



**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 6<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**Words of Welcome from T.J. Martin and Fr. John Beach**

Opening Prayer:

God of Unity and peace, your Son has taught us that where two or three are gathered in his name he is present in their midst and you will grant their request.

Grant us a new heart to presume the goodness of every brother and sister, and a spirit sensitive to the burdens each of them bears, that by loving our neighbor as ourselves we may bear witness to that love which is the fulfilling of the law.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

Opening Hymn      #482 ~ *Lord of All Hopefulness*

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

### **The Word of God**

*Celebrant* 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.*

### **Gloria**

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**

*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 Lessons  
Old Testament  
Ezekiel 33:7-11

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Response  
Psalm 119:33-40  
*Legem pone*

- 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, \* and I shall keep it to the end.  
34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; \* I shall keep it with all my heart.  
35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, \* for that is my desire.  
36 Incline my heart to your decrees \* and not to unjust gain.  
37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; \* give me life in your ways.  
38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, \* which you make to those who fear you.  
39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, \* because your judgments are good.  
40 Behold, I long for your commandments; \* in your righteousness preserve my life.

The Epistle  
Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of

light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### The Gospel

[Matthew 18:15-20](#)

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

*Celebrant*      The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon          **The Rev. John Beach**

### 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**

Let us pray to the God of love in the name of Jesus who has promised to be present where two or three are gathered in his name saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the church, the people of God: May we practice in this congregation the commandment of love that we preach to others.

(silence)

Let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

May those who exercise authority in the church manifest the gospel's way, showing respect and engaging in dialogue. We pray especially for our Bishops Alan, Gayle and Bud and for our priest, John.

Let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them,

(silence)

Let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

That all who come to this land seeking refuge and relief may find among Christ's disciples a respectful welcome and a supportive community.

(silence)

Let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For our President, Donald, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, that they might seek and be guided by God's wisdom and pursue those things which make for peace.  
(silence)

Let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it,  
(silence)

Let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering (particularly those known to us....), and for our departed loved ones, especially James and Doris Smith.

(silence)

Let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Confession of Sin**

Trusting in the power of God to save, let us confess our sins before God and this assembly

*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.**

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

*Celebrant*     The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*         **And also with you.**

### **Anthem During the preparation of the Altar**

#### The Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.  
*People*         **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*     Lift up your hearts.  
*People*         **We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
*Celebrant*     Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*People*         **It is meet and right to do so.**

*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; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.

Asking God to forgive our many sins, with love and forgiveness toward all, we now pray;

*People and Celebrant*

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.*

Behold the gifts prepared by the Teacher who ate with sinners: Draw near to the banquet of mercy, partake in the feast of forgiveness.

### **The Invitation to Holy 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.*

*The presider invites the following prayer to be said by all.*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

### **Anthem During Communion**

#### **Postcommunion Prayer**

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Blessing

May God our Father bless you so that you can be a blessing to others.

May Christ bless you so that you can be healers of a world that is hurting.

May the Holy Spirit bless you so that you can spread the hope that only the triune God can inspire and give to this world.

*Celebrant* Eager to proclaim and share God's reconciling love, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## Concluding Hymn #376 ~ *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother; all who live in love are thine;  
teach us to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

## Weekly Prayer List

Maureen Burke, Annelies Caggiano, Gia Capello, Armand Couture, Jr., Jerry Dello Russo, Don DiGiacomo, Oriol Pi-Sunyer, Jim Dockery, Pat & Tim Eldridge, Joanne Felci, Eileen Fleury, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Gary Goodwin, Estelle Heath, Bruce Higgins, Michele Hoelzl, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Hilary Lancaster, Kevin Lancaster Jr., Lisa Lancaster, Shane Maxwell, Kevin McGinnis, Matt, Lori M., Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray (and deeply affected families), Bill St. Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Jeanne Seaboyer, Bo Shaw, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva, Gail Smith, Victoria Smith, Linda Sullivan, Meghan Tapley, Walter T., Susan Webb, Rachel W., and Candace Wormstead

## Announcement

*In case you have not read our newsletter, please see the following letter from our Senior Warden, T.J. Martin:*

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Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you all well.

We continue to navigate our way through this most challenging year. The pandemic has seen many changes to our day-to-day lives, and at St. John's it has altered our normal yearly cycle of activities. But despite the challenges, it has created opportunity and, with Rev. John leading the way, we have jumped into the realm of online services.

Rev. John has been a ray of light and hope in these uncertain times and has been warmly welcomed by all at St. John's. As our Bridge Priest he has jumped in and embraced using technology to lead remote services and bible study, as well as organizing a book club. His efforts to reach out to parishioners has been greatly welcomed, and I am happy to let everyone know that Vestry has voted to ask him to be our Priest-in-Charge. We look forward to having him with us on our journey with Christ.

It has been nice to see familiar faces each week on our Zoom services, and as we move to broadcasting services from St. John's it will be nice to see each other again in person. Rev. John and the re-opening committee is continuing to work with our diocesan appointed re-gathering shepherd on the next steps of the process, which will be in-person worship in the sanctuary. Of course, no parishioner should ever feel that they have to return to services; one should only return when you feel completely safe.

Perhaps the biggest impact of the pandemic has been on our many fund-raising activities - yard sale, plant sale, lobster roll sales. And now our fall fair. The planners for these events have decided that it is best to step back from these activities this year. We know how much everyone loves the many fall events, and that not holding them will greatly impact our budget, but in the interest of public health and the community it is the best decision to make. These events will return with new life next year!

Stay safe!

**T.J. Martin, Senior Warden**

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