

SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

CHORAL EVENSONG

Catherine of Siena

Mystic and Prophetic Witness, 1380

April 29, 2026

*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 last Wednesday of most months from September through May. To see a schedule of upcoming services and events, visit our website at 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 on 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—The Morland Responses by Graham J. Ellis
Canticles in G—Herbert Sumson (1899–1995)

VOLUNTARY

Largo from *Trio in C major*, BWV 529

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

INTROIT

Jesu, the very thought of thee

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

Jesu, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see and in thy presence rest.

—*Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153), tr. E. Caswall*

HYMN 46

The duteous day now closeth

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

1 The du - teous day now clos - eth, each flower and tree re -
 2 Now all the heaven - ly splen - dor breaks forth in star-light
 3 Though long our mor - tal blind - ness has missed God's lov - ing -

pos - eth, shade creeps o'er wild and wood: let
 ten - der from myr - iad worlds un - known; and
 kind - ness and plunged us in - to strife; yet

us, as night is fall - ing, on God our Ma - ker
 we, this mar - vel see - ing, for - get our self - ish
 when life's day is o - ver, shall death's fair night dis -

call - ing, give thanks to him, the Giv - er good.
 be - ing for joy of beau - ty not our own.
 cov - er the fields of ev - er - last - ing life.

Words: Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676); tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930) and others. Music: *O Welt, ich muss dich lassen*, melody att. Heinrich Isaac (1450?-1517); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

THE OPENING SENTENCES

Please remain standing.

Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun.
You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

—*Psalm 74:15-16*

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night.
I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

—*Psalm 16:7-8*

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 36

Please be seated.

Arthur H. Mann (1850–1929)
William H. Harris (1883–1973)

My heart sheweth me the wickedness of the ungodly *
that there is no fear of God before his eyes.
For he flattereth himself in his own sight *
until his abominable sin be found out.
The words of his mouth are unrighteous, and full of deceit *
he hath left off to behave himself wisely, and to do good.
He imagineth mischief upon his bed, and hath set himself in no good way *
neither doth he abhor any thing that is evil.
Thy mercy, O Lord, reacheth unto the heavens *
and thy faithfulness unto the clouds.
Thy righteousness standeth like the strong mountains *
thy judgements are like the great deep.
Thou, Lord, shalt save both man and beast; how excellent is thy mercy, O God *
and the children of men shall put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.
They shall be satisfied with the plenteousness of thy house *
and thou shalt give them drink of thy pleasures, as out of the river.
For with thee is the well of life *
and in thy light shall we see light.

O continue forth thy loving-kindness unto them that know thee *
and thy righteousness unto them that are true of heart.
O let not the foot of pride come against me *
and let not the hand of the ungodly cast me down.
There are they fallen, all that work wickedness *
they are cast down, and shall not be able to stand.

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 Brian Cordova-Brookey.

1 John 1:5–2:2

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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.

—*Luke 1:46-55*

THE SECOND READING

Read by Brian Schoeneman.

Luke 12:22-31

Jesus said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.”

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.

—*Luke 2:29-32*

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 all on a monotone.

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 Almighty and everlasting God, who kindled the flame of your love in the heart of your servant Catherine of Siena: Grant unto us the same strength of conviction and power of love that, as we rejoice in her triumph, we may profit by her example; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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. Eric Bailey

Please remain standing until invited to sit.

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

My beloved spake

Patrick Hadley (1899–1973)

Sung by the choir.

My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; the fig-tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

—*Song of Solomon 2:10-13*

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 383 *Sung by all.*

Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture, O thou of
2 Fair are the mea - dows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and all the
God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,
bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
twink - ling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

Words: German composite; tr. pub. New York, 1850, alt. Music: *St. Elizabeth*, melody from *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842; harm. Thomas Tertius Noble (1867-1953).

VOLUNTARY

In Nomine Domini

Ned Rorem (1923–2022)

All are invited to a reception in Togo West Parlor immediately following the service.

Shortly afterward, members of St. John's Pride will gather for drinks at Opaline at the Sofitel Hotel, just a three-minute walk from St. John's. Join us if you can, or contact our leaders via stjohns-dc.org to learn more about this group.

ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE

The Rev. Eric Bailey,
Assistant Priest for Parish Life and New Member Ministry

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*
Linda Morgan Stowe and John Chappell Stowe, *Interim Assistant Organists*
St. John's Choir and Choristers

Kevin Cordova-Brookey, *Crucifer*
Nicholas Schoeneman and Helena Upshaw, *Acolytes*
Jeremy Sheeler, *Livestream Technician*

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.**

ARE YOU NEW TO ST. JOHN'S?

Please let us know who you are and how we can best serve you by filling out a "Welcome" card and leaving it in the offering plate or with an usher or greeter. ♦ Free valet parking is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sundays; look for the valet sign at the corner of 16th and H streets, NW. ♦ Find us on Instagram at @stjohnschurchlafayettesquare or visit stjohns-dc.org for more about our offerings and how to get in touch.

Readings: From the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission. ♦ Music images reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701275.

NEWS AND EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

SPEAKER SERIES | Sunday, May 3, at 10 a.m.



The Speaker Series is held most Sundays from September through May. Audio recordings are available on our website the week after each talk. This week, we are delighted to welcome the Rev. Dr.

James Hawkey, Canon Theologian and Almoner of Westminster Abbey, who will engage in a Q&A-style conversation led by the Rev. Rob Fisher, and preach at our 9 and 11 a.m. services.

LATROBE YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday, May 6, at 6:30 p.m.

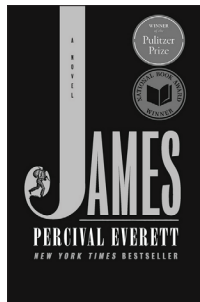
The Latrobe Fellowship is an active and engaged group of adults, primarily in their 20s and 30s. Please join us for a rare celebration of the Eucharist from the 1789 Book of Common Prayer, honoring the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States, and the 210th anniversary of the founding of St. John's, Lafayette Square. The service will be followed by a meal and a talk by liturgical scholar Dr. Derek Olsen entitled, "The 1789 Communion Office: A Surprising Liturgy Then and Now." Contact the Rev. Eric Bailey via St. John's website with questions.

ST. JOHN'S BOOK GROUP

Thursday, May 7, at 7 p.m.

Please join us via Zoom to discuss a pair of books: Mark Twain's 1876 classic, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and Percival Everett's reconsideration, *James*, which won the 2025 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, among other awards.

In Twain's tale, Huck Finn navigates the Mississippi River by raft with his close companion, a runaway slave named Jim, and confronts issues relating to the value of human life and friendship. Everett undertakes a retelling from the perspective of Jim, and wrestles with themes related to morality, the nature of freedom, and enslavement. The book group typically meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. For information and the link, contact us via the directory at stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory.



GRACE'S TABLE

Third Saturdays, from 10:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates: May 16 and June 20

Grace's Table is an outreach partnership between St. John's and Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown. Every third Saturday of the month, a group from St. John's prepares and serves a meal at Grace to folks who are unhoused or at risk of losing their housing. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other St. John's parishioners and to spread God's loving kindness in our community. Contact leader Elizabeth Field using the Connect: Ministry Directory tab of our website with questions or to volunteer.



PHOTO: MICHAEL HUSTON

SKYLARK VOCAL ENSEMBLE IN CONCERT

Sunday, May 31, at 2 p.m. | Ticketed event

Save the date for a performance by Skylark, one of America's leading vocal ensembles. Their program, "Clear Voices in the Dark," pairs music from the American Civil War with Poulenc's *Figure Humaine*, which was composed in secret during the Nazi occupation of France in 1943—two moments of national crisis and the music that arose from them. The recording earned two Grammy nominations, including Best Choral Performance. This tour is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and Marriott Family Philanthropies. We hope you will join us on Trinity Sunday for this exciting performance at St. John's. Purchase tickets at www.skylarkensemble.org/clearvoices2026.

Visit our website for more news and the full calendar of upcoming events. You can find us at www.stjohns-dc.org.

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 Leadership & Members

Alfred Thesmar, *Senior Warden*

Julia Koster, *Junior Warden*

Kate Benner, Brian Cordova-Brookey,

Kaye Edwards, Elizabeth Field,

Debby Hailey, Fruzsina Harsanyi,

Apiyo Oloya, Jack Reiffer, Brian Schoeneman,

Matthew Taylor, Trey Whitworth, and Jess Unger,

Members

Anya Kleymenova, *Treasurer*

Jane Reichard, *Assistant Treasurer*

Will Priest, *Secretary*

Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher—James H. Czerwonky

Head Greeters—Eleanor and Peter Odom

Heads of Flower Guild

Pat Dalby and Katherine Kyle

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell, *Associate Rector
for Family Ministry and Pastoral Care*

The Rev. Eric Bailey, *Assistant Priest for Parish Life
and New Member Ministry*

The Rev. Cn. Maurice Dyer, *Assisting Priest*

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

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Linda Morgan Stowe and John Chappell Stowe,
Interim Assistant Organists

John Stowe, *Chief Operating Officer*

Charley Griffin, *Parish Administrator*

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

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant, David Gamboa, and

John Queen, *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