

Welcome to St. John's Church



The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost *July 5th, 2020*

The health and safety of our congregation and community is the highest concern of St. John's. As we begin to return to in-person worship, we will continue to "live stream" our 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship on the St. John's Facebook page, at

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

*The Parish Office is closed.
The staff is working mostly from home, as directed.
Parishioners are asked to the staff the office by email or voice mail.
stjohnschurch@snet.net ~ 860.868.2527*

PO Box 1278, Washington, CT. 06793

Liturgy notes:

THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST: Liturgical practices at St. John's will be altered for the Season after Pentecost in a variety of ways to reflect a change of seasons, especially as we enter the summer months. St. John's will use the Enriching Our Worship (EOW) series, a collection of supplemental liturgical materials prepared by the Standing Liturgical Commission in 1997. The included canticles and prayers represent a recovery of ancient biblical and patristic images, such as the identification of Christ with Wisdom, and as well as language for God that does not use familiar masculine terms or hierarchical status. A number of the changes are very subtle, but significant. The first Sunday after Pentecost is Trinity Sunday, at which our Cantor and Music Director will be present to lead the singing as has been done since the building was closed in March. After Trinity Sunday, St. John's will move into 'summer mode,' with less singing and with the priest dressed more casually, without chasuble, for example. The Governor has now 'opened' the churches and St. John's has a set of protocols to conduct 'in-person' worship safely, if people wish to attend, beginning Sunday, June 14th. The 8:00 a.m. Service will remain cancelled because of continued concerns of physical spacing. Groups at risk & those individuals who are anxious are encouraged to stay home, stay safe. The 10:00 a.m. Service will continue to be live-streamed, now simultaneously to our Facebook page and our YouTube channel! Those who wish to attend must wear masks, have their temperature checked by the Greeter at the side door, and use the hand sanitizer before entering the nave. The Greeter will also keep attendance for possible future contact tracing. If we reach more than 25% capacity, then reservations will be necessary. Parishioners will be asked to sit in designated pews that are more than 6 feet from each other, starting in the back. The usual summer fans in the aisles will not be allowed this year. There will also be no congregational singing. The Books of Common Prayer and Hymnals will be removed from the pews because of contamination concerns, with a 'complete' disposable bulletin provided for those who might attend. We will continue the Eucharist, but without Communion, so as to remain in solidarity with those who are still quarantined at home. There will be no Coffee hour because of continued concerns of physical spacing and unmasking. The Offering will be collected at the entrance as parishioners drop envelopes, offerings, donations into a straw basket, without touching anything else. There will be no physical contact with others, outside one's own household, before, during, or after the Service. The church will be closed during the week to prevent contamination, and will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected each week. The Sacristy will be closed to all but the priest, because of the need of physical spacing and concern for contamination. The Parish Office will remain closed, with the staff working from home. The hope is that by September, restrictions will be loosened enough and the sense of safety strong enough for a good portion of the congregation to be present and live music to begin again.

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Order of Worship

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted

When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare for worship

PRELUDE

Hymn tunes Middlebury, Cornwall, Durham, Windsor and
New Britain

INTROIT

Jubilate

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be our God.
People For ever and ever. Amen.

TRISAGION

BCP, P. 256

Celebrant Holy God,^{[[SEP]]}
Holy and Mighty,^{[[SEP]]}
Holy Immortal One,
People Have mercy upon us.

COLLECT FOR PROPER 9

BCP, p. 230

The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

A READING FROM GENESIS [24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67]

Our Hebrew Bible story is about the arranged marriage between Isaac and his kinswoman Rebecca. Abraham sent his trusted servant to his kinfolk in Haran, as he did not want to select a bride for his son from the Canaanites among whom he dwelt. The providential hand of God is seen in the prosecution and success of this venture.

The servant said to Laban, “I am Abraham’s servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’”

“I came today to the spring, and said, ‘O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, “Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,” and who will say to me, “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also” —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’

“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.” Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

The Response

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The cantor chants the psalm.

PSALM 45: 11-18

Eructavit cor meu

BCP, p. 647

- 11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; *
forget your people and your father's house.
- 12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; *
he is your master; therefore do him honor.
- 13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; *
the rich among the people seek your favor."
- 14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; *
her gown is cloth-of-gold.
- 15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; *
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.
- 16 With joy and gladness they are brought, *
and enter into the palace of the king.
- 17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; *
you shall make them princes over all the earth.
- 18 I will make your name to be remembered
from one generation to another; *
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

A READING FROM ROMANS [7:15-25A]

In this lesson Paul continues to wrestle with the question of the role of the law. Although the law is good in principle, without God's saving act in Jesus, it only produces more sinfulness. Paul feels two strong and opposing tendencies within his being. Without the new relationship of faith through Jesus, the regulations of the law only cause the tendency to break the law to grow stronger. Paul speaks of this as a tendency of his flesh, by which he means all within him that does not seek faithful obedience to God.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

GRADUAL HYMN

O day of peace that dimly shines

HYMNAL 597

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW [11:16-19, 25-30]

In our gospel lesson Jesus compares his generation to capricious children, equally displeased by the austere message of John the Baptist and the inviting message of Jesus. Yet God's wisdom will prevail. Jesus bids all to come and find that the yoke of his teaching is easy to bear. The disclosure of the divine will come as God's gracious gift, not through human knowledge. Especially intimate is the relationship between the Lord of all life and Jesus – that of father and son. Although he is the son, Jesus is humble of heart and gentle.

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

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Geoff Hahneman

THE NICENE CREED

The word "creed" comes from the Latin "credo" for "I believe." First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., and confirmed in 381 A.D., the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist and reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship between the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity.

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:
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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
who with the Father and the Son 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

Leader: Let us come before God in a posture of openness, expecting the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and to lead us into the offering of our prayers, as we respond,
"Hear us, good Lord."

As we celebrate the birth of this nation, free us from the bondage of our sinful ways, our blindness to truth, our stubbornness and lack of discipline, that we may yearn after the fruits of the divine Word and follow its wisdom; let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Leader: In this time of continued physical distancing, strengthen the love and devotion amongst family members, neighbors, and communities, that forgiveness may heal old wounds, and mutual affection pave the way to wholeness; let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Leader: Guide the leaders of our Church, remembering especially Suheil, Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople; Francis, Bishop of Rome; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Ian and Laura, our Bishops; Geoffrey, our Priest, and all members of this congregation, that there may be mutual respect across theological imaginations, and a renewed sense of partnership in bringing God's kingdom into the most troubled corners of our neighborhoods and nations; let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Leader: We pray for Antonio, Secretary General of the United Nations, Donald our President, Ned our Governor, James, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, our Congress and our Courts, for all who exercise leadership in governments, and all who hold positions of public trust and responsibility; gracious God, encourage our civic leaders to modify their convictions with compromise, that there may be a renewal of hope for those who live in poverty, unemployment, and lack of educational opportunities; let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Leader: During this holiday weekend unlike none that have come before, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world around us, reveal the unfolding beauty of creation, the true meaning of freedom, and the joy and wonder of your handicraft, that we may delight in honoring and sharing these gifts; let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Leader: We also pray for the sick, that they may be comforted in their times of need, derive strength from the prayers of others, and be supported by the presence of family and friends, especially all suffering from the COVID-19 virus as well as those on our parish prayer list, including Francis Laird Johnson, Rudi Mangels, Marlene Smith, Ed and Zemma White, Lorne Craner, Caroline Thompson, Katy Coe, Eileen Hearn, Dick and Connie Kaylor, Jay Lafleur in hospice care, and all who are housebound especially Janet Chenery and Ken Hecken.

(Please take a moment to add your own petitions, either silently or aloud)

And we pray for those who tend to the needs of the sick and suffering; that they may be renewed by God's love and that they minister from the strength of Christ's healing power, and reveal the light of hope that never fades away, let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Leader: Receive those who have died into your arms of mercy, especially Sherrell (Jon Lafleur's cousin) who died this week, that they may sleep in everlasting peace; let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Leader: Faithfully seeking the path to new life, let us continue our prayers saying together the prayer attributed to St. Francis

Leader and People together:

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace;
Where there is hatred;
let us sow love;
Where there is injury,**

pardon;
Where there is discord,
union;
Where there is doubt,
faith;
Where there is despair,
hope;
Where there is darkness,
light;
Where there is sadness,
joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled
as to console;
To be understood,
as to understand;
To be loved,
as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

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 ABSOLUTION

The Priest alone stands and says

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

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion.

At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. All are invited to make a gift to support the ministry of St. John's by visiting <http://stjohnswashington.com/stewardship/>

Donate

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

(Ephesians 5:2)

OFFERTORY

O virga ac diadema

Hildegard of Bingen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."

The people remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

BCP, p. 362

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

Hosanna in the highest

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and 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 Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, p. 364

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP, p. 364

Then may be sung or said.^[1]_[2]

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE INVITATION

BCP, p. 364

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say 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.

THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar you assure us of your presence within us and within the body of Christ, the faithful through all the generations; grant that we who have witnessed anew these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord, **Amen.**

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 366

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

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.**

The Priest gives the blessing

The Wisdom of God the Love of God
and the Grace of God strengthen you
to be Christ's hands and heart in this world,
in the name of the Holy Trinity. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

BCP, P. 366

Celebrate Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

God of our Fathers

ASSISTING WITH THIS MORNING'S LITURGY

Celebrant	The Reverend Dr. Geoff Hahneman, Priest-in-Charge
Music Director	Dr. Marguerite Mullee
Organist	Jon Lafleur
Lector	Penny Bardel
Liturgical Assistant	The Reverend Dr. Lisa Hahneman
Greeter	Hunter Brown

Staff

Priest-in-Charge	Fr. Geoff Hahneman
Music Director	Dr. Marguerite Mullee
Parish Administrator	Sarah Eyre
Foundation Administrator	Joan Burgess

Vestry

Warden	David Gillespie
Warden	Susan McFeely
Clerk	Joan Beattie
Treasurer	Larry Littlefield
Assistant Treasurer	Hunter Brown

Class of 2020

Rebecca Lambert
Darcy Campbell
Charles Dubow

Class of 2021

Robert Futh
Larry Littlefield
MB Witt

Class of 2022

Sara Coles
Mary Davis
Andris Kalnins

Contact Information

Voice: 860-868-2527
stjohnswashington.org

Fax: 860-868-2823
stjohnschurch@snet.net