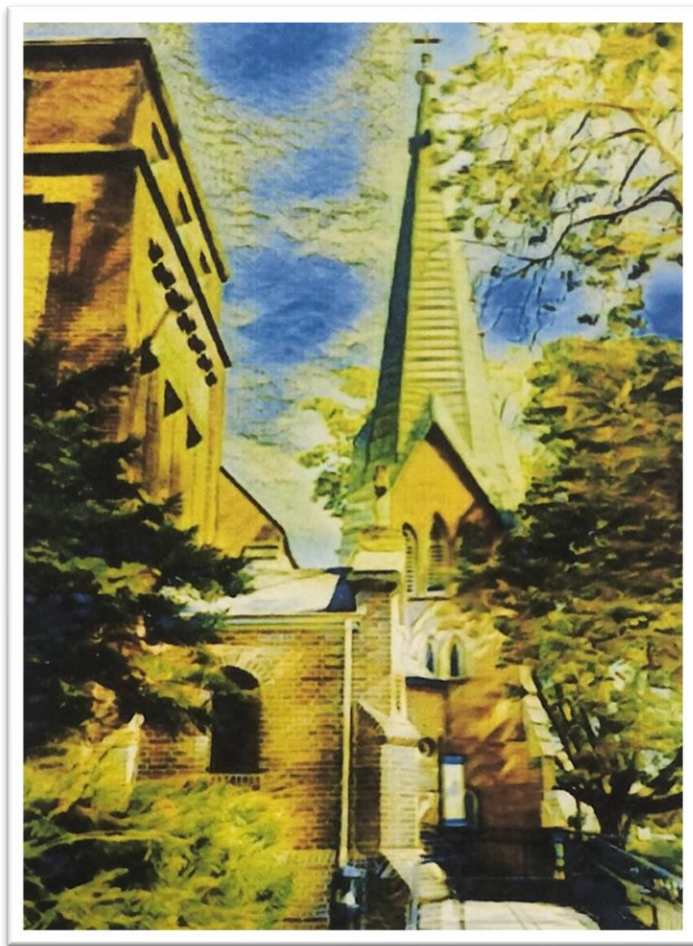


**THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOMECOMING SUNDAY**



**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
SEPTEMBER 10TH AT 10:15 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

Our Rite II service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING

We are so glad you are here! If you have any questions about our service, ushers are stationed at the back of the church and would be happy to help. Our restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. For any of our families wishing to utilize our nursery, Ellia, our nursery attendant, would be glad to assist you. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after the service in the Parish Hall. Please join us!

ST. JOHN'S MINISTRIES SURVEY

Please fill this out if you have an interest in learning more about the various ways that you can participate in ministry at St. John's. For a brief description of all the areas of ministry, feel free to access the 2023 Ministries Catalog by using the QR code included here. When using this document, there are many links to our parish website, local organizations, and national organizations. In the survey, each category of ministry links to that section of the 2023 Ministries Catalog.



THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* James Mansfield
Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

*O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife, And lead us out of death to life.*

OPENING HYMN *Rejoice, the Lord is King* **HYMN 481**

OPENING ACCLAMATION (*please remain standing as you are able*) **BCP 355**

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

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 **HYMNAL S-278**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Exodus 12:1-14 (*please be seated*)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 149

- 1 Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
- 2 Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
- 3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

- 4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his people *
and adorns the poor with victory.
- 5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.
- 6 Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand;
- 7 To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;
- 8 To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;
- 9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE: Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

GRADUAL HYMN

Tell out, my soul

HYMN 437

Verses 1-3 before the Gospel Reading; Verse 4 after the Gospel Reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20 (*please remain standing as you are able*)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

People The Gospel of the Lord.
 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: FORM II (*please kneel as you are able*)

BCP 385

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; in the Diocesan and Anglican Cycle of prayer, we pray for St. James Episcopal Church, Exchange and St. John in the Wilderness, Eagles Mere; for our Bishops, especially Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Audrey, our Diocesan Bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people, especially Amanda, Jen, and Stacey, our clergy; Pray for the Church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. We pray for Joe, our President; Josh, our Governor; Danene, our Mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces; Pray for justice and peace.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. We pray for Claire Phillips & Michael Stank, Debbie Carter, Pat Pankey, Jeannie Zeller, Kate, Nancy Strasburg, Justin & Lisa, Ella & Colleen, Matt Patterson, Michael Yoder, Carmen, Kevin, Judy Modene, Angie Stamm, Mike Patrone, Kathy Novosel, Kent Strickler, Maria Sauder, and Dawn. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. We pray for our friends at home especially 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.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

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.*

Celebrant 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. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Dan Forrest

This text first appeared in Wesley's Hymns for those that Seek, and those that Have Redemption (Bristol, 1747), apparently intended as a Christianization of the song "Fairest Isle" sung by Venus in Act 5 of John Dryden and Henry Purcell's semi-opera *King Arthur* (1691), on which Wesley's first stanza is modelled. Wesley wrote: "Love Divine, all Loves excelling, Joy of Heaven to Earth come down, Fix in us thy humble Dwelling, All thy faithful Mercies crown"; Dryden had written: "Fairest Isle, all Isles Excelling, Seat of Pleasures, and of Loves; Venus here, will chuse her Dwelling, And forsake her Cyprian Groves."

PRESENTATION HYMN

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

HYMNAL 376, vs. 3

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP 369

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.*

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.*

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS *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.* **HYMNAL S-129**

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
*We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

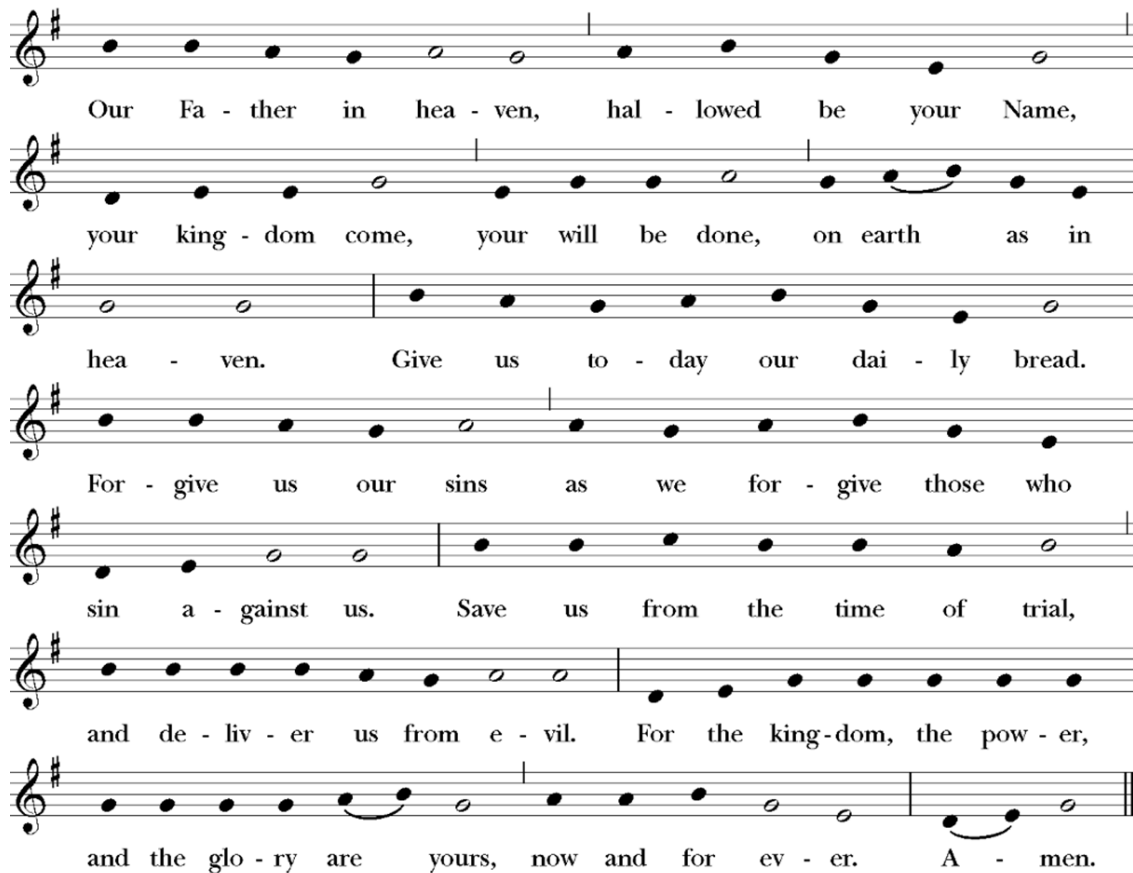
Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMNAL S-149

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



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who
sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

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. If you wish to receive, please come forward to the altar rail when the usher indicates. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. For the wine, you can receive by guiding the chalice to your lips or by dipping your wafer into the separate intinction cup. 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. When finished, please exit to your right. Gluten free wafers are also available.

COMMUNION HYMNS

*The Church's one foundation
Baptized in water*

HYMN 525

HYMN 294

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. We who are many are one body.

People *Because we all share one bread, one cup.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 366

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

Holy God, send us anywhere you would have us go, only go there with us. Place upon us any burden you desire, only stand by us to sustain us. Break any tie that binds us, except the tie that binds us to you. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you all and remain with you always. *Amen.*

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Alleluia, alleluia!

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

POSTLUDE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Edward Broughton

Tune: HYMN TO JOY

Ludwig van Beethoven

There are a number of anecdotes concerning the premiere of the Ninth. Based on the testimony of some of the participants, there are suggestions that the symphony was under-rehearsed (there were only two full rehearsals) and somewhat uneven in execution. On the other hand, the premiere was a great success. In any case, Beethoven was not to blame, as violinist Joseph Böhm recalled: “Beethoven himself conducted, that is, he stood in front of a conductor's stand and threw himself back and forth like a madman. At one moment he stretched to his full height, at the next he crouched down to the floor, he flailed about with his hands and feet as though he wanted to play all the instruments and sing all the chorus parts. —The actual direction was in Louis Duport's hands; we musicians followed his baton only.”

Reportedly, the scherzo was completely interrupted at one point by applause. Either at the end of the scherzo or the end of the symphony, Beethoven was several bars off and still conducting; the contralto Caroline Unger walked over and gently turned Beethoven around to accept the audience's cheers and applause. According to the critic for the Theater-Zeitung, "the public received the musical hero with the utmost respect and sympathy, listened to his wonderful, gigantic creations with the most absorbed attention and broke out in jubilant applause, often during sections, and repeatedly at the end of them." The audience acclaimed him through standing ovations five times; there were handkerchiefs in the air, hats, and raised hands, so that Beethoven, who they knew could not hear the applause, could at least see the ovations.

St. John's Traveler Letter:

Connecting to our siblings in Christ across the world

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,

I can hardly believe that it is September! I can almost feel a hint of autumn in the air, and I love this time of year because it is the beginning of the school year. I hope and pray that everyone – students, teachers, parents, volunteers, and all those who contribute to our education – will have a wonderful school year. I will keep you all in my prayers as you begin a new adventure in learning. Even though my school days are behind me, I am always grateful and humbled to learn new things. I give great thanks to God for the opportunity to travel the world and learn from people everywhere.

As I write to you, I am thinking about all that I have learned about schools and students around the world. In many places, schools look very similar to ours in Lancaster – buildings with classrooms, desks, books, computers, Internet, libraries full of books, and wonderful outdoor spaces to run and play. Yet other places are quite different. I remember my friends from rural Kenya who told me about the great celebrations in their village when a well was completed to provide clean water for their one-room school and how they hoped and prayed for Internet access soon for their students. They were deeply grateful for donations of books from around the world to help create a library.

Education is so important to the world that the United Nations in 2015 included the goal of a quality education as one of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which are more commonly known as “Global Goals.” One of the goal's key milestones is that all girls and boys around the world can complete elementary, middle, and high school for free by 2030. Creating greater access for higher education is also part of the goal. I am excited to share with you that literacy rates are climbing in the world, primary school enrollment is up in the developing world, and more girls than ever are attending school.

Yet sadly, many children around the world are denied opportunities to attend or finish school. For example, Afghanistan is the only country in the world where girls are not allowed to attend secondary school. In many poor countries, children must drop out of school to work to help support their families. In other places, schools have been badly damaged because of natural disasters, and communities are struggling to rebuild. Please keep the girls and young women of Afghanistan and all children and their families who are unable to go to school in your prayers. I have been so fortunate to see the look of delight on schoolchildren's faces around the world, and I pray that every child will have that opportunity. Blessings to you and your family and everyone at St. John's as a new school year begins!

Your friend and lifelong learner – John Traveler

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

Coffee Hour to follow each service

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM Sunday School for ALL
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

4:30 PM TLC Meeting
5:00 PM Executive Committee
6:00 PM Ministries Council

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

12:00 PM Healing Service
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:00 AM Ministers' Meeting
2:30 PM Food Pantry
7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Rector's Day Off

10:00 AM Committal Service
for Alice Simpson

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:00 AM Community Breakfast
at First Reformed

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Coffee Hour to follow each service

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM Sunday School for ALL
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
12:00 PM Vestry Meeting

WEEKLY SUPPORT MINISTRIES

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

FOOD PANTRY HELP DESPERATELY NEEDED!

Friends, our Food Pantry is feeding more people every week and we need your help! We are always in need of food donations, particularly canned tuna, canned chicken, cereal, peanut butter, pasta sauce and spaghetti. Donations can be placed in the basket in the back of the church or in one of the red carts. In addition, financial contributions are extremely helpful as we are trying to purchase as much bulk food at a reduced price as possible. Checks can be made out to St. John's Episcopal Church with "Food Pantry" in the memo line. Thank you for helping us feed the hungry and love our neighbors!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please sign up on our website, www.stjohns-lancaster.org or on the signup sheets in the Parish Hall to host a coffee hour or assist in the nursery!

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

DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Drew Dorgan, Webb Cook,
David Rutledge, Heather Trenary, and Sue Heilman

STAFF

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

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE
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