



St. John's Episcopal Church

1623 Carmel Road * Charlotte, NC 28226

StJE.org * 704-366-3034

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

(Proper 13 C)

8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

August 10, A.D. 2025

Welcome to worship! We pray that our time of worship will express praise and thanks to God for the gift of Christ, and help you live a more faithful and abundant life.

If you are a visitor, please know that we are delighted that you are here. We know that following the beautiful and ancient worship of the Episcopal Church is not always easy for those unfamiliar with the Anglican tradition. Please do not feel obligated to do anything but to enjoy the service reverently and expectantly.

We invite newcomers to fill out a visitor's card, found in the pew rack, and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of our ushers or clergy.

If you have young children, please know they are more than welcome at St. John's. Changing stations are available in the bathrooms. A nursery for children ages 3 and younger is now closed, but will be available every Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., beginning September 7.

Hearing assistance devices are also located at the rear exit of the church. Please see an usher if you need assistance. Audio-induction hearing loops are available for use with hearing aids.

Please be advised that the 10:15 Sunday Service is live-streamed to St. John's web site, Facebook and YouTube accounts.

8:00 & 10:15 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

Organ Voluntary
Hymn 401

Jesu, joy of man's desiring
The God of Abraham praise

J. S. Bach
Leoni

Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Book of Common Prayer, Page 355

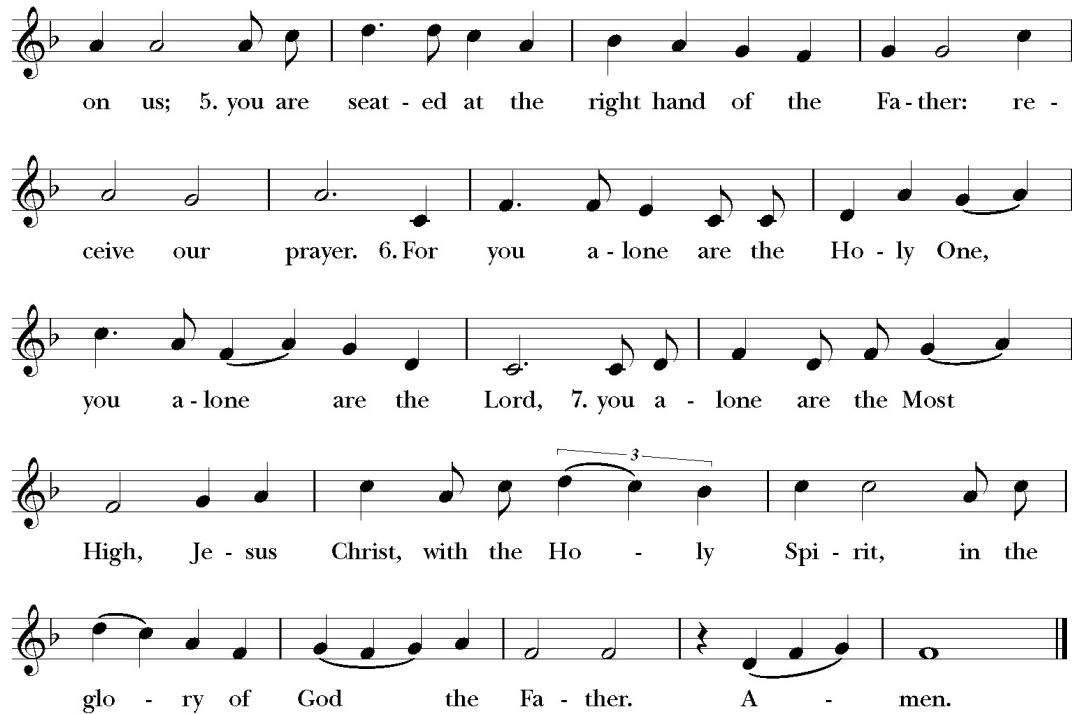
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant 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. **Amen.**

Gloria in excelsis Robert J. Powell, +2025, Hymnal S-280 (spoken at 8:00) Page 356

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy



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The Collect of the Day

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Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 15:1-6

NRSV

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

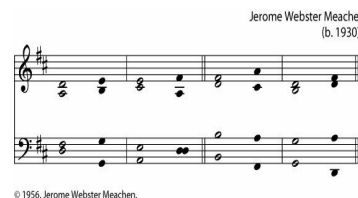
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual: Psalm 33:12-22 *Exultate, justi* (spoken at 8:00)

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- 12 Happy is the nation whose God is the /LORD! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his /own!
13 The LORD looks down from /heaven, *
and beholds all the people in the /world.
14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his /gaze *
on all who dwell on the /earth.
15 He fashions all the /hearts of them *
and understands all their /works.
16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty /army; *
a strong man is not delivered by his great /strength.
17 The horse is a vain hope for de/liverance; *
for all its strength it cannot /save.
18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who /fear him, *
on those who wait upon his /love,
19 To pluck their lives from /death, *
and to feed them in time of /famine.
20 Our soul waits for the /LORD; *
he is our help and our /shield.
21 Indeed, our heart re/joices in him, *
for in his holy Name we put our /trust.
+22 Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be up/on us, *
as we have put our /trust in you.



+Second half of double chant

New Testament Lesson: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

NRSV

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. . . .

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

(8:00) Gospel Alleluia 
Sung by all

(10:15) Hymn 635 *If thou but trust in God to guide thee* Wer nur den lieben Gott

The Holy Gospel: Luke 12:32-40 NRSV

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Brad Smith

The Nicene Creed

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We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People: Form VI

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In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; and Sam and Jennifer, our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence may be kept. The people kneel.*

Have mercy upon us, **most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may**

live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect. . . . Amen.

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

(All gathered may greet one another in the Name of the Lord.)

Birthday/Anniversary Prayer—**O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as *they* celebrate(s) another year. Grant that *they* may continue to grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

At the announcements

(10:15) Commissioning of Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV) - Elizabeth Ashe, Melissa Conway, Reid Joyner, Becky Maness, Sindy McCrystal, Nancy Nye, John Rodgers, Pat Rodgers, Ginny Runge, David Tipple, Debbie Woodhull

Deacon Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these persons in the Name of God and of this congregation to a special ministry to which they are called.

Deacon addresses the candidates

Deacon Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Candidates I renounce them.

Deacon Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Candidates I renounce them.

Deacon Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Candidates I renounce them.

Deacon Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Candidates I do.

Deacon Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Candidates I do.

Deacon Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Candidates I do.

Deacon Having been duly trained at St. John's Episcopal Church and licensed by the Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina to perform the duties and

responsibilities of the office of Lay Eucharistic Visitor, will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Candidates I will.

Deacon Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Candidates I will.

Deacon addresses the congregation

Deacon Will you who witness these promises do all in your power to support these persons in their performance of this special ministry in the life of our parish?

Congregation **We will.**

All **There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone.**

Deacon Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Congregation **Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

Deacon addresses each Candidate

Deacon In the name of God and of this congregation, I commission you, *N.N.*, as Lay Eucharistic Visitor in this parish.

Deacon In the name of this congregation I commend you to this work, and pledge you our prayers, support and encouragement.

Let us pray. Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who have reaffirmed their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(10:15) Children's Sermon

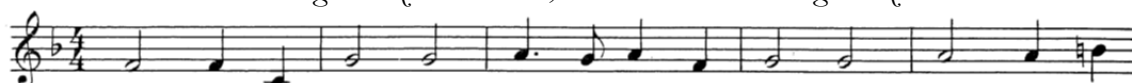
The Holy Communion

(10:15) Offertory Anthem

The Tree of Life

K. Lee Scott

The choir sings stanzas 1-4 alone, then all stand and sing stanzas 5-6.



1. There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom, whose leaves hold
 2. Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!" There on its
 3. Thorns not his own are tan - gled in its fo - liage; our greed has
 Choir 4. See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come; hear what the
 All 5. This is my end - ing, this my res - ur - rec - tion; in - to your
 All 6. All heav'n is sing - ing, "Thanks to Christ whose Pas - sion of - fers in



forth the heal - ing of the na - tions: Tree of all know - ledge,
 branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring; see where the ten - drills
 starved it, our de - spite has choked it. Yet, look! it lives! its
 Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry! Give me your sick - ness,
 hands, Lord, I com - mit my spir - it. This have I searched for;
 mer - cy heal - ing, strength and par - don. Peo - ples and na - tions.



Tree of all com - pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 of our hu - man self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 grief has not de - stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 give me all your sor - row, I will give bless - ing."
 now I can pos - sess it. This ground is ho - ly.
 take it, take it free - ly!" A - men! My Mas - ter!

Text by Király Imre von Pécselyi, translated by Erik Routley. Translation Copyright ©1976 by Hinshaw Press.

Music setting Copyright ©1987 MorningStar Publishers. Used by permission.

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer A

The people stand.

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Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

S-125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx, +2010.

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The people stand or kneel.

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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

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. **AMEN.**

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

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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

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Fraction anthem: The disciples knew the Lord Jesus (Mode 6, Hymnal S-167)

Antiphon
Cantor; then All




The dis-ci-ples knew the Lord Je-sus in the break-ing of the bread.

Cantor




1. The bread which we break, al-le-lu-ia,




is the com-mun-ion of the bo-dy of Christ. [Ant.]

Cantor



2. One bo-dy are we, al-le-lu-ia,



for though man-y we share one bread. [Ant.]

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Invitation to Communion

All baptized Christians, including children, are invited to receive Communion. Please stand or kneel to receive Communion. The bread will be placed on your palm. Then you may depart or wait to receive the cup, grasping the base to guide it to your lips. If you want the minister to dip the wafer in the wine, please keep the bread in your hand, and s/he will dip the wafer and place it between your fingers or on your tongue. Those who do not wish to receive Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. If you would like to receive gluten free bread, please tell the priest. If you need Communion brought to your seat, please tell an usher.

(10:15) Communion Hymns

Hymn 314	<i>Humbly I adore thee, verity unseen</i>	Adoro devote
Hymn 564	<i>He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster</i>	St. Dunstan's
LEVAS 189	<i>Great is thy faithfulness</i>	Faithfulness
Hymn 711	<i>Seek ye first the kingdom of God</i>	Seek ye first

Postcommunion Prayer

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Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant may bless the people.

Hymn 68

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

Llangloffan

The Dismissal: **Thanks be to God.**

*The flowers at the Altar are given to the Glory of God
in loving memory of **Graham Mason** by his wife **Susan** and his family on his birthday.*

Looking ahead to the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 15 C), August 17
Jeremiah 23:23-29, Psalm 82, Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56

PARISH LIFE at St. John's

News and Announcements

Priceless!

Biscuits (8:45) & Bell Chats (9:15 a.m.) today. Grab a breakfast biscuit and stay for a discussion of "Stuff you forgot from Sunday School." We'll break down the Bible—the Book we call 'Scripture,' getting re-acquainted with the story of God's people with Matt Williams and Rachel Micheals. Everyone is welcome!

The Way Forward advocates for the people of St. John's to explore and live into their Baptismal Covenant. They meet at the home of Annie Dickinson, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 20. **You're invited** to join The Way forward for the Charlotte Pride Parade, next Sunday, August 17. Contact Erin Richardson or Jackie John for details.

Be the Difference- Be a Youth Advisor! Do you have a heart for teenagers? A love for Jesus? A sense of humor (or at least a tolerance for pizza and chaotic games)? **We're looking for youth advisors** who want to walk alongside our students as they grow in faith and discover what it means to follow Jesus in real life. You don't have to be perfect—just present. Join us for EYC Sunday nights 6:00-7:30 September-May! If you're interested in serving during our 2025-2026 year, e-mail Rachel Micheals!

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) - Two important dates to know! September 21- EYC Fall Kickoff! September 26-28 - EYC Fall Retreat to Awanita!

Summer Choir continues! Every Sunday through Labor Day singers ages 8-88+ are invited to sing in the summer choir. Rehearsal begins at 9:30 a.m. to prepare hymns and an easy anthem for the 10:15 a.m. service. There's no weekday rehearsal or long-term commitment. Come join us!

Donor needed for Sunday Altar flowers: October 5 is available. Register at tinyurl.com/ydyjpunt and give the dedication. Contact Charlotte Pfeifer with any questions.

Hagar's Basket served 293 families July 19. Please help by giving \$money\$ or donating personal hygiene items or cleaning products. Collection bins are near the door with the blue awning. Stocking day is Thursday, August 14; distribution day is Saturday, August 16. Contact Erin Richardson to volunteer.

Lost and Found is located across from the reception desk downstairs.

Operation Sandwich – to host an event contact Karen Linz.

Choirs resume rehearsals – St. Nicholas Training Choir, (ages 4-8) Wednesdays, 4:30-5:00 p.m., beginning September 3. Treble Youth RSCM Choir, Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m., treble voices grades 3-12, beginning September 3. St. John's Choir, SATB teens and adults, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Thursdays, beginning August 28, preparing for a Kanuga choir retreat and the Mozart *Missa Brevis in D* for All Saints in November. New members are always welcome!

Lectio Divina Bible study meets via Zoom each Thursday, 9:00-10:00 a.m. The Zoom link is in the weekly announcements.

Roof Above – St John's provides a meal at Roof Above each quarter. To learn more contact Tim Comin.

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. For more information, or to request a Stephen Minister, contact Deacon Wendy Merrill.

Let Us Pray - The Intercessory Prayer Team would love to pray for you! Fill out a prayer card from the church pews or e-mail the church office.



Feast & Family Fun Day

Sunday, August 24, 11:15am

Low Country Boil

Front Lawn Feast and Family Fun Day Sunday, August 24

Join us for a festive Low Country Boil hosted by the Fellowship Committee as we celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year!

We'll gather on the front lawn after the 10:15 a.m. service for an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship including:

- Low Country Boil Feast
- Hot Dogs for children
- Water Slide (bring your own swimwear and towel)
- Petting Zoo

We ask each household to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Sign-up sheets will be available in the breezeway and on line at tinyurl.com/mr2b65xu

How to Receive Communion

To receive the bread alone.



To drink from the chalice, please help guide it to your lips.



To receive a blessing only (no bread or wine) or to decline the chalice.



For Intinction

Please leave the bread in your hands. The chalice bearer will take it from you dip it in the wine, and return it to you. Do not attempt to dip the bread in the chalice yourself.



To receive gluten free bread, just ask the priest.



Clerics

The Rev. Peter M. Floyd, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Brad Smith, Senior Associate Rector
The Rev. Wendy Merrill, Deacon

Musicians

Mr. Alan C. Reed, Organist and Choirmaster
Ms. Angela Swicegood, Assisting Organist
Ms. Tracy Reed, Assistant for Children's Choirs
Mr. Greg McAbee, Master of the Choirs of Bell and Chime
Mr. Jamey Graves, Parish Administrator & Music Associate

If you would like to contribute digitally to the general offering, just scan the QR code below with your smart phone.



You may also pay from our web site or mail a check to the church office.

Vestry

Fred Alexander (Sr. Warden), Brian Emigh, Mary Jane Gommel, Bill Grant (Treasurer), Kathleen Harrington, Grant Hawgood, John Horn (Jr. Warden), Suzy Johnson (Clerk), Greg McAbee (Endowment), Steve Nason, John Newton, Cindy Winslow (Pre-school board)



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