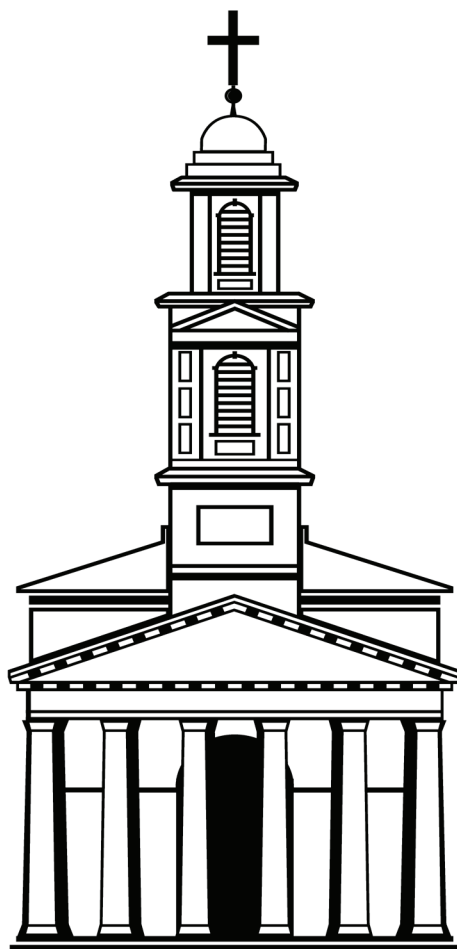


THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7, 2025 ♦ Holy Eucharist at 9 and 11 a.m.



SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

*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, Lafayette Square.

*All are invited to participate in the service as able. Congregational responses appear in **bold**.*

Nursery care is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Parish House.

Prayer cards are provided at the entrance of the church. You are invited to write your prayers and place them in the collection plate. Your prayers will be blessed and will be prayed for by a priest during the week.

VOLUNTARY

Andante and Moderato

Elizabeth Stirling (1819–1895)

HYMN 618

Ye watchers and ye holy ones

Sung by all. Please stand as you are able as the procession enters.

Unison



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright ser - a - phs, cher - u -
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more glo - rious than the
3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye pa - tri - archs and
4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su - per - nal an - thems

Harmony *Unison*



bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain, Al - le - lu - ia! Cry
ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou
pro - phets blest, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ye
ech - o - ing, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! To



out, do - min - ions, prince - doms, powers, vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels'
bear - er of the e - ter - nal Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the
ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the
God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in

Harmony

choirs, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Lord, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 song, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 One, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

Unison

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: John Athelstan Laurie Riley (1858-1945). By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE WORD OF GOD

Please remain standing as you are able.

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

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

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.**

(Organ) Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther:
re - ceive our prayer. (Organ) For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest 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 FIRST READING

Philemon 1-21

Please be seated.

9 a.m. Read by Katherine Bliss.

11 a.m. Read by Allie Raether.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 1

9 a.m. Led by Amy Whitworth, said responsively by half verse.
11 a.m. Chanted by the choir; setting by William Beale (1784–1854)

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

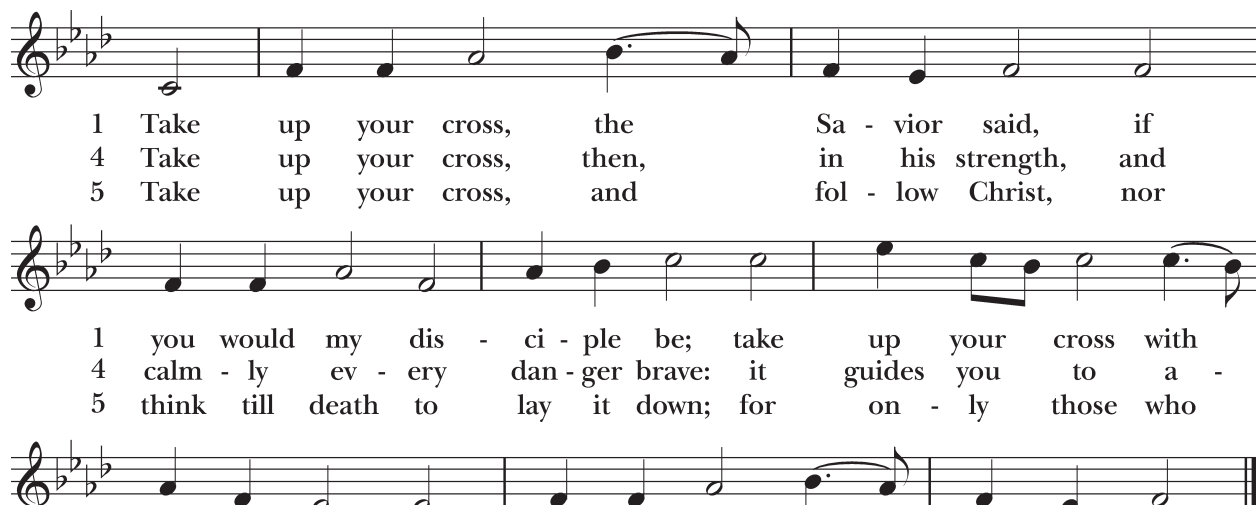
For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

(11 a.m. only) Children's Chapel in the Parish House: All who wish may gather in front of the pulpit during the hymn and will return at the Peace. Parents are encouraged to accompany children younger than three.

GRADUAL HYMN 675

Take up your cross, the Savior said

Sung by all, standing as you are able. Stanzas 1 & 4 will be sung before the Gospel, stanza 5 after.



1 Take up your cross, the Sa - vior said, if
4 Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and
5 Take up your cross, and fol - low Christ, nor

1 you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
4 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -
5 think till death to lay it down; for on - ly those who

1 will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
4 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.
5 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. John Leon Hooker (b. 1944).

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

Please remain standing as you are able.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Following the Gospel, all sing stanza 5 of the gradual hymn.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

9 a.m. Led by Jordan Baugh.

Kneeling or standing as you are able.

11 a.m. Led by Clark Ervin.

Intercessor Let us give thanks to the living God for all the gifts that we enjoy, saying, "We thank you, living God."

Silence.

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

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

Intercessor For the communities of St. John's and our companion relationships with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa* and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for the Church of the Holy Communion, DC; and diocesan youth and young adult ministries. For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Mariann, our Bishop; Eugene, our Assistant Bishop; and for all people whose lives reveal the image of Christ:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Intercessor 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.**

Intercessor For those in special need today, especially . . . ; and for your care for all those in need:

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

Intercessor For those celebrating a birthday this week . . . ; for those celebrating an anniversary this week . . . ; and for all blessings of this life:

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

Intercessor For all who serve on behalf of our civic life. For Donald, our President, the leaders of Congress, the Supreme Court, and all who serve our country, that they may work for justice, freedom, and peace:

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

Intercessor For those who have died, especially . . . 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.**

Intercessor 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 AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence.

All 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.

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. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

COMMISSIONING OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION LEADERS

(11 a.m. only) Church School, Youth Group, and Adult Formation leaders stand at the invitation of the clergy.

Clergy We present these persons to be commissioned for the ministry of Christian Formation at St. John's, Lafayette Square.

Rector Are these persons whom you present prepared to exercise their ministry to the honor of God and the well-being of the Church, through a commitment to Christ as Lord, regular attendance at worship, and knowledge of their duties?

Clergy We believe they are.

Rector You have been called to a ministry in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence and devotion?

Teachers I will.

Rector Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Teachers I will.

Rector Will you as a congregation do all in your power to uphold these persons in their ministry?

People **We will.**

Rector In the Name of God and on behalf of the congregation of St. John's, I commission you as formation leaders in this church.

Let us pray.

God of all wisdom and knowledge, give your blessing and guidance to all who teach and mentor in your Church, that by word and example they may lead those whom they serve to the knowledge and love of you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

You may make an offering by placing your donation in the plate, or use 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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Where your treasure is

William Bradley Roberts (b. 1947)

Sung by the choir.

Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. Consider the lilies of the field how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet Solomon in all his glory, was not arrayed like one of these.

—From Matthew 6

HYMN 380 *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

From all that dwell below the skies

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let
2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and
3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's
truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!
shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing as you are able.

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.**

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:

(Organ) Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na
 na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Please stand or kneel as you are able. The priest continues

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:

People **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

All 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

AGNUS DEI *Sung by all.*

Mass in E

Jeffrey Smith

(Organ) Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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. Wait for an usher to call your pew to come forward. You will first be handed a wafer by a priest (gluten-free wafers are available by request) and then offered wine by a lay server. You may either sip the wine or dip your wafer into the wine. Receiving the bread alone is a valid way to share in the Eucharist. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. All may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

These are they which follow the Lamb

John Goss (1800–1880)

Sung by the choir.

These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

—Revelation 14:4-5

HYMN 304

I come with joy to meet my Lord

Sung by all, seated.

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt. Copyright © 1971 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk melody; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983).

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Priest Let us pray.

All 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.

When scheduled, the Priest offers a communion kit to any Lay Eucharistic Minister doing a home visit, saying

On behalf of God and St. John's Church, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you will visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. 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. Amen.

HYMN 657 *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

Love divine, all loves excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - mighty - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Postlude from *Quatre Pièces en forme de Messe*

Denis Bédard (b. 1950)

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

ASSISTING AT THE 9 A.M. SERVICE

Mike DuMond, *Crucifer* ♦ Jack Reiffer and Hilary West, *Chalice Bearers*
Robyne Johnston, *Assistant Head Usher* ♦ Patricia Leslie and Tim Stuart, *Ushers*
Dylan Hayden and Eleanor Odom, *Greeters*
Paul Barkett and Anne Harrington, *Flower Guild*

ASSISTING AT THE 11 A.M. SERVICE

Matt Bode, *Crucifer* ♦ Walt Ehrich and Gus Tierney, *Acolytes*
Laurie Adams and Debby Hailey, *Chalice Bearers*
Jeff Agnew, *Assistant Head Usher*
Susan Cardwell, Linda Chen, Doug Estes, and Bill Wright, *Ushers*
Christine Davies and John Schutz, *Greeters*
Paul Barkett and Anne Harrington, *Flower Guild*
Ryan Wagner, *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.

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Announcements for the Week of September 7

TODAY AT ST. JOHN'S

- 8 a.m. Eucharist—Sermon by the Rev.
Rob Fisher
Parish Choir (Parish House Fourth Floor)
- 8:30 a.m. Nursery—available until 12:30 p.m.
(Parish House Second Floor)
- 9 a.m. Choral Eucharist—Sermon by the Rev.
Rob Fisher
- 10 a.m. Coffee Hour (Plaza, weather permitting,
or Parish House First Floor)
Speaker Series (Sanctuary; see page 4)
Church School Open House
(Parish House Second Floor)
Youth Group Open House
(Parish House Second Floor)
Adult Bible Study (Parish House Third Floor)
St. John's Choir (Parish House Fourth Floor)
- 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist—Sermon by the Rev.
Rob Fisher
Children's Chapel (children begin in church)
- Noon Coffee Hour (Plaza, weather permitting,
or Parish House First Floor)
Church Tour (see next column)

FLOWER DELIVERIES

Help us brighten the day of parishioners by taking them flowers, located in the side chapel most Sundays of the year. A card is attached to each vase with contact information.

Today flower deliveries are needed to: 29th Street, NW;
52nd Street, NW; and K Street, NW.



SPEAKER SERIES BEGINS

Today at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The 2025–2026 Speaker Series kicks off with a talk by renowned journalist Ted Koppel in the Sanctuary.

CHURCH SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP OPEN HOUSES, Today at 10 a.m.

Kids of all ages and their parents are invited to explore classrooms, meet their teachers, and learn about the program year ahead. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell (children) or the Rev. Eric Bailey (youth) via the About: Leadership tab on our website.



TOUR OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Today at noon

For more than 200 years our church has served as a place of worship for a growing and everchanging city and country. Its structure is a lasting testament to Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who, because of his training in both architecture and engineering, is considered by the American Institute of Architects as our country's first architect. If you are interested in an in-person tour of St. John's Church, meet at the front of the church near the baptismal font after the 11 a.m. service. Today's guide is Richard Busch.

Visit stjohns-dc.org/connect/newsletters to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter (*The Word*) and other parish email lists.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

September 8–14

Monday—No noon service—Memorial service at 11 a.m.

Tuesday—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

Wednesday—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

Thursday—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

Friday—12:10 p.m.—Noonday Prayer

Sunday—The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell, preacher

8 a.m. Eucharist with Sermon

9 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon

11 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon and
Children's Chapel

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S



BARBIE HARPER MEMORIAL SERVICE

Monday, September 8

11 a.m. Memorial Service for Barbie Harper

6:15 p.m. Lawyers' AA (Togo West Parlor)

Tuesday, September 9

1 p.m. Staff Meeting (Togo West Parlor)

Wednesday, September 10

4:30 p.m. Choristers Rehearsal

Thursday, September 11

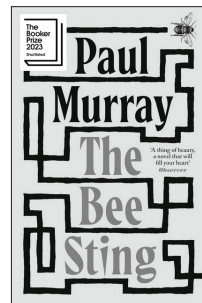
4:30 p.m. Choristers Rehearsal

7 p.m. St. John's Book Group (see next column)
Parish Choir Rehearsal

ST. JOHN'S BOOK GROUP

Thursday, September 11, at 7 p.m.

Join us via Zoom for our first meeting of the fall to discuss *The Bee Sting* by Paul Murray. Set in Ireland, the novel is a thought-provoking tour de force about family, fortune, and the struggle to be a good person when the world is falling apart. 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.



LATER IN SEPTEMBER

GET INVOLVED! COME TO THE MINISTRY FAIR
Sunday, September 14, after the 9 and 11 a.m. services

Are you looking for ways to get involved in our church community? Look no further than the annual Ministry Fair, where you'll have the opportunity to explore ministries and find the perfect fit. Whether you're passionate about our church community, or about participating in worship, or reaching out to the wider community, or helping with Christian education and formation, there's a ministry for you! Representatives from each ministry will be available to answer any questions. Come learn about ministry goals and activities, as well as the time commitment and training required. Mark your calendars and contact Lisa Koehler via the About: Leadership tab on our website to learn more.

GRACE'S TABLE

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

Upcoming Dates: September 20 and October 18

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.

PARISH LUNCH RETURNS

Sunday, September 21, at noon

Sunday lunch at St. John's is a longtime tradition in which every member and every visitor can participate. It's a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones—a time for fellowship and for hearing another's story. The lunch is held most Sundays in the Parish House. Contributions of \$5 for adults and young people 13 and over and \$2 for children under 13 are requested to help defray the costs of the lunch. All are welcome. Valet parking hours are extended to 2 p.m. any Sunday with a parish lunch.

The Sunday lunch tradition relies on volunteers to prepare and serve the meal—which is why we encourage individuals, families, groups, or ministries to host at least once per program year. Hosts may be reimbursed for expenses or receive a tax receipt.

Not sure what's involved? Want to claim an open date? Contact Parish Lunch coordinator Holly Sukenik at stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory.

September 21 “Welcome Back” Potluck: Please let Holly Sukenik know what you can bring to share and whether you are able to help set up, serve, or clean up.

September 28

October 5

October 12

October 19

October 26 No Lunch: Marine Corps Marathon

November 2

November 9

November 16 New Members Reception: All invited!

November 23

November 30 No Lunch: Thanksgiving Weekend

December 7

December 14

December 21 No Lunch

December 28 No Lunch

CHORAL EVENSONG

Wednesday, September 24, at 5:30 p.m.

Steeped in the beauty of the Anglican tradition, Evensong meets us at the even point between the active day and the restful night. Evensong is sung by the St. John's Choir and Choristers on the last Wednesday of most months

from September through May, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and followed by a reception in Togo West Parlor. Parking validation is available in the Colonial parking garage at 818 Connecticut Avenue, NW; obtain a validation ticket from an usher before or after the service. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this special offering. The service will also be available via livestream on our website.

Please note that beginning this fall, Choral Evensong has moved to the final Wednesday of each month.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Saturday, September 27, 5–7:30 p.m.

Kids ages 6 months through 5th grade are invited to play, watch a movie, and eat pizza while parents and caregivers enjoy an evening out. RSVP by Monday, September 22, to bit.ly/PNO-0927. Questions? Contact the Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

COMING UP IN OCTOBER

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 5, at 9 a.m.

Humans of all ages and pets of all varieties are welcome! The Blessing of the Animals will take place during the 9 a.m. service. Leashed or 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 FELLOWSHIP OKTOBERFEST

Wednesday, October 8, at 6:30 p.m.

(Note: Second Wednesday in October)

The Latrobe Fellowship is an active and engaged group of adults, primarily in their 20s and 30s. We typically gather at St. John's at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month for a short worship service followed by an activity. Join us next month for an Oktoberfest trivia night that will include questions on the history of the Reformation, Oktoberfest, and beer in religion. Both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. For more information, contact the Rev. Eric Bailey, our minister for youth and young adults, via the About: Leadership tab of our website.

THE 2025 FALL ADULT INQUIRERS' CLASS

Saturdays, October 11 & 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Would you like to be baptized, confirmed, or received into membership in the Episcopal Church at St. John's? Or are you just interested in learning more about the Christian faith, the Episcopal tradition, and the ministry of St. John's Church? Either way, please join the two-day Fall Adult Inquirers' Class, led by the Rev. Rob Fisher, on Saturdays, October 11 and 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Lisa Koehler via the About: Leadership tab on our website to learn more or register for this class.

SPEAKER SERIES

The Speaker Series is held most Sundays from September through May at 10 a.m. in the Togo West Parlor on the first floor of the Parish House. An audio recording will be available on our website the week after each talk.

Please note: The special kick-off presentation on September 7 will take place in the Sanctuary.



September 7: Ted Koppel, broadcast journalist best known for his work on the famed "Nightline" late evening program on ABC News, will reflect on his long and distinguished career.



September 28: Daniel Shapiro, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East, will discuss the war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas.



October 5: Debra Bruno, journalist and novelist, will share the fascinating account of her family's connection to slavery, documented in her book *A Hudson Valley Reckoning*.



October 12: Karim Sadjadpour, a noted Iran expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, will update us on the latest from and about Iran, following the U.S. strike some months ago on its nuclear facilities.



October 26: William Taylor, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine (2006–2009) and chargé d'affaires *ad interim* at the U.S. embassy in Kyiv (2019–2020), will discuss the state of the war between Ukraine and Russia.



November 9: Stephen I. Vladeck, constitutional law expert and a professor at Georgetown Law School, will speak about the past and current Supreme Court terms.



December 7: The Rev. Richard A. Burnett, General Secretary of the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC), will share about the work of this institution.

NEWS & NOTICES



BAPTISMS

If you are interested in baptism for yourself or for a child, please contact Lisa Koehler via the About: Leadership tab on our website. Please note that the parents or grandparents of children being baptized must be active, pledging members of St. John's. Adults interested in baptism must also attend an Adult Inquirers' Class, offered twice a year, and be active, pledging participants in the life of the parish. Upcoming dates for baptism and required pre-baptismal classes with the clergy at St. John's include:

Sunday, November 2, at 9 a.m.

Class: Saturday, November 1, at 10 a.m.

Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 11 a.m.

Class: Saturday, January 10, at 10 a.m.

Sunday, February 15, at 9 a.m.

Class: Saturday, February 14, at 10 a.m.



FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

NURSERY HOURS

Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Infants and children are welcome at all worship services. Nursery care is also available most Sundays for infants and children up to age three. The nursery meets in the Godly Play Classroom #2 on the second floor of the Parish House.

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES

Sundays, 10–10:50 a.m., from September through May
Open House today. Classes begin September 14.

Children in pre-K through fifth grade may participate in Church School on the second floor of the Parish House. For information, contact the Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays, 10–10:50 a.m., from September through May
Open House today. Classes begin September 21.

Most Sundays from September through May, middle and high school youth are invited to the second floor of the Parish House for an exploration of life and faith with their peers. Questions? Contact the Rev. Eric Bailey via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sundays during 11 a.m. worship

Kids from birth through grade 5 are invited to participate in a special liturgy just for them during the sermon at the 11 a.m. service. Children gather by the pulpit during the gradual hymn and process to the Parish House for a song, homily, and prayer time, returning to the sanctuary at the Peace. Parents may accompany their children and are encouraged to do so for those younger than three. Children are also welcome to stay and worship in the main sanctuary. Questions? Contact the Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

THE ACOLYTE MINISTRY

Sundays during 11 a.m. worship, September through May

Youth in 6th grade and above are welcome to participate during the 11 a.m. service, serving as torch bearers or crucifers and helping set the altar for communion. To learn more, contact us via stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory.

BELL TOWER DONORS, PLEASE TAKE NOTE

We are grateful to the many donors who supported the St. John's bell tower and roof repair campaign. The project came in on time and under budget! And, between gifts and pledges, we have raised all the funds to cover all costs. To thank those who donated, we will create a plaque that will be placed permanently within the bell tower. In the meantime, we've made a draft, which is posted on the wall near the H Street entrance. If you see anything that needs correcting, please let us know. Most of all, thank you to everyone who helped make this campaign a success.

NEW EXTERIOR LIGHTING

An exciting new feature of our church property is the recent night lighting of the Parish House, both for safety and to enhance the architecture.

The original building, a National Historic Landmark, was constructed in 1836. In 1854 it was embellished with Italianate details by noted architect Thomas U. Walter, who used similar window details on the U.S. Capitol extension. A previous effort at lighting had been defunct for many years. Now, new wiring and low-voltage uplights and spots project a pleasant glow to the building overnight and provide additional lighting to the sidewalk.

This work was submitted to and approved by the Commission of Fine Arts and the D.C. Office of Planning. The Property Committee wish to call out a special thank you to our wonderful electrician, Gustavo del Granado, of Electrical Style Services, LLC, who spent many extra hours setting and resetting lights until the best effect could be reached.

Sometime this fall, we will be planting the garden beds in front of the building with a variety of seasonal and perennial plants and low groundcover. Let us know what you think!

—Sharon Park and Doug Estes, Property Committee

CHORISTER PROGRAM, September through May

We offer a choir for children and youth with unchanged (treble) voices. Through a custom-made curriculum, singers receive training in sight reading, vocal production, music theory, liturgy, and leadership, and become part of a vibrant community of music makers. To learn more or express interest, contact Brent Erstad via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

REMINDERS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sundays at 10 a.m.

This group gathers most Sunday mornings, using a hybrid approach, with some joining via Zoom and others in person. Conversations explore the connections with the Sunday lectionary lessons and sermons. For information, notes, and the Zoom link, contact Jack Reiffer via the Ministry Directory at stjohs-dc.org.

FLOWER MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Flowers in the church and Parish House are made possible by gifts and are often dedicated to the memory of a loved one or to mark a birth or birthday, wedding, anniversary, graduation, or other special event. To make a dedication, pick up a flower card at the entrance to the church.

LIVESTREAMED SERVICES

The weekly 11 a.m. Sunday service is broadcast on our website and available for replay, as are evensongs and occasional other special services and events.

MAKE A PLEDGE TO ST. JOHN'S

A pledge is a commitment of financial support payable over the course of a year that enables us to plan the work that we undertake in mission and ministry. You can indicate a pledge commitment using this QR code or by visiting the Give tab on our website.



ONLINE OFFERINGS TO DESIGNATED FUNDS

To make a monetary offering toward your pledge or a specific fund, scan the QR code at right, or visit our website, then select the desired destination using the "Fund" drop-down menu.



LISTEN AGAIN TO SUNDAY SERMONS

To listen to past sermons or speaker series, visit our website, scan this QR code or search for "St. John's Church, Lafayette Square" in the Podcast app on your device.



JOIN A MINISTRY GROUP

Explore our many ministry groups at www.stjohs-dc.org, and contact the leaders via our online Ministry Directory for details or to sign up.

PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE

Praying for those in need is an important part of our life together. Contact the Pastoral Care team via the Connect: Ministry Directory tab at stjohs-dc.org to add yourself, family, or friends to our prayer list. Names of friends and family who are not members of the congregation are followed by the name of the parishioner making the request.

Our prayers are requested for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially:

THOSE WHO ARE SICK, RECOVERING, OR GRIEVING

From our parish: Glen Bootay, Hyman Field, Christina Wilson, and Mary Wilson.

Friends and family of our parish: Conor Barry (Sarah Wood), Billy Beardsley Conderman (Margo Arnold), Gisela Block (Sigi Block), Jim DeBello (Grace Barrett), Walt Eccard (Margaret Depue), Ed Eder (Joanne and Powell Hutton), Sue Edmonds (Sarah and Jeff Agnew), Julie Ellis (Preston Cherouny), Laurie Feldon (Eleanor and Peter Odom), Bob and Heather Gilbert (Andrea Winchell), Linda Young Gsell (Rick Young), Mark Hallett (Livy More), Morgan Hickenlooper (Livy More), Doug Holy (Joanne Hutton), Jack (Marta Cook and Cal Trepagnier), Latithia and Charles Jones (GeeGee Bryant), Sean Josey (Bill and Sara Josey), Charlotte Crowley Junilla (Margo Arnold), Olivia Kehoe (Kat Kehoe), Elizabeth Lee (Clayton Crawford), William Markiewicz (Matthew Taylor), Jim Martella (Livy More), Tammy McCleaf (Matthew Taylor), Kathleen McTighe (Bill and Sara Josey), Nell Montgomery (Brandon Montgomery), Patrick Christopher O'Donnell (Wendy J. Fibison), Paul Peralta (Debby Hailey), Ann Petrosky (Johnathan Miller), Norm

Phillips (Susan Cardwell), Leo S. (Wendy J. Fibison), Nancy Stephenson (Ann and John Gardner), Scott (Marta Cook and Cal Trepagnier), Pam Snyder (Sarah Agnew), Patsy Swain (Margo Arnold), Sallie and William Wilkie Thompson (Cecelia Thompson), Ashley Smith Thomson (Marta Cook and Cal Trepagnier), Mackenzie Toland (Wendy J. Fibison), Jim Wardrop (Jack Reiffer), Darrel Williams (Caleb and James Hays-Reilly), Edward Leland Williams II (Virginia Bader), Andrew Woods (Johnathan Miller), Linda Woolley (Blount and Charlotte Stewart), and Judith York (Caroline Fisher).

THOSE WHO ARE IN ASSISTED LIVING

From our parish: Eve Atkeson, Milton Chamberlain, Marcella Odom, and Becky Schergens.

Friends and family of our parish: David Brown (Lisa Koehler), Bob Chrystal, Sr. (Chris Jones), Veronica Jones (Chris Jones), Lori LaPoint (Brent Erstad), and Carl Wright (Frank and Nancy Klotz).

THOSE WHO ARE IN HOSPICE CARE

Friends and family of our parish: Wilma Daubs (Kay Gilley) and Henry Farrington (Wendy J. Fibison).

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Friends and family of our parish: Joan Pilson, August 29 (David Smith).

THOSE IN OUR PARISH CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY

Jimmy Azzarello, Elizabeth Gardner, Victoria Jeffries, Claire Kim, Frank Klotz, Julia Koster, Lyn Loewi, Amber Neville, Emily Ornstein, Natalie Stolar, and John Sukenik.

THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES

Friends and family of our parish: Janie Abernethy (Elizabeth Lewis and David Abernethy), Philip L. Faris (Caroline and Steve Faris), and Charles Lewis, Jr. (Charles Lewis, Sr.).

Contact Pastoral Care at Connect: Ministry Directory on our website to add, remove, or change a status on the prayer list.

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

Nora Rigby, *Senior Warden*

Alfred Thesmar, *Junior Warden*

Tony Anikeeff, Brian Cordova-Brookey,
Kaye Edwards, Casey Evans, Debby Hailey,
Fruzsina Harsanyi, Julia Koster,
Elizabeth Cavert Morrison,
Ucheora Onwuamaegbu, Jack Reiffer,
Matthew Taylor, and Jess Unger, *Members*

Nora Haugh, *Treasurer*

Anya Kleymenova, *Assistant Treasurer*

Allie Raether, *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

Worship & Program Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

The Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell, *Associate Rector*

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

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lyn Loewi, *Associate Organist*

The Rev. Eric Bailey, *Assistant Priest for Youth,*
Young Adults, and New Member Engagement

Staff

Preston Cherouny, *Chief Operating Officer*

Charley Griffin, *Operations Manager*

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