

SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

CHORAL EVENSONG

Saint Michael and All Angels

September 30, 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—Käthe Wright Kaufman (b. 1993)
Canticles—St. Paul's Service—Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

VOLUNTARY

Psalm-Prelude, Op. 32, No. 2

Herbert Howells

But the meek-spirited shall possess the earth, and shall be refreshed in the multitude of peace.

—*Psalm 37:11*

INTROIT

Holy is the true light

William Henry Harris (1883–1973)

Holy is the true light, and passing wonderful,
lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict.
From Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour,
wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore.
Alleluia!

—*From the Salisbury Diurnal, translated by George Herbert Palmer (1842–1933)*

HYMN 367

Round the Lord in glory seated

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

1 Round the Lord in glo - ry seat - ed cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim
 2 Heaven is still with glo - ry ring - ing, earth takes up the an - gels' cry,
 3 "Lord, thy glo - ry fills the hea - ven, earth is with thy full - ness stored;
 filled his tem - ple, and re - peat - ed each to each the al - ter - nate hymn;
 "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," sing - ing, "Lord of hosts, the Lord Most High."
 un - to thee be glo - ry giv - en, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord."
 "Lord, thy glo - ry fills the hea - ven, earth is with thy full - ness stored;
 With his ser - aph train be - fore him, with his ho - ly Church be - low,
 Thus thy glo - rious Name con - fess - ing, with thine an - gel hosts we cry
 un - to thee be glo - ry giv - en, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord."
 thus u - nite we to a - dore him, bid we thus our an - them flow:
 "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," bless - ing thee, the Lord of hosts Most High.

Words: Richard Mant (1776-1848). Music: *Rustington*, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918).

THE OPENING SENTENCES

Please remain standing.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. —*Psalm 96:9*

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” —*John 8:12*

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 103

John Goss (1800–1880) and Gerald Finzi (1901–1956)

Please be seated.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, *

and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, *

and forget not all his benefits.

He forgives all your sins *

and heals all your infirmities;

He redeems your life from the grave *

and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

He satisfies you with good things, *

and your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.

The LORD executes righteousness *

and judgment for all who are oppressed.

He made his ways known to Moses *

and his works to the children of Israel.

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *

slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us, *

nor will he keep his anger for ever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *

nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, *

so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, *
 so far has he removed our sins from us.
 As a father cares for his children, *
 so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
 he remembers that we are but dust.
 Our days are like the grass; *
 we flourish like a flower of the field;
 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
 and its place shall know it no more.
 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who fear him, *
 and his righteousness on children's children;
 On those who keep his covenant *
 and remember his commandments and do them.
 The LORD has set his throne in heaven, *
 and his kingship has dominion over all.
 Bless the LORD, you angels of his,
 you mighty ones who do his bidding, *
 and hearken to the voice of his word.
 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, *
 you ministers of his who do his will.
 Bless the LORD, all you works of his,
 in all places of his dominion; *
 bless the LORD, O my soul.
 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.

Revelation 12:7-12

War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death. Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

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 Debby Hailey.

John 1:47-51

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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 Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals: Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

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.*



THE ANTHEM

And I saw another angel Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

Sung by the choir.

And I saw another angel, ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God;
and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, saying,
Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees,
till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.
And, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number,
of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues,
stood before the throne, and before the Lamb,
clothed with white robes, and palms were in their hands;
and cried with a loud voice, saying,
Salvation to our God, which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.
Amen. Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving,
and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

—Revelation 7:2, 3, 9, 10, 12

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 *Sung by all.*

How shall I sing that majesty

1. How shall I sing that ma - jes - ty which
 2. Thy bright - ness un - to them ap - pears; Whilst
 3. En - light - en with faith's light my heart, In -
 4. How great a be - ing, Lord, is thine, Which

an - gels do — ad - mire? Let dust in dust and
 I thy foot - steps trace, A sound of God comes
 flame it with — love's fire; Then shall I sing and
 doth all be - ings keep! Thy know - ledge is the

si - lence lie; Sing, sing, ye heav'n - ly choir.
 to my ears, But they be - hold — thy face.
 bear a part with that cel - lest - ial choir.
 on - ly line to sound so vast — a deep.

Thou - sands of thou - sands stand a - round Thy throne, O
 They sing be - cause thou art their sun; Lord, send a
 I shall, I fear be dark and cold, with all my
 Thou art a sea with - out a shore, A sun with -

God most high; — Ten thou - sand times ten
 beam on me; — For where heav'n is but
 fire and light; — Yet when thou dost ac -
 out a sphere; — Thy time is now and

thou - sand sound Thy praise; but who — am I?
 once — be - gun, There al - le - lu - ias be.
 cept — their gold, Lord trea - sure up — my mite.
 ev - er more, Thy place is ev' - ry - where.

Words: John Mason (1646–1694)

Music: *Coe Fen*, Ken N. Naylor (1931–1991)

VOLUNTARY

Slow Air in G, No. 2

Herbert Howells
 arr. Robin Wells (b. 1943)

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, *Rector*

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Dr. Karl Robson, *Guest Organist, St. John's Church, Langley Parish, Virginia*

St. John's Choir

Wendy J. Fibison, *Crucifer*

Kevin Cordova-Brookey and Helena Upshaw, *Acolytes*

Anthony Pegues, *Assistant Head Usher*

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.

NEWS AND EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 4, during the 9 a.m. service

Humans of all ages and pets of all varieties are welcome! During the 9 a.m. service on Sunday, October 4, leashed or crated pets are invited into the sanctuary for worship that will last less than an hour. Stuffed animals and pictures or other tokens of your beloved animal friends are also welcome to be blessed. The Blessing of the Animals is typically held in early October, on or near the appointed day for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment.

WOMEN'S TEA | Sunday, October 4, at noon

Women of all ages are warmly invited to join the Sisters at St. John's for tea (hot and cold) served with small sandwiches and desserts. The Sisters gather throughout the year for social and giving activities, in addition to offering an annual retreat and supporting one another in times of need. Come meet our members and learn about this group!

LATROBE FELLOWSHIP OKTOBERFEST

Wednesday, October 7, at 6:30 p.m.

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 in October for a festive fall celebration with seasonal activities, food, and beverages (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic). For more details or to connect with the group, contact Will Yale via the Ministry Directory tab on our website.

THE 2026 FALL ADULT INQUIRERS' CLASS

Saturdays, October 10 & 17, 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 10 and 17, 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.

ALL SOULS' DAY REQUIEM EUCHARIST

Sunday, November 1, at 5:30 p.m.

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.

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.



October 4: The Rt. Rev. Eugene T. Sutton, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Washington, will talk about how the Diocese of Maryland dealt with racial reconciliation and reparations for slavery.



October 11: Jonathan Rauch, a Brookings Institution Senior Fellow and acclaimed author, will discuss his most recent book, *Cross Purposes: Christianity's Broken Bargain with Democracy*.



October 25: Dan Rauch, Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist, DC Department of Energy and Environment, will discuss local wildlife and how to help area birds.

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

WELCOME!

At St. John's Church, we believe Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

St. John's was organized in 1815 to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

If you are visiting, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

St. John's website (www.stjohns-dc.org) has up-to-date information about the church including the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, and newsworthy events.

Vestry Leadership & Members

Alfred Thesmar, *Senior Warden*

Julia Koster, *Junior Warden*

Kate Benner, Brian Cordova-Brookey,

Kaye Edwards, Elizabeth Field,

Debby Hailey, Fruzsina Harsanyi,

Apiyo Oloya, Jack Reiffer, Brian Schoeneman,

Matthew Taylor, Trey Whitworth, and Jess Unger,

Members

Anya Kleymenova, *Treasurer*

Jane Reichard, *Assistant Treasurer*

Will Priest, *Secretary*

Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher—James H. Czerwonky

Head Greeters—Eleanor and Peter Odom

Heads of Flower Guild

Pat Dalby and Katherine Kyle

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

The Rev. 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