God the Father reward your mercy with divine mercy; God the Son lead you into righteousness and peace; and God the Holy Spirit fill you with all the joy of God's children.

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

THE CLOSING HYMN 657 *Love divine, all loves excelling*

THE SENDING OUT

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: MICAH 6:1-8

A Reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 15

Sung by choir.

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *

who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *

who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;

he does no evil to his friend; *

he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *

but he honors those who fear the Lord.

- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

THE EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 593 *Lord make us servants of your peace*

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 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, that through what was foolish, weak and despised — Christ Jesus crucified — you broke the grip of human strength, honoring those who walk with you the way of the cross. 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 (S124)

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

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:1-12*All stand**Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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 Voluntary

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.