SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

CHORAL EVENSONG

Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles

October 28, 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—Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)
Canticles in B minor—T. Tertius Noble (1867–1953)

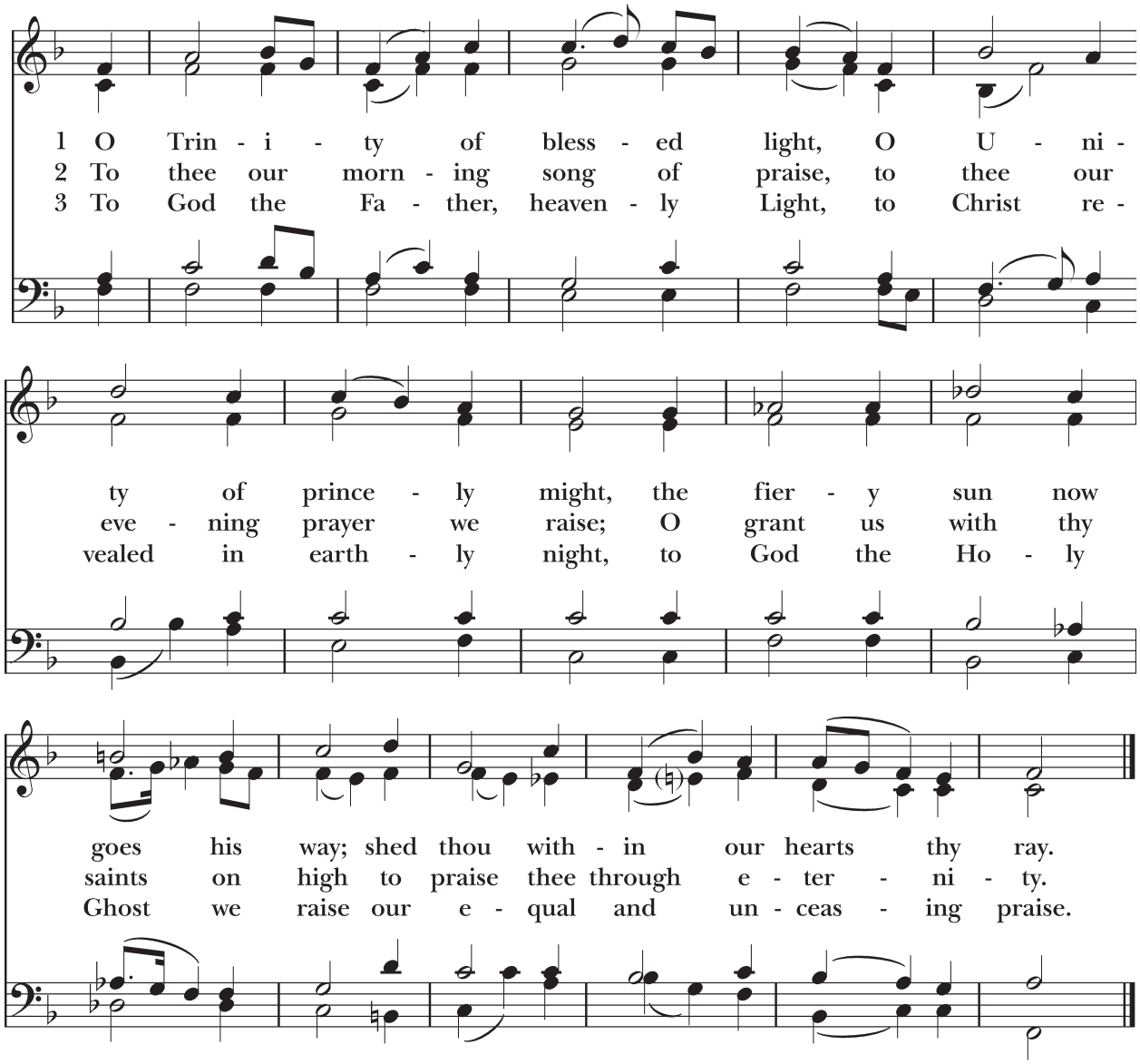
VOLUNTARY Folk Tune Percy Whitlock (1903–1946)

INTROIT Lighten our darkness Alexander L'Estrange (b. 1974)

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord,
and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the sake of thy only son, our savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

—Thomas Cranmer (1489–1556), Third Collect for Evensong

HYMN 29 O Trinity of blessèd light

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

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866). St. 3, Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. John Chandler (1806-1876).
Music: *Bromley*, Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809).

WELCOME

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

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*

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*

THE PRECES AND RESPONSES

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

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

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

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

PSALM 119:89-96

Edward John Hopkins (1818–1901)

Please be seated.

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

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

THE FIRST READING

Read by Will Yale. Ephesians 2:13-22

Now in Christ Jesus you Gentiles, who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

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. John 15:17-27

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

"If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'Servants are not greater than their master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. It was to fulfill the word that is written in their law, 'They hated me without a cause.'

"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning."

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 the choir.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

THE SUFFRAGES

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant O Lord, save the State;
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant O Lord, save thy people;
Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us;
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECTS

Officiant O God, we thank you for the glorious company of the apostles, and especially on this day for Simon and Jude; and we pray that, as they were faithful and zealous in their mission, so we may with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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.

HOMILY

Lauren Goodyear

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.

THE ANTHEM Though I speak with the tongues of men Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

Sung by the choir.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope and charity, but the greatest of these is charity.

— Corinthians 13:1-4, 7-9, 12-13

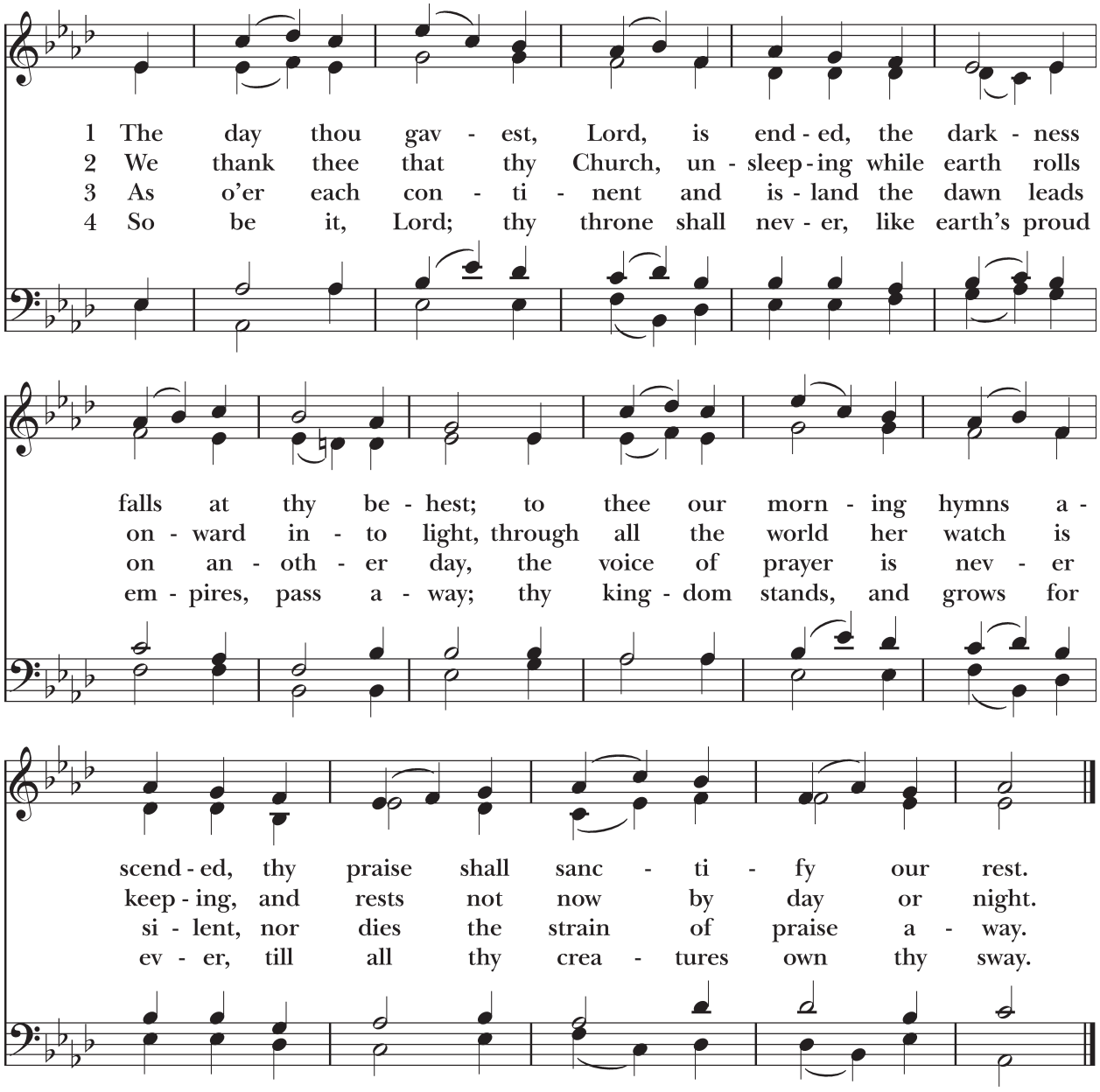
THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

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 24 *Sung by all.* The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893). Music: *St. Clement*, Clement Cottevill Scholefield (1839-1904).

VOLUNTARY Epilogue Herbert Howells (1893–1982)

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. Robert W. Fisher, *Presider*
Lauren Goodyear, *Homilist*

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*
Chris Betts, *Associate Organist*
St. John's Choir and Parish Choir

Kevin Cordova-Brookey, *Crucifer*
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.

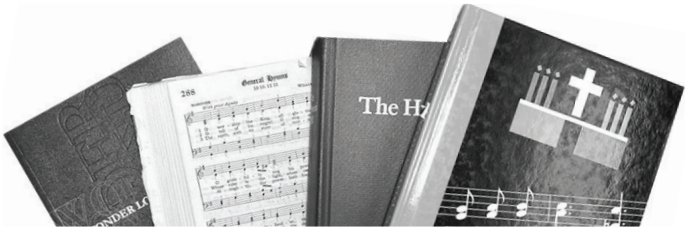
ARE YOU NEW TO ST. JOHN'S?

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.

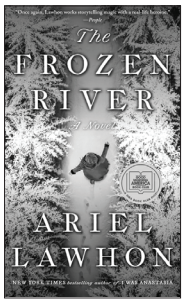
ALL SOULS' DAY REQUIEM EUCHARIST
Sunday, November 1, at 5:30 p.m.

Please note that incense will be used at this service.

Join us as we remember and commend to God all the faithful departed at our annual Requiem Eucharist for All Souls' Day. The St. John's Choir, joined by chamber orchestra and organ, will offer Gabriel Fauré's moving Requiem in the context of the liturgy. During the service, we will read the names of parish members and friends who have died in the past year. A reception will follow in the Togo West Parlor. Parking validation for this service will be available in the garage at 1575 I Street, NW. When asked for payment (upon arrival), indicate that you will return with a validated ticket from St. John's good for free parking. The service will also be livestreamed on our website.

LATROBE FELLOWSHIP WORSHIP SINGALONG
Wednesday, November 4, at 6:30 p.m.

The Latrobe Fellowship is an active and engaged group of adults, primarily in their 20s and 30s. Join us next week for a night of music, fellowship, and fun. In addition to our typical Eucharist, dinner, and drinks (both alcoholic and non), we will have a worship music singalong! Please submit music requests at bit.ly/latrobe-songs-nov-2026. Music submissions can be hymns, anthems, or other pieces of worship music. If you are able to lead the piece, please let us know. For details or to connect with the group, contact Will Yale via the Ministry Directory tab on our website.

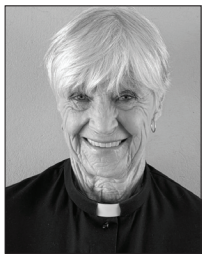
ST. JOHN'S BOOK GROUP
Thursday, November 5, at 7 p.m.



Join us to discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Set in Maine in 1789, midwife Martha Ballard sets out for justice as she steadfastly pursues the truth in a murder mystery. The book group typically meets the first Thursday of the month via Zoom. For information and the link, contact us via the directory at stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory.

COMING UP IN THE 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.



November 1: The Rev. Sharron Dinnie, founder and rector of Kwasa College, Springs, South Africa, will provide an update on the school's growth. Kwasa is a pre-primary and primary school serving children through grade 7 from the nearby informal settlement who are facing severe hardship, violence, and hunger. It has been a St. John's outreach partner for more than 20 years. Sharron will join us via video feed from South Africa.

November 8: Erika Gault, Ph.D., Director of the Center for the Study of African American Religious Life, and the Lilly Endowment Curator of African American Religious History at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, will present on the worship experience of African Americans in early U.S. history, especially in the National Capital Region.

DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY OF SERVICE
Saturday, November 14, 2–5 p.m.

Middle and high school youth (grades 6–12) are invited to the third annual "Be a Blessing: Youth Day of Service" sponsored by the diocese and held at at St. Alban's Episcopal Church (3001 Wisconsin Avenue, NW). The day opens with a brief prayer service, followed by a fair where youth can explore ministries from around the diocese, take part in hands-on service, and earn service learning hours for school. Register at bit.ly/youth-day-2026.

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. 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*
Lauren Goodyear, *Lay Minister for Children and Families*
Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*
Christopher Betts, *Associate Organist*

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