

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY EUCHARIST: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP



SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH
9:00 A.M.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Throughout the summer, we will gather as one for worship each week at 9:00 A.M. We are using Enriching our Worship, commissioned by the Standing Committee for Liturgy, for our Sunday worship service.

Enriching our Worship, or EOW, is part of an ongoing process of listening to what the Spirit is saying to the Church through the diverse experience of those who gather to worship and to celebrate the sacramental rites which fashion and identify us as the People of God. Our musical selections come from one of three resources: The 1982 Hymnal, Lift Every Voice and Sing, and Wonder, Love, and Praise. We pray you experience the love of God through our worship and fellowship.

TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after the service in the courtyard. A nursery is available every Sunday for our littlest members next to the Parish Hall. Thank you for being here!

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

from the Second Organ Symphony

Prelude

Charles M. Widor
arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz

Less overtly polyphonic than the First, the Second emphasises tone-colour: ‘Widor,’ says Near (1991), ‘seems to be taking the listener on a timbral tour of the organ’, with each movement featuring ‘fresh combinations’ of sound. The 1901 re-labelling of the 3/4 first movement—from *Prélude* to *Præludium circulare*—would appear to have been a gesture drawing attention to the *petit labyrinthe harmonique* trajectory of the music: mirroring a tradition from the early sixteenth century onwards, including Beethoven and Chopin in the generations preceding Widor, it begins and ends in the tonic but en route orbits chromatically through the keys.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Sing praise to God

HYMN 408

OPENING ACCLAMATION (*please rise in body or spirit*)

Officiant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People *Glory to God for ever and ever.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

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

Glory to God

S-280

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Exodus 1:8-2:10 (*please be seated*)

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 124

- 1 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

THE EPISTLE: Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

Come thou fount

HYMN 686

Verse 1 & 2 before the Gospel reading; verse 3 after the Gospel reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20 (*please rise in body or spirit*)

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

SERMON

THE REV. AMANDA KNOUSE

THE NICENE CREED (*please rise in body or spirit*)

BCP 358

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. (*pause*)
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.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. In the Diocesan and Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for St. James Episcopal Church, Bedford; and Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui. God of love and mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for Joe, our president; Josh, our Governor; Danene, our mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces. God of love and mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. God of love and mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, especially our friends at home; we pray for Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Peter Plaxa, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove, Carole Humphrey, Tiny Nolan, Darlene Bentley, Peggy Zuke, and Paula Wolf. Grant that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as he loves us. God of love and mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially Claire Phillips & Michael Stank, Debbie Carter, Pat Pankey, Jeannie Zeller, Kate, Nancy Strasburg, Justin & Lisa, Ella & Colleen, Matt Patterson, Michael Yoder, Carmen, Mike Patrone, Maggie Selviz, Angie Stamm, Kathy Novosel, Kent Strickler, and Maria Sauder; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. God of love and mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. God of love and mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Officiant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your
will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the
grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of
the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People *And also with you.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

Safe in the Arms of Jesus

Van Denman Thompson

This hymn is one of many songs where Fanny Crosby and William Howard Doanne collaborated together. Fanny would write, and William would compose. After one of her main collaborators, William Bradbury, died in 1868, she met William Howard Doanne, a wealthy, businessman, inventor, and Christian. Doanne knew about Fanny's prolific hymn writing and traveled from his home in Cincinnati to her home in New York City

where they met for the first time. Theirs became a long and productive friendship; she a lyricist, and he a composer. There was such respect and professionalism between them that he referred to her as “Mrs. Crosby“ and she to him as “Mr. Doanne.”

PRESENTATION HYMN *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven* **HYMN 410 vs. 1**
(Please rise in body or spirit)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Enriching our Worship: Prayer 1

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 God thanks and praise.*

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

THE SANCTUS *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,* **S-125**
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.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out 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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with St. John and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 365

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION

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.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. The wine is administered in two chalices: the common cup for drinking and the intinction cup for dipping your wafer into the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest when the wine passes. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are also available.

COMMUNION HYMNS

*We gather together
Amazing grace! how sweet the sound*

HYMN 433
HYMN 671

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People *We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

HYMN 616

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

POSTLUDE

Festival Finale

Chester Nordman

St. John's Traveler Letter

Did you know St. John's has a team of pilgrims who travel every week to the very places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares a little bit about the church and the places he visits:

Dear Pastor Amanda,

It's been over a year since my last visit to Hong Kong, and wow have things changed! When I last visited in early 2022, I had to quarantine for five days before worshipping because of COVID. It made me reflect on the challenges and struggles we all went through during the pandemic. In some ways it brought us together – remember all those Zoom calls in March 2020? – but in other ways it pushed us farther apart. Schools were shut down, we couldn't see our friends, our travel plans got cancelled, and millions of people (maybe even you) got sick.

I spent some time at a Buddhist temple called Chi Lin to pray and reflect about it. It's a gorgeous building surrounded by flowers and small bridges over a little creek – an oasis amongst the skyscrapers that dominate Hong Kong. Most people here are either nonreligious or Buddhist, but the temple is open to anyone looking for some quiet amidst the hustle and bustle of city life.

Inside the temple I met a 12-year-old girl who had looked like she was crying. It turns out she spoke English, as well as Cantonese, the language spoken by most Hong Kongers. Like so many people, she lost a family member – her grandmother – to COVID. She told me how her parents checked her out of the hospital to recover at their house, only to discover that she didn't get better.

She was almost about to cry again before I noticed her pause, as if remembering something. Then her eyes brightened a bit. "It was awful to see my Po Po like that," she said. "But during those last few days, I was able to sit and just be with her. I was able to say goodbye, knowing that she would still be with me even after she died. And for that I am grateful."

Believe me, Amanda, when I say it turned out to be me the one crying in that temple! We've all been through so much loss over the past few years but it is my hope and prayer that we all carry the spirit of that little girl with us as we give thanks for who and what we have around us. Hong Kong has been a source of such hope for me, and it is my wish that you all feel that hope as well, even halfway around the world.

All my blessings,
John

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN'S:

**PLEASE CHECK THE MESSENGER
FOR INFORMATION ON EVENTS
HAPPENING THIS MONTH!**

TODAY

9:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:15AM Fellowship Hour
10:30 AM Sunday School Teacher/ Youth Leader Meeting

MONDAY, AUGUST 28

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

1:30 PM Martha's Ministry
2:30 PM Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

12:00 PM Healing Service

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

9:00 AM Ministers' Meeting
2:30 PM Food Pantry

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Rector's Day Off

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

9:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:15 AM Fellowship Hour

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Labor Day – Office closed

WEEKLY SUPPORT MINISTRIES

AA: Tues. at 6:00 PM, Sat. at 6:30 PM
NA: Mon., Weds. & Fri. at 12:00 PM
NA: Thursdays & Saturdays at 6:30 PM

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Thank you for your financial and food donations for the Food Pantry. We also need volunteers to help with picking up and putting away our new bulk food purchases once a month coordinated by Paul and Liz West. Food donations of canned tuna, canned chicken, cereal, peanut butter, pasta sauce and spaghetti are especially needed right now.

You may place your gifts in the collection basket at the rear of the sanctuary or in one of the red carts located in the Parish Hall or in the lower-level lobby by the elevator.

GLASS FLOWER VASES NEEDED

In an attempt to connect more intentionally with our home-bound friends, we are looking to send our altar flowers after each week's service to those who cannot join us in person. Please consider donating one or more glass flower vases to aid in this endeavor! Vases can be placed on the counter of the Parish Hall Kitchen; any questions can be directed to Anne Labat-Gepert at 269.217.8864—please leave her a message!

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Jen Trenary, Assistant Rector
jen@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Stacey Catigano, Deacon
scatigano@gmail.com

VESTRY

Mary Waskowicz (Senior Warden), Leslie Morgan (Junior Warden),
Nick DiPace, Andy Welaish, John Modene
Liz West, Ted Loose, Kathy Kyper

STAFF

Douglas Beach, Minister of Music & Communications
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper
John Knouse, Property Manager
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Ellia Osofsky, Nursery Care

PRIESTS AND CANONS ASSOCIATED WITH ST. JOHN'S

The Rev. Matt MacDougall
Canon William F. Honaman, DHL
The Rev. Faith D'Urbano
The Rev. Elizabeth Mollard

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE
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