

Welcome to St. John's Church



The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost:

August 29, 2021

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME BACK TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP!

The health and safety of the most vulnerable in our congregation and community remains the highest concern to St. John's. Remember that many in our communities are not vaccinated; like most of those under 16 years old, those who are immuno-compromised, and those who have chosen not to be vaccinated for other reasons. While many are now vaccinated, remember that even a small percentage of those vaccinated can contract the corona virus, and while their symptoms may be milder, they can also spread the virus to loved ones and friends back home. We have not yet reached herd immunity as a nation. So please remain vigilant in safety protocols, mindful of the risk in our community, masked indoors, social distancing and getting vaccinated if possible. And be assured that we will continue to 'live stream' our worship to both our St. John's YouTube Page and our St. John's Facebook page.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Liturgy for the Proclamation of the Word of God and Celebration of the Holy Communion

In accordance with the guidelines of the CDC and the CT Department of Health, St. John's asks everyone to wear masks inside the church, whether vaccinated or not.

Prelude

Meditation

Prayer

Peter Hurford

Rene Vierende

Opening Hymn # 516 *Come Down, O Love Divine*

- 1 Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*
- 2 O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illumining.*
- 3 And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.*

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant may say

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People ***Glory to God for ever and ever.***

The Celebrant says

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 Trisagion S # 102

*Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.*

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

God be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

INTRODUCTION: Our Old Testament reading today is from the Song of Solomon, which consists of a collection of love songs attributed to King Solomon. This one is a dialogue between a bride and her bridegroom.

A Reading from the Song of Solomon:

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,

leaping upon the mountains,

bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle

or a young stag.

Look, there he stands

behind our wall,

gazing in at the windows,

looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.”

After each Reading, the Reader may say

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

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

Silence may follow.

Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10

- 1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; *
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.***
- 2 You are the fairest of men; *
grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you for ever.***
- 7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, *
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.***
- 8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you *
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.***
- 9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, *
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.***
- 10 Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; *
on your right hand is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.***

INTRODUCTION: The Epistle of St. James consists of a series of teachings about the meaning of true religion. We are exhorted to be doers of the Word, and not just hearers.

A Reading from the Epistle of St. James:

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

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

Gradual Hymn # 568 *Father All Loving, Who Rulest In Majesty*

- 1** *Father all loving, who rulest in majesty,
judgment is thine, and condemneth our pride;
stir up our leaders and peoples to penitence,
sorrow for sins that for vengeance have cried.*
- 2** *Blessèd Lord Jesus, who camest in poverty,
sharing a stable with beasts at thy birth,
stir us to work for thy justice and charity,
truly to care for the poor of the earth.*
- 3** *Come, Holy Spirit, create in us holiness,
lift up our lives to thy standard of right;
stir every will to new ventures of faithfulness,
flood the whole Church with thy glorious light.*
- 4** *Holiest Trinity, perfect in unity,
bind in thy love every nation and race;*

*may we adore thee for time and eternity,
Father, Redeemer, and Spirit of grace.*

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

INTRODUCTION: In our gospel this morning, Jesus denounces those who find ways to ignore the genuine commandments of God. He calls the people to the awareness that the only evil that can corrupt a person comes from within.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, Priest-in-Charge

The Nicene Creed

*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:
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Seeking always to be doers of the Word and not merely hearers, we offer our prayers, responding to each petition by saying, "Savior, be with us."

+ Enliven us with a deep desire to reach out to your world, engaging in the work of service through our ministry with the poor, the unemployed, the orphan and widow, the lonely and bereaved, and all who seek the gift of hope; let us pray.

Savior, be with us.

+ Inspire our Church to proclaim the Christian faith beyond its buildings and institutions, remembering especially Hosam, the Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople; Francis, Bishop of Rome; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Ian and Laura, our Bishops, Fr. Geoff, our priest, and for all the members of this congregation; so that a new generation may come to know and love the power of Christ and the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit; let us pray.

Savior, be with us.

+ Save us from the false promises of this age, from its consumerism and false images of sexuality, from its idols of wealth and illusions of self-sufficiency, that our vision may be inspired by the life and witness of the saints, and those in our own time who are models of gospel faithfulness; let us pray.

Savior, be with us.

+ Encourage those returning to schools and colleges to have a lively curiosity, a compassionate heart, and a vision of the world that leads to the restoration of its glory; let us pray.

Savior, be with us.

+ For those who are suffering in the midst of this pandemic, in overrun hospitals, nursing facilities, or at home, and also for those for whom our prayers are asked, Mary Jo Keating, Marlene Smith, Tom Witt, Kathy Coe, Diana Clark, Lisa Lafleur, Ken Hecken, in quarantine and rehabilitation, and all who are housebound especially Janet Chenery and Joan Beattie, that they may be freed from their physical burdens and receive spiritual health; let us pray.

Savior, be with us.

+ Bring peace between the nations of the world, especially in Haiti and in Afghanistan, and wherever anger and resentment leads to destruction and the loss of life, remembering especially António, Secretary General of the United Nations, Joe, our President, Ned our Governor, Jim, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, the members of our Congresses and Courts; let us pray.

Savior, be with us.

+ Comfort Louise Schofield, who died this week, and all those who have died as innocent victims of war, pandemic, and natural disaster, that they may inherit that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; let us pray.

Savior, be with us.

In the presence of God Almighty, who gives life to the world, let us continue our prayers and thanksgivings, pausing now so that all may add their own petitions or thanksgiving, either silently in their hearts or aloud in our midst.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

The Almighty and most merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, but also time for true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

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.

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences of Scripture.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Hymn # 470 *There's A Wideness In God's Mercy*

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.*
- 2 There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.*
- 3 For the love of God is broader
than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.*

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant faces the congregation and sings or says

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 unto our Lord God.

People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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 you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

Celebrant and People **S# 130**

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

***We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John, our Patron and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

This is God's table, not ours. All are welcome here.

Communion will be distributed in one kind only, the bread, and will be received in the pews, so it is very important that attendees sit in every other pew as designated, so that the Celebrant can move along in the empty pews to share. If an attendee does not wish to receive Communion, they need only to cross their hands over their chest so to signify. Others may receive as they wish, standing, kneeling, or seated. Please wait until the Celebrant has passed before removing your masks and consuming the bread.

for online worshippers, and for those who for other reasons choose not to receive, here is the Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer our praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest desire that we may always be united to you. And since we are not now receiving you physically, we ask you to come into our hearts spiritually. We embrace you with all the affections of our souls, confident that nothing can ever separate us from the love God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Communion Hymns:

sung by the Choir

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our

Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn # 556 *Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart!*

1 Rejoice, ye pure in heart!

*Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.*

*Rejoice, rejoice,
rejoice, give thanks, and sing.*

*2 With all the angel choirs,
with all the saints of earth,
pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
true rapture, noblest mirth.*

Refrain

*3 Your clear hosannas raise,
and alleluias loud;
while answering echoes upward float,
like wreaths of incense cloud.*

Refrain

*4 Yes, on through life's long path,
still chanting as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day,
in gladness and in woe.*

Refrain

*5 Still lift your standard high,
still march in firm array,
as warriors through the darkness toil,
till dawns the golden day.*

Refrain

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Fugue on Kyrie*

Couperin

The flowers on the High Altar today are given to the Glory of God

Anyone may reserve altar flowers on a particular Sunday for memorials.

The Altar Flower Chart is in the Parish Hall.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**78 Green Hill Road
Washington, CT 06793**

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Celebrant*

Jon Lafleur, *Organist*

Hunter Brown, Bob and Sara Coles, Laura Daly, Ann Hodgman, Susan Mullins,
Jill and Marty Sauser, *Choir*

John Magee, *8:00 Reader*

Hunter Brown, *10:00 Reader*

Joseph Claro, *Veejay (VJ)*

Sara Coles, Camille Gillespie, MB Witt: *Altar Guild*

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St. John's Website: <http://stjohnswashington.com/>

St. John's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchWashingtonCT>

St. John's YouTube Page:

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