



## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Sunday, September 12 | 10:15 a.m.

Welcome to St. John's this morning, either in person or online. There are three services: 8:00 a.m. (in-person), 10:15 a.m. (in-person or YouTube) and 5:00 p.m. ("Come as You Are"). With masks on, we may sing together. Thank you for worshipping with us today!

### THE GATHERING

**Prelude: Blessed Assurance**

**Crosby/Knapp**

*All rise at the sound of the bell.*

**Opening Hymn: All Praise to Thee For Thou O King Divine**

**Blue Hymnal 477**

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

**BCP p. 355**

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

**Gloria**

**Blue Hymnal S-278**

**The Collect of the Day**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*You may be seated*

**The First Lesson: Proverbs 1:20-33**

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.

Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

**2 One day tells its tale to another, \*  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

3 Although they have no words or language, \*  
and their voices are not heard,

**4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*  
and their message to the ends of the world.**

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*  
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the  
heavens and runs about to the end of it again;  
\*nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
\* the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom  
to the innocent.

**8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice  
the heart; \* the commandment of the LORD is  
clear and gives light to the eyes.**

9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever;  
\* the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous  
altogether.

**10 More to be desired are they than gold, more  
than much fine gold, \* sweeter far than honey,  
than honey in the comb.**

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \* and in  
keeping them there is great reward.

**12 Who can tell how often he offends? \* cleanse  
me from my secret faults.**

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous  
sins; let them not get dominion over me; \* then shall I  
be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation  
of my heart be acceptable in your sight, \* O LORD,  
my strength and my redeemer.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and  
will be forever. Amen.**

### The Epistle: James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Hymn: Take Up Your Cross**

**Blue Hymnal 675**

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "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, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

*Deacon* The Gospel of our Savior.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Kate E. Wesch**

*A quiet time for reflection follows the sermon.*

**The Nicene Creed, *standing***

**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.**

## Prayers of the People, *standing*

*Intercessor* Sisters and brothers, in the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For Christ's Church throughout the world: the Anglican Communion and Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; the Episcopal Church and Presiding Bishop Michael, for our diocese and Bishops Ian and Laura. For our Muslim and Jewish sisters and brothers and our ecumenical partners; for this faith community: our leaders, vestry, staff, and ministry groups. For all who seek God with sincere hearts;

*Intercessor* Let us pray to the Lord  
*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For the nations and peoples of the world, that justice and peace may increase among us; For all suffering from conflict, terrorism and war; for victims of human trafficking and for those working to end it; for refugees and migrants seeking safe haven, and for compassionate immigration policies; for peoples and places suffering the effects of climate change, especially extreme heat, wildfires, floods, and for determination to work for the renewal of God's wounded Creation;

*Intercessor* Let us pray to the Lord  
*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For our nation, our state, this city and our local communities; for all elected officials, that they may exercise wise and compassionate leadership; for all who are hungry, poor, homeless, unemployed; for the will and courage to work for solutions to homelessness, an end to gun violence and to discrimination due to sexuality, religion, race, and ethnicity;

*Intercessor* Let us pray to the Lord  
*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* Let us pray for the safety of those from our parish who serve in the Armed Forces, especially Douglas Hamilton, Carl Heise, Molly and Jon Hilzinger, Andy Morgado, Andrew Roemhild, Spencer Russo, Tullie St. John, and Brian Tewart.

For all who are in need, especially people who are sick, troubled, lonely, grieving, living with depression or despair, struggling with addiction and for those who have asked for our prayers, especially: Kathy Arthur, Peter Bierrie, Ginny Buracchi, Ed Burke, Helen Chatman, Connie Cliffe, Sandra and Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Pam DuPont, Michael Gagliardi, Betsy Godsman, Nancy Gould, Richard Lammlin, Hannah Roemhild, Raymond and Pam Ryan, Joanne Ryan, John Schumacher, Dan Taylor-Stypa, Karen and Rob van der Horst and all on our Home Prayer list, and those we now name either silently or aloud;

*Silence may be kept.*

*Intercessor* Let us pray to the Lord  
*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* Let us give thanks for all who pray and work for justice and peace: for the work of our global ministry partners in Mozambique and the Diocese of Lebombo, for Bishop Carlos, Father David, Father Jose, and the congregation of St. Bernard's and for the work of Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti. We give thanks for the ongoing work of our local ministry partners: the Shoreline Soup Kitchen, Middlesex Habitat for Humanity, the Old Lyme VFW, Sister Cities Essex Haiti and for the Connecticut ministries that serve the incarcerated, children and seeking adults: A Sacred Place, Camp Washington, and the Incarnation Center;

*Intercessor* Let us pray to the Lord  
*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For all who have died, that they may have eternal rest, especially Cherie and William Thibodeau and those we now name either silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Intercessor* Let us pray to the Lord  
*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Presider* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Confession and Absolution, *kneeling***

*Presider* Let us confess our sins to God.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Presider* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **The Peace, *all standing***

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you!  
*People* **And also with you!**

*Then the ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, while remaining socially distanced and in their pews.*

### **Welcome and Announcements, *you may be seated***

## **THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE**

### **Offertory Sentence**

*Presider* Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

*The congregation's offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received.  
Please be seated.*

### **Offertory Anthem: Ain't That Good News**

**Spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan**

**Presentation, standing**

*The congregation's gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Holy Table.*

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God 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. In the fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Sanctus**

**Blue Hymnal S-128**

*The people stand or kneel.*

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:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.*

### **Fraction Anthem**

**Blue Hymnal S-155**

### **The Invitation to Communion**

*Presider*      The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.*

*For a blessing, place your hand across your chest. If you are unable to come forward, please ask an usher or someone nearby to request that Communion be brought to you.*

### **Communion Hymn: The Stars Declare His Glory**

**Blue Hymnal 431**

### **Postcommunion Prayer**

*Presider*      Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Sending of Eucharistic Visitors, as requested**

*Presider*      In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People*      **We, who are many, are one body, for we all share one bread, one cup.**

### **The Blessing, standing**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen.**

### **Hymn: Lift High the Cross**

**Blue Hymnal 473**

## The Dismissal

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

## Postlude

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**Home Prayer List:** Please pray for all who have asked for our prayers: Kathy Arthur, Peter Bierrie, Ginny Buracchi, Ed Burke, Helen Chatman, Connie Cliffe, Clio Coles, Sandra and Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Pam DuPont, Robert Fresher, Michael Gagliardi, Betsy Godsmen, Nancy Gould, Richard Lammlin, Donald Power, Hannah Roemhild, Raymond and Pam Ryan, Joanne Ryan, John Schumacher, Dan Taylor-Stypa, Rob and Karen van der Horst.

## Serving Today

<i>Organist</i>	Darlene James
<i>Soprano</i>	Phred Mileski
<i>Soprano</i>	Gerri Smith
<i>Alto</i>	Chris Woodside
<i>Bass</i>	Scott Konrad
<i>Ushers &amp; Greeters</i>	Stephanie Patterson
<i>Lector</i>	Carey Emig
<i>Lector</i>	Suzy Burke
<i>Intercessor</i>	Phred Mileski
<i>Crucifer</i>	Carey Emig
<i>Torch Bearers</i>	Avery Wesch
<i>Counters</i>	Ken Ewell and Nat Eddy
<i>Videographer</i>	Ken Ewell
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Kirsten Wendell and Nancy King
<i>Deacon</i>	The Rev. Geoffrey T. Smith
<i>Presider &amp; Preacher</i>	The Rev. Kate E. Wesch

## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**CLERGY AND STAFF:** The Rev. Kate E. Wesch, *The Rector*; The Rev. Geoffrey T. Smith, *Deacon*; Chelsea DiDonato, *Parish Administrator & Communications Director*; Darlene James, *Music Director*; Allison Fresher, *Verger*; Mairi Graham-Shaw, *Family Life Minister*; Deborah Jones, *Sexton*; Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

**VESTRY:** Brian Fresher, *Warden*; Karen Kaestle, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*; Howard Tuttle, *Treasurer*; Andrea Bednarz, Mary Bowers, Lee Gaby, Darrell Jones, Scott Konrad, Stacie Padelli, Patricia Pittsinger, Paulette Rider, Dan Taylor-Stypa