

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome to St. John's! We invite you to help create the experience of silence before our service. Our hope is to calm our hearts as we prepare to enter into an intensity of shared presence.

Prelude Voluntary I

J. Stanley

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn 334, *standing* Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN

Presider Blessed be our God.

People **For ever and 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.**

Glorv to God S-278 *Gloria in excelsis*

W. Mathias

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.

Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934)

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: Genesis 16:15, 17:1-7, 15-22

Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.' Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, 'Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?' And Abraham said to God, 'O that Ishmael might live in your sight!' God said, 'No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. As for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitful and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I

will make him a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year.' And when he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 114 *In exitu Israel*

D. Hurd



- 1 Hallelujah!
When Israel came¹ out of¹ Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a¹ people of¹ strange¹ speech,
- 2 Judah be¹ came God's¹ sanctuary *
and¹ Israel¹ his do¹ minion.
- 3 The sea be¹ held it and¹ fled; *
Jordan¹ turned and¹ wēnt¹ back.
- 4 The mountains¹ skipped like¹ rams, *
and the little¹ hills like¹ young¹ sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O¹ sea, that you¹ fled? *
O¹ Jordan, that¹ you turned¹ back?
- 6 You mountains, that you¹ skipped like¹ rams? *
you little¹ hills like¹ young¹ sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the¹ presence of¹ the¹ Lord, *
at the¹ presence of¹ the¹ God of¹ Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a¹ pool of¹ water *
and flint-stone¹ into a¹ flowing¹ spring.

The Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 581, standing **Where charity and love prevail**

CHESHIRE

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35, standing

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Kate E. Wesch

Silence and stillness are kept after 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 worshipped 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 In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;
People **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

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

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

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

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

Intercessor For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Jeff and Laura, our Bishops; and for all
bishops and other ministers;
People **For all who serve God in his Church.**

Intercessor For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and those who suffer
from sickness, grief or trouble, especially Charlie Alford, Kathy Arthur, Bill
Bevan, Jinny Buracchi, Connie Cliffe, Sandra and Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin,
Bix Dupont, David Evangelisti, Robert Gabelman, Nancy Gould, Glenn Jacobsen,
Yolanda Lowe, Chris Miller, Ann Parko, Joan Squelia, Donna Stutts, Kathy
Wesch, Patty Yale and those we now name either silently or aloud _____.
Silence may be kept.

Lord, we pray;
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Intercessor Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Hear us, Lord;
People **For your mercy is great.**

Intercessor We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
The People add their own thanksgivings

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

Intercessor We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal
kingdom.
The People add their own petitions

Intercessor Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
People **Who put their trust in you.**

Presider Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask:
Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which
we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
The people kneel as able. A moment of reflective silence is kept.

People **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 our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace, 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.

Welcome and Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Presider Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

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

Anthem At the Name of Jesus

R. Vaughan Williams

Presentation, standing

The congregation's gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Holy Table. Weekly donations to the Shoreline Pantry are placed before the Altar.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 3, Enriching Our Worship

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.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You

laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus S-128

Holy, Holy, Holy

W. Mathias

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.

The people stand or kneel, as the Presider continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and People

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the

fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Presider and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

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

The Lord's Prayer, said by all

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S-166

Jesus, Lamb of God

G. Near



The Invitation to Communion

Presider

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy things for holy people. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, place your hands across your chest. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding one arm across your chest. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.

Hymn 674 "Forgive our sins as we forgive"

DETROIT

Postcommunion Prayer, standing

Presider Let us pray.

People **God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. 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.**

Blessing, standing

Presider Let us depart from this place in peace, and as we go on our way, forget not those who are poor, pray for those who are sick, make no peace with oppression, and love one another in God as Christ has loved us, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 347, standing Go forth for God, go to the world in peace

LITTON

The Dismissal, standing

Presider Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Voluntary X
II. Allegro

J. Stanley

Altar Flowers

Today's Altar flowers are given by Linda Bierrie, in honor of Linda and Peter's 30th wedding anniversary.

TODAY'S ADULT FORUM

How Episcopalians Read the Bible: An Introduction to A Year in the Bible **9:00-10:00 AM, Parish Hall** **Led by Rev. Kate Wesch**

As we begin A Year in the Bible, you might be wondering how to approach this task of reading the Bible. Do we read it literally or metaphorically? How do we interpret symbolism in the Bible? You might be wondering how the Bible is structured and organized. Or you might be wondering how Episcopalians read and interpret scripture. This forum is a general introduction to reading and interpreting the Bible in Episcopal community.

A YEAR IN THE BIBLE

Let's go on this adventure together and each of you will be able to choose how you want to participate. Our Year of the Bible begins this week and you can jump in any time throughout the year.

Below are a few ways in which you may participate. You may choose one or all of the options.

- Follow the One-Year Reading Plan (10-30 minutes/day)
- Attend a weekly Study Group
 - Tuesday Mornings 10-11AM, Parish Hall beginning on September 12th*
 - Tuesday Evenings 5:30 PM, Parish Hall*
 - Epiphany/St. John's Group, Thursdays on Zoom from 2-3 PM beginning on September 14th*
- Use the Bible Project App/website for personal study: <https://bibleproject.com/>
- Attend church and hear the Bible preached upon chronologically from Genesis to Revelation throughout the year.

To learn more about our program, reading plan, and Bible recommendations, please visit the church entrance or email the parish office at chelsea@stjohnsssex.org.

FALL FORUMS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

A Year In The Bible: Old Testament Overview **9:15-10:00 AM, Parish Hall**

How many different literary styles are in the Bible? How do we read and interpret the Ancient Jewish Meditation Literature in the Old Testament? Come to this forum and learn more about strategies for reading the Old Testament as we continue our journey through the Pentateuch.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Financially Supporting St. John's: Questions to Ask your Financial Advisor **9:00-10:00 AM, Parish Hall Led by Patrick Gingras**

Patrick Gingras, parishioner at St. John's, is the Regional President and Senior Managing Director of MAI Capital. In this forum, Patrick will talk about various ways one can financially support the church or other non-profits. There are many ways people can donate beyond a cash donation especially as one gets older, things like stock transfers, gifts from trusts, and qualified charitable distributions from IRAs. You will leave this forum with helpful questions to ask your own Financial Advisor as you prayerfully consider how best to share from God's abundant blessings in your life.

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Kate E. Wesch, *Rector*
 Chelsea DiDonato, *Parish Administrator & Communications Director*
 Anthony Pandolfe, Jr., *Director of Music*
 Mairi Graham-Shaw, *Intern for Liturgy & Preaching*
 Christina Rutland, *Seminarian Intern*
 Manuel Matute, *Sexton*
 Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS

Allison Fresher, *Liturgical Coordinator & Serving Ministry*
 Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*
 Greg Perruccio, *Stewardship Chair*
 Dave Rogers, *Treasurer*

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS

Nancy Haslam, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*
 Mary Bowers & Paulette Rider, *Rummage Sale*
 Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*
 Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*
 Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*
 Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*
 Ernie Brainard, *Candle Master*

YEAR OF THE BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Tuesday Mornings 10:00-11:00 AM, Parish Hall
 Tuesday Evenings 5:30-6:30 PM, Parish Hall
 Thursdays (Zoom) 2:00-3:00 PM, Epiphany and St. John's Group

OUTREACH PARTNERS

Mary Bowers	<i>Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries</i>
David Evangelisti	<i>Middlesex Habitat for Humanity</i>
Ed Shyloski & Charlie Walden	<i>Ministry to Veterans and Active Military Personal</i>
Jenifer Grant	<i>Sister Cities Essex Haiti</i>
Jim Myslik	<i>The Witness Stones Project</i>
Karen van der Horst	<i>Nursing Ministry</i>
Rhode van Gessel	<i>A Sacred Place</i>

VESTRY

Dan Evangelisti, *Warden*; Scott Konrad, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*; Dave Rogers *Treasurer*; Carol Beisser, Nat Eddy, Sandy Loether, Jim Myslik, Stephanie Patterson, Ellen Pfarr, Patti Pickering, Patricia Pittsinger, Rob van der Horst

Serving Today at 10:15 A.M.

Organist & Choir Director	Anthony Pandolfe, Jr.
Liturgical Coordinator & Verger	Allison Fresher
Ushers & Greeters	Tika & Kevin Walsh
Lector	Kevin Walsh
Verger	Stephanie Patterson
Crucifer	Karen van der Horst
Eucharistic Minister & Intercessor	Karen van der Horst
Videographer	Rob van der Horst
Altar Guild	Deborah Jones & Stephanie Patterson
Counters	Rob van der Horst and Brian Fresher
Seminarian Intern	Christina Rutland
Intern for Liturgy & Preaching	Mairi Graham-Shaw
Presider & Preacher	The Rev. Kate E. Wesch

WORSHIP & STUDY TIMES

SUNDAYS | Holy Eucharist — 8 & 10:15 AM
 "Come As You Are" Worship Service — 5 PM
TUESDAYS | Bible Study — 10:00 AM/5:30 PM
THURSDAYS | Zoom Bible Study — 2:00 PM
WEDNESDAYS | Morning Prayer — 10 AM

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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