

# SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

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LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

## CHORAL EVENSONG

Emily Malbone Morgan  
Lay Leader and Contemplative, 1937

February 25, 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.*

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## 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](http://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.

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## SETTINGS FOR THIS EVENING

*Preces and Responses—William Smith (1603–1645)*

*Canticles—Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis on Plainsong Themes, by Gerald Near (b. 1942)*

## VOLUNTARY

In dich hab ich gehoffet

Heinrich Scheidemann (1595–1653)

## INTROIT

My song in the night

arr. Paul Christiansen (1914–1997)

O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night, come to us with thy tender love, my soul's delight.  
Unto thee, O Lord, in affliction I call, my comfort by day, and my song in the night.

O why should I wander, an alien from thee, or cry in the desert thy face to see?  
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight, O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

—*American folk hymn*

## HYMN 25

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ

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



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in  
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the  
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O



you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,  
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and  
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through



blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.  
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.  
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.  
Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585); adapt. *Hymnal 1982*.

## WELCOME

The Rev. Eric Bailey

## THE OPENING SENTENCES

*Please remain standing.*

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.  
—*Psalm 141:2*

If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.  
—*Psalm 139:10, 11*

## 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.

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.  
Praise ye the Lord.

*Please be seated.*

Righteous art thou, O Lord \*  
 and true is thy judgement.  
 The testimonies that thou hast commanded \*  
 are exceeding righteous and true.  
 My zeal hath even consumed me \*  
 because mine enemies have forgotten thy words.  
 Thy word is tried to the uttermost \*  
 and thy servant loveth it.  
 I am small, and of no reputation \*  
 yet do I not forget thy commandments.  
 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness \*  
 and thy law is the truth.  
 Trouble and heaviness have taken hold upon me \*  
 yet is my delight in thy commandments.  
 The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting \*  
 O grant me understanding, and I shall live.

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

**THE FIRST READING**

*Read by Clark Ervin.*

2 Samuel 14:12-17

Then the woman said, “Please let your servant speak a word to my lord the king.” He said, “Speak.” The woman said, “Why then have you planned such a thing against the people of God? For in giving this decision the king convicts himself, inasmuch as the king does not bring his banished one home again. We must all die; we are like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up. But God will not take away a life; he will devise plans so as not to keep an outcast banished forever from his presence. Now I have come to say this to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid; your servant thought, ‘I will speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his servant. For the king will hear and deliver his servant from the hand of the man who would cut both me and my son off from the heritage of God.’ Your servant thought, ‘The word of my lord the king will set me at rest,’ for my lord the king is like the angel of God, discerning good and evil. The Lord your God be with you!”

*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 Cordova-Brookey.*

Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

*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* Inspire us, Gracious God, with that same spirit of devotion that animated your servant Emily Malbone Morgan; that, like her, we might dedicate our lives to your service and to the welfare of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*Choir* Amen.  
*Officiant* Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior.  
*Choir* Amen.  
*Officiant* Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.  
*Choir* Amen.

## REMARKS

The Rev. 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

Be still my soul

Percy Whitlock (1903–1946)

*Sung by the choir.*

Be still, my soul, for God is near! The great High Priest is with thee now;  
the Lord of Life himself is near, before whose face the angels bow.

To make thy heart his lowly throne, thy Savior God in love draws nigh;  
he gives himself unto his own, for whom he once came down to die.

I come, O Lord! For thou dost call—to blend my pleading prayer with thine;  
to thee I give myself—my all, and feed on thee and make thee mine.

—*W.D. Maclagan (1826–1910)*

## 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 145

Now quit your care

*Sung by all.*

1 Now quit your care and anx - ious fear and wor - ry; for  
 2 To bow the head in sack - cloth and in ash - es, or  
 3 For is not this the fast that I have cho - sen? (The  
 4 For right - eous - ness and peace will show their fac - es to  
 5 Then shall your light break forth as doth the morn - ing; your

1 schemes are vain and fret - ting brings no gain. Lent calls to  
 2 rend the soul, such grief is not Lent's goal; but to be  
 3 pro - phet spoke) To shat - ter ev - ery yoke, of wick - ed -  
 4 those who feed the hun - gry in their need, and wrongs re -  
 5 health shall spring, the friends you make shall bring God's glo - ry

1 prayer, to trust and ded - i - ca - tion; God brings new beau - ty  
 2 led to where God's glo - ry flash - es, his beau - ty to come  
 3 ness the griev - ous bands to loos - en, op - pres - sion put to  
 4 dress, who build the old waste plac - es, and in the dark - ness  
 5 bright, your way through life a - dorn - ing; and love shall be the



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## ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE

The Rev. Eric Bailey

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*

Jack Reiffer and Helena Upshaw, *Acolytes*

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.**

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## 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](http://stjohns-dc.org) for more about our offerings and how to get in touch.*

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## NEWS AND EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

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### LENTEN PRAYER GROUP

**Wednesdays in Lent, 5:15–6 p.m.**

We are offering a time of simple, silent prayer on Wednesdays in Lent convened by the Rev. Dr. Sarah Coakley, who led a series of instruction on prayer last year at St. John's. The group will gather in person at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, but if you do not live near the seminary you can join the group virtually. To participate, please sign up at [bit.ly/sjc-lent-2026](https://bit.ly/sjc-lent-2026).



### LATROBE FELLOWSHIP

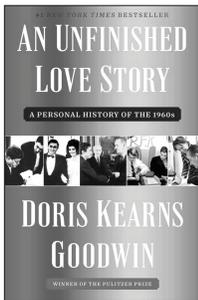
**Wednesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m.**

Join the Latrobe Fellowship for a worship service followed by a meal in the Togo West Parlor. We will be joined by Jim Marsh Jr., a licensed counselor and ordained elder in the United Methodist Church who has formed and sustained many communities of faith and service. Jim will facilitate a conversation on the Inward/Outward journey and other related topics. 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. For more information, contact the Rev. Eric Bailey via the About: Leadership tab of our website.

### ST. JOHN'S BOOK GROUP

**Thursday, March 5, at 7 p.m.**

Please join us via Zoom to discuss *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s* by Doris Kearns Goodwin, whose work for President Johnson in the 1960s inspired her love of historical research and her career as a presidential historian. This book weaves together autobiography, history, and memoir about a turbulent time in the United States. 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](https://stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory).



### LAFAYETTE FELLOWSHIP

**Tuesday, March 10, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**

Please join the Lafayette Fellowship for a Lenten discussion and light dinner. Come share what you're focused on avoiding or adding during this Lenten period and learn from others how they are approaching the season. We will gather in the Togo West Parlor on March 10 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Lafayette Fellowship is a group of adults looking for community. Our events offer the time and space to build friendships, expand our hearts and minds, and have fun. For planning purposes, RSVP to Hilary West via the Ministry Directory at [stjohns-dc.org](https://stjohns-dc.org).

### SAMARITAN MINISTRY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY NEXT STEP BREAKFAST

**Saturday, March 14, at 8:30 a.m.**

Come be uplifted and inspired! Hear from STRIVE program alum Diego Cunningham, entrepreneur and social and racial justice advocate Andy Shallal, and others about how Samaritan Ministry changes lives, and learn about ways that you can support Samaritan's mission to help DMV residents get back on their feet, as a volunteer or through your financial gift. Details, registration, and donations at [samaritanministry.org](https://samaritanministry.org). Questions? Contact Sarah Wood via the Ministry Directory at [stjohns-dc.org](https://stjohns-dc.org).

### THE 2026 SPRING ADULT INQUIRERS' CLASS

**Saturdays, March 14 & 21, 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 Spring Adult Inquirers' Class, led by the Rev. Rob Fisher, on Saturdays, March 14 and 21, 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.

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Visit our website for more news and the full calendar of upcoming events. You can find us at [www.stjohns-dc.org](https://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](http://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.

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## **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*

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. 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*

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## **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](http://www.stjohns-dc.org)