

# Welcome to St. John's Church



## The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost *October 11th, 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 contact the staff by email or voice mail.  
stjohnschurch@snet.net ~ 860.868.2527*

*PO Box 1278, Washington, CT. 06793*

# The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## 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

*Two modal Elevations  
Communion*

Dom Paul Benoit (1893-1979)  
Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

### OPENING HYMN

*Christ whose glory fills the skies*

Hymn 6

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

### TRISAGION

BCP, P. 256

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

### THE COLLECT

BCP, p. 234

*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.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### A READING FROM EXODUS [32:1-14]

*In our story from the Hebrew Bible the people worship an idol, but Moses' prayer saves them from the Lord's punishment. In one way or another this pattern is repeated throughout Israel's history. The people have just made a solemn covenant with God, but quickly they lose faith and want to put their trust in some more tangible and useful religion. In this case the object of the worship is a bull-calf, a divinity among the Canaanites and a symbol of strength and virility. Moses intercedes against God's wrath and reminds the Lord of past help and commitment to the people.*

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a

mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth?’ Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people

The Response

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

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

**PSALM 106:1-6, 19-23** *Confitemini Domino, Et fecerunt vitulum* BCP, p. 741

**1 Hallelujah!**

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, \*  
for his mercy endures for ever.**

**2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD \*  
or show forth all his praise?**

**3 Happy are those who act with justice \*  
and always do what is right!**

**4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, \*  
and visit me with your saving help;**

**5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect  
and be glad with the gladness of your people, \*  
that I may glory with your inheritance.**

**6 We have sinned as our forebears did; \*  
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.**

**19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb \*  
and worshiped a molten image;**

**20 And so they exchanged their Glory \*  
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.**

**21 They forgot God their Savior, \*  
who had done great things in Egypt,**

**22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, \*  
and fearful things at the Red Sea.**

**23 So he would have destroyed them,  
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, \*  
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.**

## A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS [4:1-9]

*In his letter to the church at Philippi, Paul invites the new disciples to exult in joy in the Lord who is near at hand, and he thanks them for the most recent gift. They need have no anxiety because God's peace, which is beyond human understanding, will keep their hearts and thoughts in Jesus. They should fill their minds with all that is noble and loving, putting these things into practice as Paul has taught them to.*

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

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

## SEQUENCE HYMN

*Rejoice ye pure in heart*

**Hymn 556**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW [22:1-14]

*Our gospel reading presents a parable about those who declined invitations to a marriage feast and others who were then invited, followed by the story of a guest who came without wedding clothes. As the evangelist presents the parable of the feast, it is an allegory about the rejection of the Jews and the acceptance of the Gentiles into the kingdom. At another level, the story suggest that God's kingdom will be known whether people are prepared for it or not. It is a divine gift. Included will be all kinds of people, many of them not considered worthy by worldly standards. The second parable, originally a separate story, makes the point that one must be ready for the kingdom at all times; the invitation comes unexpectedly.*

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

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

*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 Reverend Stephen B. Klots

### 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

As Moses interceded with God for the sake of the people, so let us now offer our intercessions on behalf of others, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

+ That we may clothe ourselves in garments befitting the faithful: compassion, joy, generosity, gladness of spirit, intentionality of life-style, and dedication to the way of our beloved Jesus; remembering especially those who have commended themselves to our prayers, Donald, our President, Melania, his wife, Mary Jo Keating, Joan Beattie, Heather, Marlene Smith, Tom Witt, Ed and Zemma White, Kathy Coe, Laura Whipple, Eileen Hearn, Connie Kaylor, Jay Lafleur in hospice care, and all who are housebound especially Janet Chenery and Ken Hecken; let us pray.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

+ That the Church may be a refuge for the poor and lost, the lonely and those who hunger after righteousness, revealing through fragile human beings the signs of God's glorious kingdom; 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; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

+ For peace in our time, that we may not linger in our efforts to secure hope for the peoples of the world, and the prosperity that peace inspires; remembering especially 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, and especially in this election season, all registered voters, that they may exercise their civic responsibilities for the benefit of all people; knowing that their decisions affect the peoples of our land, and of the nations of the world; let us pray. let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

+ That we may not make idols out of the many technologies and consumer products that entice our imaginations, but use them as tools for God's mission and glory; remembering especially our children now in school, and praying for the health and safety of all students, teachers, and staff, let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

+ That the departed may dwell in the house of the Lord forever; remembering especially those homes ravished by social injustice in our land, or from the corona virus, and the more than 210,000 Americans who have died from this disease, let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

+ In thanksgiving for the beauty of the earth, the fruits of the sea, the rising<sup>SEP</sup> and setting of the sun, and all the marvelous gifts of God's creation, that in our wonder we may rededicate ourselves to a stewardship of the environment, so that generations to come may enjoy such pleasure; 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/>*

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

*(Ephesians 5:2)*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*My God, they table now is spread*

**Hymn 321**

## 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.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you 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*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you

*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.**

## 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.*

*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.

## 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.*

**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 cannot now receive you physically, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. 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.**

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 366

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The People may join in saying this prayer*

**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.**

## THE BLESSING

BCP, p. 366

*The Priest gives the blessing*

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

## THE DISMISSAL

BCP, P. 366

*Celebrate* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Fugue in D minor*

François Couperin (1668-1733)

**ASSISTING WITH THIS MORNING'S LITURGY**

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**Celebrant** The Reverend Stephen B. Klots  
**Organist** Martha Holcombe  
**Lector** Marty Sauser  
**Greeter** Charles Dubow  
**Soloist** Erica Craft

**Staff**

Priest-in-Charge Fr. Geoff Hahneman  
Parish Administrator Sarah Eyre  
Foundation Administrator Joan Burgess

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**Vestry**

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

**Class of 2020**

Darcy Campbell  
Charles Dubow  
Rebecca Lambert

**Class of 2021**

Robert Futh  
Larry Littlefield  
MB Witt

**Class of 2022**

Sara Coles  
Mary Davis  
Andris Kalnins

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