

Welcome to St. John's Church



The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost:

August 22, 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 *Airs from Saul, and Acis and Galatea by Handel
Vesper Voluntaries by Elgar*

Opening Hymn # 388 *O Worship The King, All Glorious Above!*

- 1 O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing his power and his love!
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.*
- 2 O tell of his might! O sing of his grace!
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.*
- 3 The earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old,
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.*
- 4 Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.*
- 5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies, how tender! how firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!*

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.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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: In our Old Testament reading, King Solomon offers praise to the Lord and prays that the newly built Temple in Jerusalem may be a house of prayer for all people.

A Reading from the First Book of Kings:

Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. And when the priests came out of the

holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive. “Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

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 84

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

***My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.***

- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.*
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.*
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.*
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.*
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.*
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.*
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.*
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.*
- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;*
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.*
- 12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!*

INTRODUCTION: In this reading, Paul urges the new Christians in Ephesus to share in the power of God, operative in the resurrection and exaltation of Christ to heaven, and in his victory over the forces of evil. Now the author tells us that we need to use this power to overcome evil forces in the world.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians:

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness,

against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn # 408 *Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above*

- 1 Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation;
with healing balm my soul he fills,
and every faithless murmur stills:
to God all praise and glory.*
- 2 What God's almighty power hath made,
his gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade
his watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of his might,
lo! All is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory.*
- 3 Let all who name Christ's holy Name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who know his power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,*

***the Lord is God, and he alone:
to God all praise and glory.***

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

INTRODUCTION: In our gospel this morning, the crowd turns away from Jesus' difficult teaching at Capernaum.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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

God is our strength, our hope in times of trouble, our shield when joy abounds. In thanksgiving for God's abiding presence, we offer our prayers and respond to each petition by saying, "Savior, be with us."

+ In thanksgiving for the diversity in our midst of our people, whose different experiences and understandings bring freshness and vitality to the life of the Church, reawakening our imagination in proclaiming the gospel; let us pray.

Savior, be with us.

+ In thanksgiving for the gift of free will and the ability to choose our direction in life; may God grant us the wisdom to seek after those things which arm us with the power of faith, justice, and truth, remembering 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; let us pray.

Savior, be with us.

+ For those preparing to return to schools and colleges in this midst of this pandemic, that they may find a safe environment and be given a lively curiosity and a keen desire for inquiry and knowledge; let us pray.

Savior, be with us.

+ That honesty will prevail in local and national governments and institutions, leading to peaceful resolutions to longstanding disputes, and social development that lifts the poor from hunger and despair, remembering 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, and mindful of the people in Afghanistan; let us pray.

Savior, be with us.

+ For those who are ill in the midst of this pandemic, in hospitals, nursing facilities, or at home, especially those for whom our prayers are asked, Mary Jo Keating, Marlene Smith, Tom Witt, Kathy Coe, Diana Clark, Lisa Lafleur, Ken Hecken, in 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.

+ For those who have died in the midst of this terrible pandemic, and in the earthquake in Haiti, may they all rise to eternal glory; let us pray.

Savior, be with us.

In the presence of the Holy Spirit, 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.

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the

destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, 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 # 677 *God Moves In A Mysterious Way*

***1 God moves in a mysterious way
his wonders to perform:
he plants his footsteps in the sea,***

- and rides upon the storm.*
- 2** *Deep in unfathomable mines,
with never-failing skill,
he treasures up his bright designs,
and works his sovereign will.*
- 3** *Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy, and shall break
in blessings on your head.*
- 4** *Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence
he hides a smiling face.*
- 5** *His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour:
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.*
- 6** *Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
and he will make it plain.*

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.

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 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 # 473 *Lift High The Cross*

***Lift high the cross
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore
his Sacred Name.***

***1 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.***

Refrain

***2 Each new-born servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.***

Refrain

***3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.***

Refrain

***4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory.***

Refrain

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

Postlude *Processional*

Robert Paoli

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.*

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.

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*

Tom Hollinger, *8:00 Reader*

Penny Bardel, *10:00 Reader*

Laura Daly, *Veejay (VJ)*

Sara Coles, MB Witt: *Altar Guild*

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