

Welcome to St. John's Church



The Feast of Pentecost:

May 23, 2021

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 the safety protocols, mindful of the most vulnerable in our community, staying masked inside, social distancing outside, 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 (RITE II)

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

St. John's is resuming Holy Communion on Pentecost Sunday with certain strict safety protocols. Attendees must be masked at all times within the church. They may have their temperature checked at the door, need to practice social distancing, and sit only in designated pews. Ushers will keep a list of attendees for contact tracing, if needed. Doors and windows will be open for airflow, and our air filters will be located about the church.

Prelude

Adagio and Pastorale on St. Anne

Paul Manz

Congregants are welcome to sing quietly with their masks on

Opening Hymn # 516 *O 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 Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People ***Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!***

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.***

Congregants are welcome to sing quietly with their masks on

The Gloria S # 280

***Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.***

***For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

INTRODUCTION: This reading tells the story of the Holy Spirit filling the apostles and empowering them to share the message of the gospel with people from around the world.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: `In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

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

Silence may follow.

Congregants are invited to quietly recite the psalm with their masks on.

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

***25 O LORD, how manifold are your works! *
in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.***

***26 Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.***

***27 There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.***

***28 All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.***

***29 You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.***

***30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.***

***31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.***

***32 May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; *
may the LORD rejoice in all his works.***

***33 He looks at the earth and it trembles; *
he touches the mountains and they smoke.***

***34 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; *
I will praise my God while I have my being.***

***35 May these words of mine please him; *
I will rejoice in the LORD.***

***37 Bless the LORD, O my soul. *
Hallelujah!***

INTRODUCTION: In this New Testament reading, the apostle Paul understands the whole of creation to be linked with human destiny as we await the coming of the Kingdom of God.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

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

Congregants are welcome to sing quietly with their masks on

Gradual Hymn # 513 *Like The Murmur Of The Dove's Song*

***1 Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.***

***2 To the members of Christ's Body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the Church in faith assembled,
to her midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.***

***3 With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.***

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

INTRODUCTION: In our gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that his going away will mean the coming of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit who will guide them into all truth.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

Jesus said to his disciples, “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to thee, O Christ.***

The Sermon

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman

The Renewal Of Our Baptismal Covenant

The celebrant may first address the people in these or similar words, all standing

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Easter observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Celebrant Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People ***I do.***

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?
People ***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People ***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People ***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.***

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People ***I will, with God's help.***

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a

new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

Through the waters of baptism, we have been joined together in the fellowship of Christ, and in the power of the Spirit we are sent forth to proclaim words and deeds of love, beginning with the offering of our prayers; responding, “Come, Holy Spirit.”

+ Wisdom from on high, be with the leaders of the nations, especially for António, Secretary General of the United Nations, Joe, our President, Ned our Governor, Jim, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, for the members of our Congress and Courts, giving them discernment and patience as they guide the people they serve; for this we pray.

Come, Holy Spirit.

+ Mighty Wind and Holy Fire, unsettle the hearts and minds of this church and diocesan community, 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; Ian and Laura, our Bishops; Fr. Geoff, our priest, and all the members of this parish, that we may be challenged anew to hear your word and boldly live its message; for this we pray.

Come, Holy Spirit.

+ Blessed Advocate may our ministries reflect your love for the poor in spirit, the needy, the sinner, those who are victims of injustice, oppression, violence and abuse, and for all whom the Son of God gave his life, remembering especially the work of the Washington Council of Congregations; for this we pray.

Come, Holy Spirit.

+ Spirit of many tongues may the peoples of the world find a common language of the heart where cultural and racial diversity find holy ground, and nations suffering under bonds of oppression discover the way to peace; for this we pray.

Come, Holy Spirit.

+ Spirit of love, open our hearts to the needs of the poor and suffering all around us, especially those hurting in the midst of this pandemic, and also Mary Jo Keating, Marlene Smith, Tom Witt, Ed and Zemma White, Kathy Coe, Diana Clark, Lisa Lafleur and all who are housebound especially Janet Chenery, Joan Beattie, and Ken Hecken; for this we pray.

Come, Holy Spirit.

+ Breath of Life, open our eyes to the crying needs of our environment, that we, and all the nations of the world, may prudently and tenderly nurture our fragile home; for this we pray.

Come, Holy Spirit.

+ Holy Comforter, pour your grace into the souls of all who have died, remembering especially the more than 3 ½ million individuals who have died from this pandemic, and for their families and friends, that they may know your abiding presence; for this we pray.

Come, Holy Spirit.

+ Spirit of thankfulness, we offer our gratitude for our health care providers, the first responders, our essential workers, church school teachers and members of the government, whose devotion and dedication enrich the life of our community; for this we pray.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit urging us to be people of passionate witness, let us pause now so that all may add their own prayers and petitions, either silently in our hearts or aloud in our midst; (*pause for a moment*).

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 often 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, peoples, races and tongues 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

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.

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 the Lord 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 Anthem *I Will Sing New Songs Of Gladness* Dvorak

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

Celebrant and People

***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.

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.

Communion Anthems sung by soloist

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 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.***

Congregants are welcome to sing quietly with their masks on

Closing Hymn # 512 *Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

1 *Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,
with light and comfort from above;
be thou our guardian, thou our guide;
o'er every thought and step preside.*

2 *The light of truth to us display,
and make us know and choose thy way;
plant holy fear in every heart,
that we from thee may ne'er depart.*

3 *Lead us to Christ, the living Way,
nor let us from his precepts stray;
lead us to holiness, the road
that we must take to dwell with God.*

4 *Lead us to heaven, that we may share
fullness of joy for ever there;
lead us to God, our final rest,
to be with him for ever blest.*

The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

Postlude

St. Anne

Healey Willan

for online worshippers, 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 cannot now receive 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.

MUSIC NOTES: This month Melissa and Madison will sing two of the ten *Biblical Songs* by Dvorak. They were written in March, 1894 when Dvorak was here in “the new world”, yearning for home. I chose the two spirited ones. The other eight are achingly poignant. Dvorak wrote them in Czech and carefully monitored the German and English translations.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Celebrant*

Jon Lafleur, *Organist*

Madison LaFontan, *Soloist*

Laura Daly, *Reader*

Larry Littlefield, *Veejay (VJ)*

The Flower Guild, *Altar Flowers*

Sarah Lee Martin, Diana Hardee, *Geraniums on the church steps and porch*

MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

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St. John's Facebook Page:

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

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