



THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 2020 · 9:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square.

PRELUDE: *Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness*

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

RECTOR'S WELCOME

HYMN 541

Come, labor on

Sung by all. Please stand as the procession enters.



1	Come, la - bor on.	Who dares stand i - dle
2	Come, la - bor on.	The en - e - my is
3	Come, la - bor on.	A - way with gloom - y
4	Come, la - bor on.	Claim the high call - ing
5	Come, la - bor on.	No time for rest, till



1	on the har - vest plain,	while all a - round us
2	watch - ing night and day,	to sow the tares, to
3	doubts and faith - less fear!	No arm so weak but
4	an - gels can - not share—	to young and old the
5	glows the west - ern sky,	till the long sha - dows



1	waves the gold - en grain?	And to each ser - vant
2	snatch the seed a - way;	while we in sleep our
3	may do ser - vice here:	by feeb - lest a - gents
4	Gos - pel glad - ness bear:	re - deem the time; its
5	o'er our path - way lie,	and a glad sound comes



1	does the Mas - ter say, "Go	work to - day."
2	du - ty have for - got, he	slum - bered not.
3	may our God ful - fill his	right - eous will.
4	hours too swift - ly fly. The	night draws nigh.
5	with the set - ting sun, _____	"Ser - vants, well done."

Words: Jane Laurie Borthwick (1813-1897), alt.
 Music: *Ora Labora*, Thomas Tertius Noble (1867-1953)
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The Reverend Robert W. Fisher
Rector

The Reverend Savannah Ponder
Associate Rector

The Reverend William Morris
*Assisting Priest for Engaging
Faith and the Workplace*

Kaye Edwards
*Assistant for
Church Growth*

Brent Erstad
Director of Music

Samantha Scheff
Assistant Organist

THE WORD OF GOD

Please continue to stand.

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

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

Priest: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE READING

Please be seated.

Read by Nkem Onwuamaegbu.

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16

Read by Powell Hutton.

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us,
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,
and the wonderful works he has done.

- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers,
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through;
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day,
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff,
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

Please be seated.

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

Preacher and People:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
(adapted from prayers written by Brian McLaren.)

Led by Betsy Danello.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the living God for all the gifts that we enjoy, saying, “We thank you, living God.”

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

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

Leader: For the communities of St. John’s and our companion relationships with the *Anglican Church of Southern Africa** and *the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem*. For *Michael*, our Presiding Bishop, for our Bishops, *Mariann* and *Chilton*. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for the *Church of the Holy Communion, Washington*, and for all people whose lives reveal the image of Christ:

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

Leader: For *Donald*, our President, the leaders of *Congress*, the *Supreme Court*, and for all who serve our country, that they may work for justice, freedom, and peace:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leader: For challenges which call forth new strength, for failures which teach greater humility, and for encouragement to persevere when life is hard:

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

Leader: For those in special need today, especially *Max Hudgins* who is in hospice care; and those who are sick and who are shut-ins. For the people of the *Middle East, Latin America, and all affected by the coronavirus*; for *those affected by the fires in California, Oregon, and Washington*; for *those affected by Hurricane Sally*; and for your care for all those in need:

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

* In particular, the Kwasa Centre in the Diocese of the Highveld.

Leader: For those celebrating a birthday this week, especially *Will Ackerly, Kathryn Baker, Susan Carlson, Nicole Crochet, Clayton Depue, Juliet Faris, Juliet Folger, Deborah Fuller, Peter Hailey, Chuck Hagel, Budd Hallberg, Dolph Hatfield, Diane Hauslein, Lydia Hornbaker, Larry Lecompte, Clayton Lewis, Aurie Lucio, Jett Lyerly, Nancy Martin, Nicolette Neufeld, Rachel Oster, Gay Pasley, Thomas Wade, Barbara Wall, Susan Welch, Gail West, Alexander Williams, and Karen Williams*; for those celebrating an anniversary this week, especially *Diana Brown Clark and Kirk Clark, Liz and Christian Davis, Leila Taaffe and Arthur Kellermann, Andrée and Joseph Leonelli, Nicole and Michael Neufeld, Laurel and Andrew Tierney, and Alyssa and Andrew Tomlinson.*

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: For our country and all who serve on behalf of our civic life:

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: For those who have died, including *the more than 200,000 people in this country who have died due to our current pandemic*, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom:

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: For all who have gone before us, for all who walk beside us, and for all children, who are precious to us and to you:

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: And for the great wisdom and hope that you reveal to us through Jesus, our leader, example, teacher, liberator, and friend:

People: We thank you, living God.

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Priest and People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

God who set the spheres in motion

William Bradley Roberts
(b. 1947)

"Commissioned in 2016 for the 200th anniversary of St. John's, Lafayette Square"

Charlotte Stewart, mezzo-soprano

God, who set the spheres in motion,
Times, and seasons, dusk and dawn,
Ebb and tide of stream and ocean,
Turn and dance of star and sun,
All the turning of creation
Pulses from your heart sublime;
Everything, it has its season,
Every purpose has its time.

Thus when days and lives are paling,
Death draws near us to embrace,
May our peaceful hearts unfailing
Trust in your unchanging grace.
As the winter turns at solstice,
As the night turns toward the day,
All your blessed seasons show us:
Life is changed, not swept away.

God you bless us with companions,
Sisters, brothers, in this place;
We have sung them to your mansions
Where they dwell in your embrace.
Life in Christ leaves holy pathways;
Saintly signs lead us to see
As their blessed lives bear witness:
All streams run into the sea.

Thus through all the times and seasons
To your name we lift our praise;
Even at the grave we sing it:
Alleluia, all our days.
Alleluia, for the newness
Hidden under twilight's gray;
Alleluia, for the promise:
Life is changed, not swept away.

A PRAYER FOR STEWARDSHIP

Priest and People:

Gracious and everlasting God, the giver of all good gifts, you have blessed us and our parish abundantly. Grant us the hope to dream and the courage to live into our possibilities. Make us faithful stewards, both for the provision of our necessities and for the relief of those who are in need. Bless the efforts of our Annual Giving this year to extend the work of spiritual renewal in our church and community of faith. Through Jesus Christ, who gave all of himself, we offer this prayer. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Priest and People:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Please stand or kneel.

Priest: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Priest and People:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Priest: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Priest and People:

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All persons, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. During this time, our practice will be to offer the bread and the wine following health guidelines. An usher will provide communicants with hand sanitizer before the priest (who has washed his or her hands immediately prior) places a blessed wafer into your hands. Take a few steps, remove your mask, and consume the wafer. Blessed wine in small paper cups on a tray will be offered by a lay server.

After drinking the wine, place the cup in the basket at the end of the line.

Receiving the bread only is a valid way to share in Holy Communion. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. Children may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

Hymn 574
Sung by all.

Before thy throne, O God, we kneel

1 Be - fore thy throne, O God, we kneel: give us a con - science
 2 Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to
 3 For sins of heed - less word and deed, for pride am - bi - tious
 4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try, our in - most spi - rits

quick to feel, a rea - dy mind to un - der - stand the
 all their due. From love of plea - sure, lust of gold, from
 to suc - ceed, for craft - y trade and sub - tle snare to
 pu - ri - fy: con - sume the ill; purge out the shame; O

mean - ing of thy chas - tening hand; what - e'er the pain and
 sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us
 catch the sim - ple un - a - ware, for lives be - reft of
 God, be with us in the flame; a new - born peo - ple

shame may be, bring us, O Fa - ther, near - er thee.
 with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.
 pur - pose high, for - give, for - give, O Lord, we cry.
 may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

Words: William Boyd Carpenter (1841-1918), alt.
 Music: St. Petersburg, Dimitri S. Bortniansky (1751-1825)
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THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand.

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest and People:

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Priest: Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Tocatta in G, BuxWV 164*

Dieterich Buxtehude
(1639-1707)

ASSISTING AT THE 9:00 A.M. SERVICE TODAY: Brandon Montgomery, *Crucifer*; and James Doyle, Lay Server.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH are given to the glory of God.



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.

BROCHURES DESCRIBING PARISH LIFE, the history of St. John's, and the Episcopal denomination can be found in the church entrance. 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 weekly calendar, the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, the music calendar and newsworthy events.

Vestry

Paul Barkett, *Senior Warden*
Jeff Hantson, *Junior Warden*
Laurie Adams, Andrew Clarke,
Carolyn Crouch, Lauren Edwards,
Martha Ellison, Peter Odom, Anthony
Pegues, Scott Raab, Nora Rigby,
Jessica Sanchez, Desirée Stolar,
and Carl Ward.
Casey Evans, *Treasurer*
Sara McGanity, *Assistant Treasurer*
Andrew Tomlinson, *Secretary*
Christopher R. Wall, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher

James H. Czerwonky

Staff

Kim Carlson
Director for Operations
Evangeline Gravina
Operations Assistant
Preston Cherouny
Financial Secretary
Sharlyne Griffin
Receptionist
R. J. Gravina
Program Coordinator
Javier Obregon, *Sexton*
GeeGee Bryant and David Gamboa,
Assistant Sextons

Parish House

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