

# SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

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LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

## CHORAL EVENSONG

May 21, 2025

*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 third Wednesday of most months from September through May. To see a schedule of upcoming services and events, visit our website: [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—Jessica French (b. 1991)*

*Canticles in G by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)*

## VOLUNTARY

Two settings of *O Welt, ich muß dich lassen* Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

## INTROIT

I sat down under his shadow

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

I sat down under his shadow with great delight and his fruit was sweet to my taste.  
He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

—*Song of Solomon 2:3-4*

# HYMN 46

The duteous day now closeth

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE OPENING SENTENCES

*Please remain standing.*

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

—*Psalm 74:15, 16*

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

—*Psalm 16:7, 8*

THE PRECES AND RESPONSES

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

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

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

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

PSALM 119:73–96

Edward John Hopkins (1818–1901)

*Please be seated.*

Lord Mornington (1735–1781)

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me \*  
O give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.  
They that fear thee will be glad when they see me \*  
because I have put my trust in thy word.  
I know, O Lord, that thy judgements are right \*  
and that thou of very faithfulness hast caused me to be troubled.  
O let thy merciful kindness be my comfort \*  
according to thy word unto thy servant.  
O let thy loving mercies come unto me, that I may live \*  
for thy law is my delight.  
Let the proud be confounded, for they go wickedly about to destroy me \*  
but I will be occupied in thy commandments.  
Let such as fear thee, and have known thy testimonies \*  
be turned unto me.  
O let my heart be sound in thy statutes \*  
that I be not ashamed.  
My soul hath longed for thy salvation \*  
and I have a good hope because of thy word.  
Mine eyes long sore for thy word \*  
saying, O when wilt thou comfort me?

For I am become like a bottle in the smoke \*  
 yet do I not forget thy statutes.  
 How many are the days of thy servant \*  
 when wilt thou be avenged of them that persecute me?  
 The proud have digged pits for me \*  
 which are not after thy law.  
 All thy commandments are true \*  
 they persecute me falsely; O be thou my help.  
 They had almost made an end of me upon earth \*  
 but I forsook not thy commandments.  
 O quicken me after thy loving-kindness \*  
 and so shall I keep the testimonies of thy mouth.  
 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 Kevin Cordova-Brookey.*

Wisdom 13:1-9

For all people who were ignorant of God were foolish by nature; and they were unable from the good things that are seen to know the one who exists, nor did they recognize the artisan while paying heed to his works; but they supposed that either fire or wind or swift air, or the circle of the stars, or turbulent water, or the luminaries of heaven were the gods that rule the world. If through delight in the beauty of these things people assumed them to be gods, let them know how much better than these is their Lord, for the author of beauty created them. And if people were amazed at their power and working, let them perceive from them how much more powerful is the one who formed them. For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator. Yet these people are little to be blamed, for perhaps they go astray while seeking God and desiring to find him. For while they live among his works, they keep searching, and they trust in what they see, because the things that are seen are beautiful. Yet again, not even they are to be excused; for if they had the power to know so much that they could investigate the world, how did they fail to find sooner the Lord of these things?

*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 Jack Reiffer.*

Luke 8:16-25

“No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light. Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away.” Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.” But he said to them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.” One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, “Where is your faith?” They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE NUNC DIMITTIS

*Sung by the choir.*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
according to thy word,  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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

—*Luke 2:29-32*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Sung by all on a monotone, standing as you are able.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Choir* Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Sung by all on a monotone.*

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

## THE SUFFRAGES

*Officiant* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;  
*Choir* And grant us thy salvation.  
*Officiant* O Lord, save the State;  
*Choir* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.  
*Officiant* Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
*Choir* And make thy chosen people joyful.  
*Officiant* O Lord, save thy people;  
*Choir* And bless thine inheritance.  
*Officiant* Give peace in our time, O Lord;  
*Choir* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.  
*Officiant* O God, make clean our hearts within us;  
*Choir* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## THE COLLECTS

*Officiant* Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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.

## REMARKS

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

*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

I love all beauteous things

Judith Weir (b. 1954)

*Sung by the choir.*

I love all beauteous things,  
I seek and adore them;  
God hath no better praise,  
and man in his hasty days  
is honored for them.

I too will something make  
and joy in the making;  
altho' tomorrow it seem  
like the empty words of a dream  
remembered on waking.

—Robert Bridges (1844–1930)

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

*Said by all, standing as you are able.*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Officiant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,  
be with us all evermore.

*People* Amen.



# HYMN 383 *Sung by all.*

Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture, O thou of  
 2 Fair are the mea - dows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and all the

God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,  
 bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,  
 twink - ling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

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

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

**VOLUNTARY**

Andante in F

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

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

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## ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

St. John's Choir and Choristers

Dr. Karl Robson, *Guest Organist*

*Director of Music, St. John's Church, Langley Parish, McLean, Virginia*

Wendy J. Fibison, *Crucifer*

Bud Harrell, *Assistant Head Usher*

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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### FEDERAL WORKER SUPPORT GROUP

**Sunday, June 1, at noon**

Clergy and lay leaders will hold space for federal workers and others affected by recent changes to their work environment to offer support during this time of loss and uncertainty. We seek to provide fellowship and support while we engage the depth and strength of our faith, making sure no one goes through this alone. Participants may fix a plate at our June 1 parish lunch and then convene downstairs in the dining room. RSVP online at [bit.ly/june-1-lunch](https://bit.ly/june-1-lunch) to help us with numbers for planning purposes.

### PRIDE CONCERT AT ST. JOHN'S

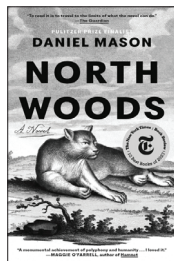
**Tuesday, May 27, at 7:30 p.m.**

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Capital Pride, our city is the host for this year's celebration of World Pride, with events scheduled from May 17 through June 8. Of special interest is the 16-day choral festival, which will include a concert at St. John's. Our church is a proud Partner in Harmony of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. We look forward to hosting one of their performances, a 90-minute free concert that will include two of GMCW's ensembles, Rock Creek Singers and Seasons of Love, as well as Major Minors, a youth chorus from Nashville. More can be found at [worldpridedc.org/events/choral-festival](https://worldpridedc.org/events/choral-festival).

### ST. JOHN'S BOOK GROUP

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

Please join us via Zoom to discuss *North Woods: A Novel* by Daniel Mason. A humble cabin in the New England woods becomes the home of an extraordinary succession of human and nonhuman characters alike over decades. The book group typically meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. For information and the link, please contact leader Janet Edmond via the online directory at [stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory](https://stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory).



### SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTS JUNE 15

On Sunday, June 15, we usher in our summer schedule—moving to two Sunday services (8 a.m. spoken, 10:30 a.m. with music) until after Labor Day. Nursery care will be available each Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to noon. We will continue to offer Children's Chapel at the later service throughout the summer, and validated parking will be available Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### GRACE'S TABLE

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

*Upcoming Dates: June 21 and July 19*

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.

### LATROBE YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

**Sunday, June 22, at 11:30 a.m.**

The Latrobe Fellowship is a vibrant group of young adults in their 20s and 30s. We will meet on Sunday, June 22, for brunch after the 10:30 a.m. service. Gather in the sanctuary around 11:30 a.m. to walk together to Immigrant Food (1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW), or meet us there. For more details, contact the Rev. Dcn. Eric Bailey via the About: Leadership tab of our website.

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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).**

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

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## 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**

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. Dcn. Eric Bailey, *Minister for Youth and*  
*Young Adults*

### **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*

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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)