

SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

CHORAL EVENSONG

September 20, 2023

*St. John's is a church for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,
and viewpoints grounded in love. Whoever you are, we welcome you.*

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Whether you are a longtime member or a visitor, we are happy to welcome you this evening. If you would like to learn more about St. John's and our presence in this city, we invite you to fill out a "Welcome" card that can be placed in the offering plate or handed to an usher. Choral Evensong is offered on the third Wednesday of each month from September through May. To see a schedule of upcoming services and events, visit our website, www.stjohns-dc.org.

Steeped in the beauty of the Anglican tradition, Evensong meets us at the even point between the active day and the restful night. It draws upon the richness of monastic worship by inviting us to reflect upon scripture, to sing praises to God, and to pray. In its cadence, Evensong speaks to many of our deepest 21st-century needs, providing space for peace and for contemplation. We hope that this service, in the midst of this busy city, refreshes and restores you this evening.

SETTINGS FOR THIS EVENING

Preces and Responses by Margaret Burk (b. 1990)
Canticles—Collegium Regale by Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

VOLUNTARY

Adoration
In Quiet Mood

Florence B. Price (1887–1953)
Florence B. Price

INTROIT

Pilgrims' Hymn

Stephen Paulus (1949–2014)

Even before we call on Your name
To ask You, O God,
When we seek for the words to glorify You,
You hear our prayer;
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,
Surpassing all we know.
Glory to the Father,
and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.

Even with darkness sealing us in,
We breathe Your name,
And through all the days that follow so fast,
We trust in You;
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace,
Beyond all mortal dream.
Both now and forever,
And unto ages and ages. Amen.

—Michael Dennis Browne (b. 1940)

HYMN 36

O gladsome Light, O grace

Please stand as the procession enters and remain standing to sing the hymn.

1 O glad - some Light, O grace of God the Fa - ther's face,
 2 Now, ere day fad - eth quite, we see the eve - ning light,
 3 To thee of right be - longs all praise of ho - ly songs,

the e - ter - nal splen - dor wear - ing; ce - les - tial, ho - ly, blest,
 our wont - ed hymn out - pour - ing; Fa - ther of might un - known,
 O Son of God, Life - giv - er; thee, there - fore, O Most High,

our Sa - vior Je - sus Christ, joy - ful in thine ap - pear - ing.
 thee, his in - car - nate Son, and Ho - ly Spirit a - dor - ing.
 the world doth glo - ri - fy, and shall ex - alt for ev - er.

Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Music: *Le Cantique de Siméon*, melody Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?); harm. Claude Goudimel (1514-1572).

WELCOME

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

THE OPENING SENTENCES

Please remain standing.

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. —*Psalm 96:9*

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." —*John 8:12*

THE PRECES AND RESPONSES

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips;
Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us;
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Choir As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.
Choir The Lord's Name be praised.

PSALM 119:73-96

Manus tuae fecerunt me

E.J. Hopkins (1818–1901)

Please be seated.

Lord Mornington (1735–1781)

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me *
O give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.
They that fear thee will be glad when they see me *
because I have put my trust in thy word.
I know, O LORD, that thy judgements are right *
and that thou of very faithfulness hast caused me to be troubled.
O let thy merciful kindness be my comfort *
according to thy word unto thy servant.
O let thy loving mercies come unto me, that I may live *
for thy law is my delight.
Let the proud be confounded, for they go wickedly about to destroy me *
but I will be occupied in thy commandments.
Let such as fear thee, and have known thy testimonies *
be turned unto me.
O let my heart be sound in thy statutes *
that I be not ashamed.
My soul hath longed for thy salvation *
and I have a good hope because of thy word.
Mine eyes long sore for thy word *
saying, O when wilt thou comfort me?
For I am become like a bottle in the smoke *
yet do I not forget thy statutes.
How many are the days of thy servant *
when wilt thou be avenged of them that persecute me?
The proud have digged pits for me *
which are not after thy law.
All thy commandments are true *
they persecute me falsely; O be thou my help.
They had almost made an end of me upon earth *
but I forsook not thy commandments.

O quicken me after thy loving-kindness *
and so shall I keep the testimonies of thy mouth.
O LORD, thy word *
endureth for ever in heaven.
Thy truth also remaineth from one generation to another *
thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth.
They continue this day according to thine ordinance *
for all things serve thee.
If my delight had not been in thy law *
I should have perished in my trouble.
I will never forget thy commandments *
for with them thou hast quickened me.
I am thine, O save me *
for I have sought thy commandments.
The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me *
but I will consider thy testimonies.
I see that all things come to an end *
but thy commandment is exceeding broad.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Read by Clark Ervin.

1 Corinthians 2:1-13

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE MAGNIFICAT

Sung by the choir.

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE SECOND READING

Read by Riley Temple.

Matthew 4:18-25

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Sung by the choir.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word,
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Sung by all on a monotone, standing as you are able.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;

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.

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. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung by the choir.

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. Amen.

THE SUFFRAGES

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
Officiant O Lord, save the State;
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.
Officiant O Lord, save thy people;
Choir And bless thine inheritance.
Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us;
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECTS

Officiant O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Choir Amen.
Officiant Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior.
Choir Amen.
Officiant Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.
Choir Amen.

REMARKS

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

Please be seated.

An offering to support the ministry of St. John's Church will be collected during the singing of the anthem. You may make an offering by placing your donation in the plate or using this QR code to pay electronically. A donation via this code can go only to offerings and not to pledges or any other specific funds.



THE ANTHEM

A new song

James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Sung by the choir.

O sing unto the LORD a new song, sing unto the LORD all the whole earth. Sing unto the LORD and praise his Name, be telling of his salvation from day to day. For he cometh to judge the earth, and with righteousness to judge the world and the people with his truth.

—*Psalm 96:1, 2, 13*

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Said by all, standing as you are able.

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,
be with us all evermore.

People **Amen.**

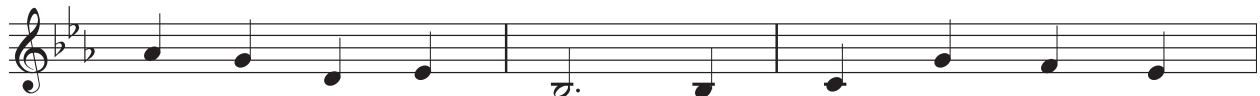
HYMN 653

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Sung by all.



1 Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, for -
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be -
3 O Sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O
 4 Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness, till
 5 Breathe through the heats of our de - sire thy



1 give our fool - ish ways! Re - clothe us in our
 2 side the Syr - ian sea, the gra - cious call - ing
3 calm of hills a - bove, where Je - sus knelt to
 4 all our striv - ings cease; take from our souls the
 5 cool - ness and thy balm; let sense be dumb, let



1 right - ful mind, in pur - er lives thy ser - vice find, in
 2 of the Lord, let us, like them, with - out a word, rise
3 share with thee the si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty in -
 4 strain and stress, and let our or - dered lives con - fess the
 5 flesh re - tire; speak through the earth - quake, wind, and fire, O



1 deep - er rev - erence, praise, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
 2 up and fol - low thee, rise up and fol - low thee.
3 ter - pret - ed by love! in - ter - pret - ed by love!
 4 beau - ty of thy peace, the beau - ty of thy peace.
 5 still, small voice of calm, O still, small voice of calm.

VOLUNTARY

Eglise des Carmes, from *Eglises de Paris* Yvonne Desportes (1907–1993)

ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*
Jack Reiffer, *Crucifer*
Jill Dowell, *Assistant Head Usher*
Debby Hailey, *Usher*
Ryan Wagner, *Livestream Technician*

St. John's Choir and Choristers
Brent Erstad, *Director of Music*

Please help us be good stewards of the environment.
**If you do not wish to take this bulletin home after the service,
you may leave it at the end of the pew as you depart or place it in a blue recycling bin.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

LAFAYETTE FELLOWSHIP

This evening at 6:30 p.m.

Please join the Lafayette Fellowship as they host a reception tonight after Choral Evensong. The Lafayette Fellowship is a group of adults looking for community—old souls or the young at heart—parents, couples, or singles. The group offers time to build friendships, expand hearts and minds, explore the city, and have fun. To learn more, indicate interest, or offer suggestions for activities, contact Hilary West using the online form at bit.ly/sjc-lafayette-fellowship.

MIDWEEK MEN'S GROUP

Thursday, September 21, at noon

This lectionary-based Bible study for men of all ages is convened by parishioner Carter Keithley, who holds a master's degree from Virginia Theological Seminary. The group meets on the third Thursday of every month for a brown-bag lunch with fellowship and a wide-ranging, scripture-based conversation. Questions? Contact the Rev. Shawn Evelyn at sevelyn@stjohns-dc.org or use the online contact form at bit.ly/sjc-mens-group.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 1, at 9 a.m.

Humans of all ages and pets of all varieties are welcome! This year, the Blessing of the Animals will take place within the context of the 9 a.m. service. Leashed and crated pets are invited into the sanctuary for worship that will last less than an hour. The Blessing of the Animals is often held in early October to coincide with the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), the patron saint of animals and the environment.



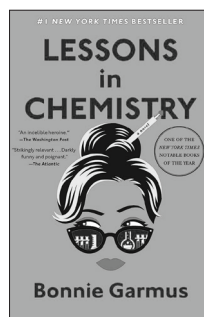
LATROBE YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday, October 4, at 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars for the monthly gathering of the Latrobe Young Adult Fellowship, an active and engaged group of adults, primarily in their 20s and 30s. We gather at St. John's at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact the Rev. Shawn Evelyn at sevelyn@stjohns-dc.org.

ST. JOHN'S BOOK GROUP

Thursday, October 5, at 7 p.m.



Join us for a discussion of *Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel* by Bonnie Garmus on Thursday, October 5, at 7 p.m. in person at the church or via Zoom. This is the story of single mother Elizabeth Zott, a “brilliant chemist in a man’s world—1960s America—as she becomes an unlikely cooking-show host and the role model her daughter

deserves.” In November we will discuss *March* by Geraldine Brooks. For information, contact Janet Edmond using the online form at bit.ly/sjc-book-group.



MIDWEEK MUSIC SERIES RESUMES

Wednesday, October 4, at 12:15 p.m.

Our monthly Midweek Music concert series resumes next month with a performance by Baltimore-based organist Jordan Prescott. The program includes selections from J.S. Bach's seminal collection of organ works titled *Clavier-Übung III*. Midweek Music performances take place at 12:15 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month from October through May and are open to the public free of charge.

WELCOME!

At **St. John's Church**, we believe Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

St. John's was organized in 1815 to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

If you are visiting, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

St. John's website (www.stjohns-dc.org) has up-to-date information about the church including the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, and newsworthy events.

Vestry

Clark Ervin, *Senior Warden*

Nora Rigby, *Junior Warden*

Laurie Adams, Tony Anikeeff, Krista Rimple Bradley,

Casey Evans, Wendy J. Fibison, David Gallalee,

Fruzsina Harsanyi, Ucheora Onwuamaegbu,

Anthony Pegues, Matthew Taylor, Alfred Thesmar,

and Carl Ward, *Members*

Sara McGanity, *Treasurer*

Jeremy Skog, *Assistant Treasurer*

Allie Raether, *Secretary*

Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher

James H. Czerwonky

Heads of Flower Guild

Pat Dalby and Katherine Kyle

Head Greeters

Eleanor and Peter Odom

Worship and Program Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

The Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell, *Associate
for Children and Family Ministries*

The Rev. Shawn Evelyn, *Associate for Parish Life*

The Rev. William Morris, *Assisting Priest
for Engaging Local Communities*

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lyn Loewi, *Associate Organist*

Staff

Preston Cherouny, *Interim Parish Administrator*

Charley Griffin, *Operations Manager*

Lisa Koehler, *Program Associate and
Executive Assistant to the Rector*

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant and David Gamboa, *Assistant
Sextons*

Anne Stone, *Publications*

ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's shines as a beacon of God's love through faith, worship, care, and community, and offers a place of grace at our historic corner in the nation's capital.

Parish House

1525 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-1005

(202) 347-8766 ♦ www.stjohns-dc.org