

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2020 · 9:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square.

VOLUNTARY: *Communion*

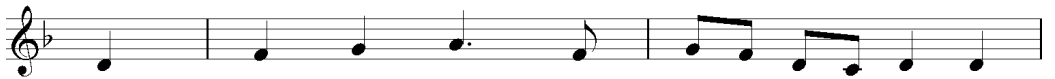
Richard Purvis
(1913-1994)

RECTOR'S WELCOME

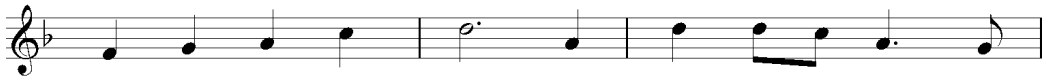
HYMN 674

Forgive our sins as we forgive

Sung by all. Please stand as the procession enters.



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give" you
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and



taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew, how small the debts men
 bid re - sent - ment cease; then, re - con - ciled to



grant us grace to live the words we say.
 will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owe to us, how great our debt to you.
 God and man, our lives will spread your peace.

Words: Rosamond E. Herklots (1905-1987)
 Music: *Detroit*, from *Supplement to Kentucky Harmony*, 1820; acc. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922)
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The Reverend Robert W. Fisher
Rector

The Reverend Savannah Ponder
Associate Rector

The Reverend William Morris
*Assisting Priest for Engaging
Faith and the Workplace*

Kaye Edwards
*Assistant for
Church Growth*

Brent Erstad
Director of Music

Samantha Scheff
Assistant Organist

THE WORD OF GOD

Please continue to stand.

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

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

Priest: 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.

People: **Amen.**

THE READING

Please be seated.

Read by Tony Anikeeff.

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary
and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled;
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams,
and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams?
you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Preacher and People:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
(adapted from prayers written by Brian McLaren.)

Led by Carolyn Crouch

Leader: Let us give thanks to the living God for all the gifts that we enjoy, saying, “We thank you, living God.”

Leader: For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: For the communities of St. John’s and our companion relationships with the *Anglican Church of Southern Africa** and *the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem*. For *Michael*, our Presiding Bishop, for our Bishops, *Mariann* and *Chilton*. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for the *Church of Our Saviour, Brookland*, and for all people whose lives reveal the image of Christ:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: For *Donald*, our President, the leaders of *Congress*, the *Supreme Court*, and for all who serve our country, that they may work for justice, freedom, and peace:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: For minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: For challenges which call forth new strength, for failures which teach greater humility, and for encouragement to persevere when life is hard:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: For those in special need today, especially those who are sick and who are shut-ins. For the people of the *Middle East, Latin America, and all affected by the coronavirus*; for *those affected by the fires in California, Oregon, and Washington*; and for your care for all those in need:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

** In particular, the Kwasa Centre in the Diocese of the Highveld.*

Leader: For those celebrating a birthday this week, especially *Scott Barnes, Ashley Culbertson, Jim Czerwonky, Zoe Fisher, Nick Hailey, Marian Hampe, Mary Johnston, Emily Kallaur, Elizabeth Lewis, Tiffany Manchester, Sandy Martin, Sara McGanity, Joan Moyer, Amber Neville, and Peter Neville*; for those celebrating an anniversary this week, especially *Merrell and Preston Cherouny, Katie and Jeff Hantson, Elizabeth and Bayne Johnston, Eleanor and Peter Odom, Holly and Trent Smith, Christine Brown Stehle and Mike Stehle, and Marta Cook and Cal Trepagnier*.

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: For our country and all who serve on behalf of our civic life:

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: For those who have died, especially *Neil Dellar* who died September 3, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom:

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: For all who have gone before us, for all who walk beside us, and for all children, who are precious to us and to you:

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: And for the great wisdom and hope that you reveal to us through Jesus, our leader, example, teacher, liberator, and friend:

People: We thank you, living God.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Priest 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.

ABSOLUTION

Priest: 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.

People: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lord, make me an instrument

Jonathan Willcocks
(b. 1953)

Justin Dean, baritone

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is discord, may there be union,
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, let there be hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, may there be joy
May we all be in peace, and only peace,
and may that peace come unto each of us.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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:

SANCTUS

Priest 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.

Please stand or kneel.

Priest: 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Priest and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Priest: 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.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Priest and People:

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

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Priest: 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.

All persons, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Our tradition is to receive both the bread and the wine, sharing in the common cup. Please assist the chalice bearer by guiding the cup to your lips. You may also intinct by dipping the wafer into the chalice. Receiving the bread only is a valid and acceptable way to share in Holy Communion. After consuming the wafer, cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you do not wish to receive the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available on request from the communion minister. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. Children may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

Hymn 339
Sung by all.

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the
2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light, who
3 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me

gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's
dost my soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y
glad - ly here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -

splen - dor, there with joy thy prais - es ren - der
know - eth; Fount, whence all my be - ing flow - eth:
vit - ed, be thy love with love re - quit - ed;

un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this
 at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me
 from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how

won-drous ban - quet found - ed— high o'er all the heavens he
 be a fit par - ta - ker of this bless - ed food from
 vast and deep its trea - sure; through the gifts thou here dost

reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.
 hea - ven, for our good, thy glo - ry, giv - en.
 give me, as thy guest in heaven re - ceive me.

Words: Johann Franck (1618-1677); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.
 Music: *Schmücke dich*, melody Johann Crüger (1598-1662); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906
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THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand.

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest and People:

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Priest: Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY: *Fuga pro Organo pleno*, BWV 552/2

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

ASSISTING AT THE 9:00 A.M. SERVICE TODAY: Matt Bode, *Crucifer*; and Laurie Adams, *Chalice Bearer*.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH are given to the glory of God.



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.

BROCHURES DESCRIBING PARISH LIFE, the history of St. John's, and the Episcopal denomination can be found in the church entrance. 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 weekly calendar, the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, the music calendar and newsworthy events.

Vestry

Paul Barkett, *Senior Warden*

Jeff Hantson, *Junior Warden*

Laurie Adams, Andrew Clarke,
Carolyn Crouch, Lauren Edwards,
Martha Ellison, Peter Odom, Anthony
Pegues, Scott Raab, Nora Rigby,
Jessica Sanchez, Desirée Stolar,
and Carl Ward.

Casey Evans, *Treasurer*

Sara McGanity, *Assistant Treasurer*

Andrew Tomlinson, *Secretary*

Christopher R. Wall, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher

James H. Czerwonky

Staff

Kim Carlson

Director for Operations

Evangeline Gravina

Operations Assistant

Preston Cherouny

Financial Secretary

Sharlyne Griffin

Receptionist

R. J. Gravina

Program Coordinator

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant and David Gamboa,

Assistant Sextons

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Website www.stjohns-dc.org