# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL & AFRICAN PALMS USA

## THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 18

Sunday, September 7, 2025 8am & 10:30am

## **HOLY EUCHARIST**



3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832 Phone: (301) 774-6999 | Website: <u>www.stjec.org</u>

## Welcome to St. John's Church

We are a diverse faith community committed to carrying out Christ's mission in the world around us. We love the beauty of worship, and live into the faithful and constant commitment towards seeking social and economic justice and reconciliation among all peoples. We come from across the globe, with varied family configurations, educational backgrounds, occupations, interests, and talents and invite you to join us.

If you are visiting our church for the first time, please introduce yourself to an usher or a member of the Clergy. We have a small gift for you from the parish.

If you are seeking a spiritual home, please speak with the Clergy.

## Please join us for Coffee and fellowship following the worship service

If you are a guest with us today, please know that you are welcome to enjoy fellowship, coffee, and tea with us in the Parish Hall following the service.

#### Children are welcome at all services

If you have little worshipers with you today who might enjoy coloring, Play-Doh, or a Rubik's cube, these can be found at either entrance.

The Nursery is open from 8am to 12pm for children age 5 and under.

SUNDAY @ S	ST. JOHN'S
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8am	Worship with Eucharist, no music, in the Sanctuary
9am	Adult Forum in the Parish Hall
9:45am	Holy Household Half-Hour, Intergenerational "Sunday school"
	in the Parish Hall
10:30am	Worship with Eucharist and choir in the Sanctuary

## COME JOIN US

#### **TODAY**

Parish Picnic following the 10:30am service

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

- Episcopal School Sunday
- Town Hall @ 1pm Council Members Evan Glass & Dawn Luedtke

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

- Bishop James Visits
- Youth Group Meeting @ 12pm
- T'ween Club @ 2pm

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

• Youth Group Service Sunday @ 12pm

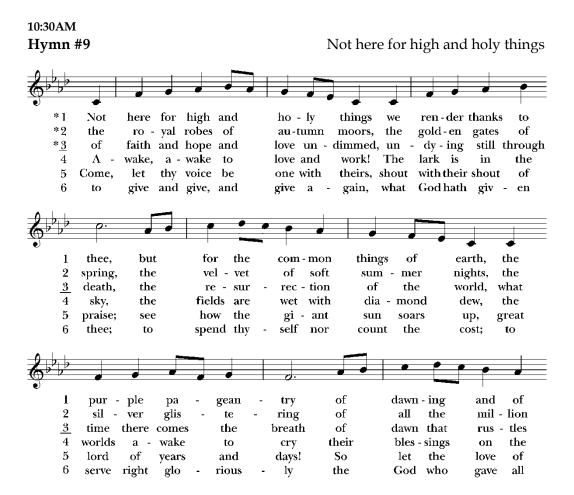
## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5**

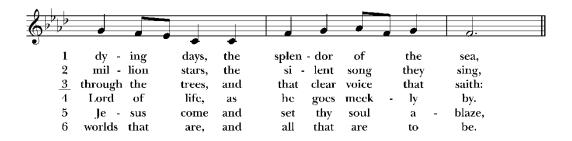
- Newcomer's Coffee Hour @ 12pm
- Youth Group Meeting @ 12pm
- Animal Blessing @ 1:30 3pm

## **HOLY EUCHARIST**

### 10:30AM Prelude

The people stand.





Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

#### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.** 

## 8AM Gloria

BCP pg. 356

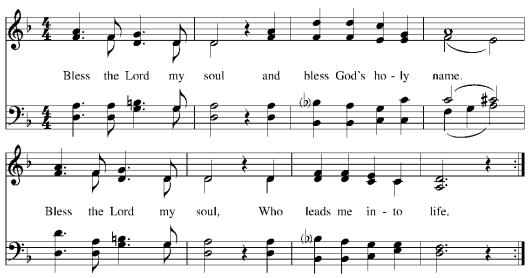
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;

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.

## 10:30AM

WLP 825 Bless the Lord my soul

Jacques Berthier



Words: Psalm 103. Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994).

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

The people are seated.

### Jeremiah 18 1-11

*Lector* A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight,

not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \* you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \* and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \* but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before \* and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \* it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; \* you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \* your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 My body was not hidden from you, \* while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

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- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; \* they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \* how great is the sum of them!
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; \*
  to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

#### Philemon 1-21

*Lector* A reading from the letter to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus,

whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The people stand.

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## Would you share Christ's Passion



- 1 Would you share Christ's pas sion? Take your cross and fol low;
- 2 Would you know Christ's mean ing, daz zling in its ra diance?
- 3 Would you join Christ's tri umph, o ver death vic to rious,



climb Gol - go - tha's hill. Taste the cup of sor - row, wine and gall com-Lie down in the fire. Brave the flames of Wis - dom, sear - ing with their ris - ing from the grave? Pain and grief are fore - courts of the heav'n-ly





min-gled: drink its bit - ter fill. Bear the scourge of doubt and fear. myst-'ry, fierce with Love's de - sire. Cast the dark - ened glass a - way: ci - ty, bought with blood he gave. Suf-f'ring marks the nar - row gate.



Though a jeer-ing crowd de - ride you, he will walk be - side you.
O - pen to a bril - liant burn - ing. Seek and find true learn - ing.
Yet, though tri - als throng to greet you, none shall now de - feat you!



Words: Mary Louise Bringle © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Jesu, meine Freude, Johann Cruger* (1598–1662), alt.

## The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (14:25-33)

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ

THE SERMON

The Rev. Shivaun Wilkinson

The people stand.

#### 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

Deacon With the Lord's encouraging words resounding in our hearts, let us

frame again the prayers which linger in all human hearts, saying:

Hear us, O Lord.

We are weary of war and threats of war. Let us pray for peace in our

world, saying,

People Hear us, O Lord.

We fear for our children. Let us pray for all children, their health

and well-being, saying,

People Hear us, O Lord

We are anxious about our security. Let us pray for an end to hunger

and want, saying,

People Hear us, O Lord

We yearn for faith in an uncertain world. Let us pray for all who

preach the gospel, saying,

People Hear us, O Lord

We tremble at our own vulnerability. Let us pray for the victims of

illness, accident, and disaster, saying,

People Hear us, O Lord.

We mourn for those who have died. Let us pray for those who are

now in the nearer presence of our Lord, saying,

People Hear us, O Lord.

We carry worry in our hearts. Let us pray for the needs we can

hardly bear to name, saying,

People Hear us, O Lord.

We pray especially for **Bob**, **Carol**, **David**, **Kim**, **Christina**, **Alan**, **Etta**, **Phillip**, **Ivy**, **Mary Faith**, **Steve**, **Celeste**, **and Mary**, and those who are on our hearts and minds, saying,

People

Hear us, O Lord.

Officiant

Loving God, our Father, you fashioned the human heart; you know the needs that make it ache. Hear us, your children, praying as your Son taught us. His is the name we invoke; his is the kingdom we await: Jesus Christ, the Lord. **Amen.** 

Deacon

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.** 

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.



Use the QR code to donate from your mobile device.

**Anthem:** Day by Day Keesecker

The people stand.

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God 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 sing:

The Celebrant continues.

#### 8AM

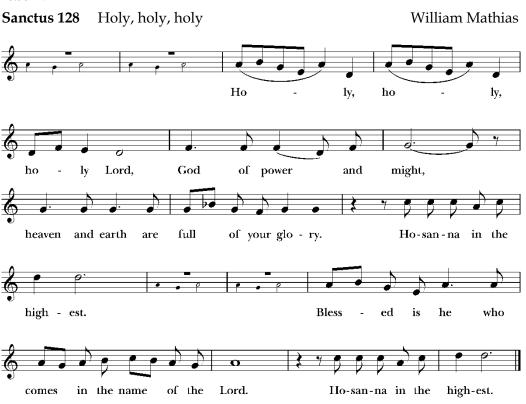
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

#### 10:30AM



Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

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, dishonored 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.

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:

People Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.

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.

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Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with beloved John and 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, in the language closest to our hearts, 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.

Notre Père, qui est aux cieux, que ton nom soit sanctifié, que ton règne vienne, que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel.

Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour.

Pardonne-nous nos offenses, comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés.

Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation mais délivre-nous du Mal.

Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

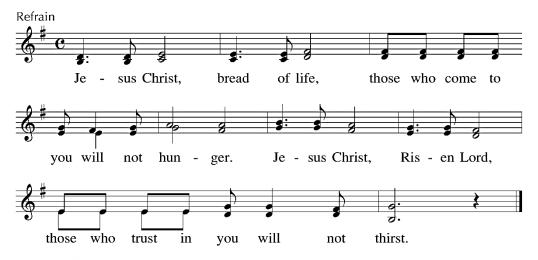
A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

#### 10:30AM

## Fraction Anthem: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life



Text: John 6; Taizé Community Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994 © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

## The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The people are seated.

Communion is offered to all who are called by Christ to participate. You can receive in both hands, bread and wine or in just one. To receive communion, or a blessing, please come forward to the priest at the front of the altar. To receive bread, put your hands out, to receive wine, please drink from the chalice. For health reasons, we do not instinct (dip) the bread. To receive a blessing, cross your arms across your chest. Gluten-free host is available. Please make your needs known to the priest.

## **Sending Prayers for Eucharistic Visitors**

Deacon In the name of God and this congregation, I send you forth bearing

these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the

communion of Christ's body and blood.

People We who are many are one body because we all share one bread

and one cup.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The people stand.

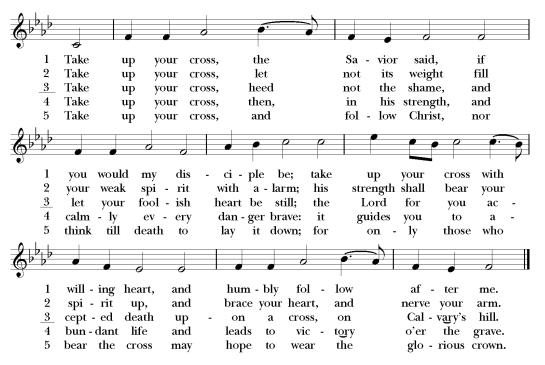
Celebrant and People

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

## Hymn #675

Take up your cross, the Savior said



Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt. Music: Bourbon, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. John Leon Hooker (b. 1944) Copyright ©1984, John Hooker. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

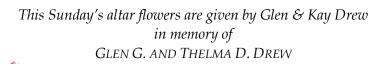
#### Postlude

## TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

Use this list to pray and to show your love and concern for the sick, shut-in, bereaved, or those merely in need of prayer. If you wish to submit a name please contact the office at accounting@stjec.org.

In case of pastoral emergency, please call 301-774-3619 or email <u>pastoralcare@stjec.org</u>

Bob Brekke
Carol Adoum
David Hull
Kim Irish
Alan Soukup
Etta MacKay
Phillip White
Ivy Choe-Branstetter
Mary Faith Almasi
Steve Ruff
Celeste McGee
Mary Persinger



If you are ill for an extended period, are hospitalized, need a visit or Eucharist brought to you, want your home blessed, are celebrating a birth, adoption, or want specific prayers for any number of celebrations or sorrows, please email: pastoralcare@stjec.org.



TODAY ~ following the 10:30 service

#### EPISCOPAL SCHOOL SUNDAY

Please join us on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30am service for a morning of celebration of St. John's Episcopal School, the parish's largest outreach ministry; our church; and our community.

## • TOWN HALL with County Councilmembers

County Councilmembers Evan Glass and Dawn Luedtke will be at St. John's on Sunday, September 14th at 1pm to respond to your questions and share information as it affects the residents of Montgomery County. This is your opportunity to ask questions and voice your concerns about issues you may have. Please join us for this informative session.

## BISHOP JAMES ALMASI VISITS ST. JOHN'S

Through our African Palms ministry, St. John's has enjoyed a relationship with the Diocese of Masasi in southern Tanzania since the 1970's. For the past 10 years, Bishop James Almasi, friend of many in this congregation, has served as bishop of the Diocese of Masasi. Bishop James will be visiting with us, and preaching, on Sunday, 21 September. Please join us in welcoming Bishop James.

• LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD - Sponsored by the Women of St. John's "How to use your voice effectively when writing letters"

Join us on Monday evening, September 15th at 7pm in the Sanctuary to explore how to make the most of our voice in the letters we write to our elected officials and others to make our position heard. Best practices for

elected officials and others to make our position heard. Best practices for different types of Communication will be shared. This is an opportunity for you to write a letter about an issue important to you. Please bring paper, envelopes and pens for writing. We will have some to share as well. This event is open to ALL.

#### • ST. JOHN'S COMMUNICATION SURVEY

St. John's Vestry is reviewing our communication strategies to ensure we are effectively sharing information about church events, volunteer opportunities, and outreach initiatives. We value your input and would appreciate it if you could take a moment to complete this brief anonymous survey (your email address will not be recorded). Your responses will help us enhance our efforts to better serve our church community.



How well are we communicating?

Please tell us by scanning the QR code to begin the survey.

#### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Food Pantry needs for this week include: Canned Corn | Peas | Beans Dried Potatoes | Canned Chili | Beef Stew | Peanut Butter | Rice | Water Shelf Stable Milk | Taco Kits.

Please leave donations on the bench outside the Rector's office; we are happy to stock them.

#### DELEGATE NOMINATIONS

In an effort to align ourselves with our parish by-laws, the following three parishioners have been nominated for Diocesan Delegate. Nominees are current or past members of St. John's Vestry. Their commitment consists of a 1- or 2-years term representing the parish at Diocesan Convention. Please use the ballot below to vote and return to one of our clergy or leave in the offering plate.





#### **DIOCESAN DELEGATES**

The following three parishioners have been nominated for Diocesan Delegate. St. John's parishioners will vote to elect only TWO (2) new members.

#### ~ PLEASE SELECT ONLY 2 NAMES ~

BILL FLEMING
MARY KERR
STEPHEN SIMPSON

## Sermon NOTES

## SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL & AFRICAN PALMS USA

#### Diocese of Washington

The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop* The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, *Bishop* 

#### **STAFF**

The Reverend Henry P. McQueen, Rector rector@stjec.org

The Reverend Shivaun Wilkinson, Associate Rector associate@stjec.org

The Reverend Nancy Stockbridge, *Deacon* deacon@stjec.org

Tammy Turner, Parish Administrator accounting@stjec.org

Cambria Van de Vaarst, Minister of Music music@stjec.org

Africanpalms@stjec.org

Joe Powers, Interim Head of School Joe.Powers@stjes.org

Eoin Benson, Sexton

Selva Selvarajah, Verger

#### **VESTRY**

Will Lederer, 2026 - Formation Bill Fleming, 2026 - Sr. Warden Mary Kerr, 2026 - Pastoral Care Andrew Hamill - Treasurer Aparna Williams - Asst. Treasurer Julie Metcalf - Registrar

Vicki Hudson, 2027 – Stewardship Carmen Jones, 2027 – Evangelism Becca Roberson, 2027 – Jr. Warden, Outreach Becky Hast, 2028 - STJES Mary Lou McMaster, 2028 - Worship Rob Schellhase, 2028 – Parish Life

#### ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832 (301) 774-6999 - Welcome@stjec.org

~ On the Land of the Piscataway Nation ~