

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**



**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II**  
**FEBRUARY 23, 2025 AT 10:15 A.M.**

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## **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! 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 Parish Hall. A nursery is available every Sunday for our littlest members. Thank you for being here!

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## THE WORD OF GOD

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have an announcement, you would like the clergy to share,  
please fill out the form on our website or let the office know no later than Thursday.*

<b>INTROIT</b>	<i>We shall overcome</i>	Traditional Spiritual
<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>Hour of Peace</i>	Florence Price
<b>OPENING HYMN</b>	<i>Praise to the Lord</i>	<b>HYMNAL 390</b>

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

*Celebrant*     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.*

<b>GLORIA</b>	<i>Gloria in excelsis</i>	<b>HYMNAL S-280</b>
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### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

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

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**THE FIRST LESSON:** Genesis 45:3-11,15 (*please be seated*)

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*            *Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM 37:1-12,41-2**

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; \*  
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, \*  
and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; \*  
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 Take delight in the LORD, \*  
and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, \*  
and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light \*  
and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the LORD \*  
and wait patiently for him.

- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, \*  
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; \*  
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, \*  
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; \*  
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.
- 12 But the lowly shall possess the land; \*  
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; \*  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
- 42 The LORD will help them and rescue them; \*  
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,  
because they seek refuge in him.

**THE EPISTLE:** 1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

*Verses 1&2 before the Gospel Reading; Verse 3&4 after the Gospel Reading***THE HOLY GOSPEL:** Luke 6:27-38 (*please remain standing as you are able*)*Celebrant*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.*People*            *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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.

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

**BCP 387**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; in the Diocesan and Anglican Cycle of prayer we pray for Church of the Good Shepherd, Upper Fairfield and The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil.  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey, our Diocesan Bishop; Amanda, our priest; and Emma, our seminarian.  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially Donald, our President; Josh, our Governor; Danene, our Mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces.  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble especially Pat Pankey, Nancy Strasburg, Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Richard Anderson, Collin, Liz Kryder Reid, Eileen Waite, Andrew Wright, Denise Chandler, Carol, Sandy, Marshall, Ann Marie, Dawn, Kim, Jon, and Ivy. We pray for our friends at home especially Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove, Darlene Bentley, and Peggy Zuke.  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Celebrant* 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**

**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 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 the Lord be always with you.  
*People* *And also with you.*

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

**THE OFFERTORY** *King Jesus is a Listenin'* Spiritual

**PRESENTATION HYMN** *Lift every voice and sing* **HYMNAL 599**  
(all the verses)

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B** **BCP 367**

*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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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:

**THE SANCTUS**      *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might*      **HYMNAL 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.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*We remember his death,*  
*We proclaim his resurrection,*  
*We await his coming in glory;*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

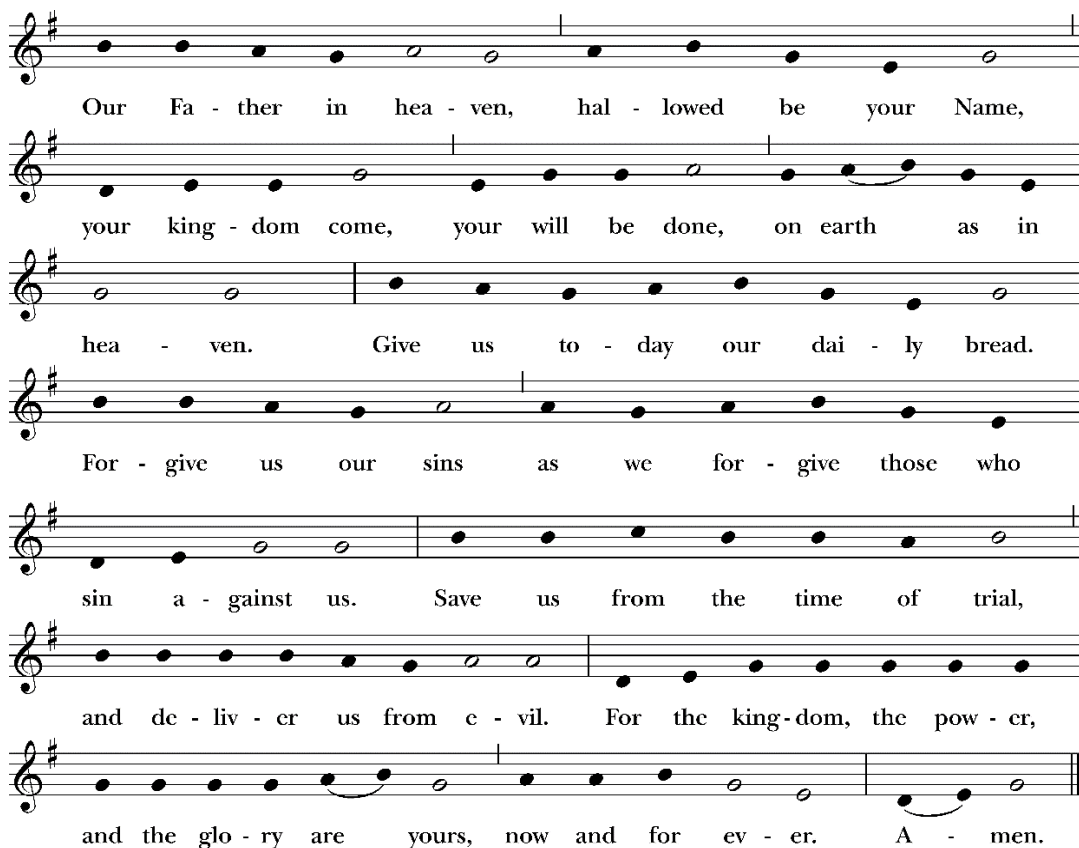
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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 364

*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. If you are unable to come to the altar, please let an usher know and we would be happy to bring communion to you!*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**      *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*      **HYMNAL 602**  
*If I Have Wounded Any Soul Today*      Charles Gabriel

## 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

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 BLESSING

May the light of Christ's life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Sing Alleluia Forth in Duteous Praise*

**HYMNAL 619**

## THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.  
*People*         *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## POSTLUDE

*Festal March*

Florence Price

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Despite poor weather, our Youth helped the food pantry raise about \$1,300 from the Souper Bowl of Caring! We appreciate the hard work and support of our Youth Leaders, Sue Dodge and John Knouse, of the youth who were able to get there on Sunday, and of everyone who provided gourmet soup and fixings to make carry out or eating in a wonderful, warm experience.

### **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:

Olá Pastor Amanda,

I'm brushing up on my Portuguese. Not because I'm in Portugal, but because I'm in Brazil. During the age of European exploration and colonization of the late 1400's and early 1500's Portugal's Vasco de Gama discovered a sea route from western Europe to India by sailing around the Cape of Good Hope on the southern tip of Africa. Several years later Pedro Cabral set off to repeat that route but drifted too far west in the Atlantic Ocean and "discovered," or more likely bumped into, what's now Brazil. It's a land of rich natural resources, and the crown and industries gladly took advantage of them. Brazil became one of the jewels of Portugal's worldwide empire of the 16th century.

In the spirit of taking the gospel to people where they are, I was able to meet with Bishop Eric Rodrigues. Before his ordination into the clergy Bishop Eric ran a tattoo shop in Recife. Once ordained he held church services in his shop, and there's a story of a woman who came in for some ink, noticed the cross on the wall and the Bible on the table, and is now an active member of his church. Bishop Eric himself has some impressive tattoos. Very different than the image most of us have of Canterbury-based clergy, but he's doing good work among people that relate to him.

Some young adults in the St. John's family will remember their J2A pilgrimage to Brazil years ago. They played football (soccer) with the kids here, and that simple act created common ground for North American folks and South American folks. I was happy to join in on an impromptu match, although my footwork was laughable compared to the kids here who seem so light and quick on their feet. But laugh we did, and I now have some new friends, and we enjoyed a short time together when the paths of our journeys came together. I'll go on with my travels knowing that they care about me, and I will continue to pray for and care about them. I told them of you, my community in Lancaster, and they were happy to know they are in your prayers, too.

Blessings to you always,

John Traveler

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:**

### **TODAY**

*Coffee Hour to follow each service*

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I  
9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II  
1:00 PM Education for Ministry

### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

- 5:00 PM Stewardship Committee

### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

- 1:30 PM Martha's Ministry  
2:30 PM Food Pantry  
6:00 PM TLC Movie Night!

### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

- 12:00 PM Healing Service  
2:00 PM Men's Bible Study  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

- 9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
2:30 PM Food Pantry

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

*Rector's Day Off*

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 2**

*Coffee Hour to follow each service*

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I  
9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II  
1:00 PM Education for Ministry

## **MOVIE NIGHT W TLC – FEB. 25**

### **"WILL & HARPER"**

All are invited to our second Movie Night in the Parish Hall! Come hang out in our LGBTQIA+ affirming community, eat popcorn and watch the 2024 documentary "Will & Harper" on the (relatively) big screen.

"When actor/comedian Will Ferrell finds out his close friend of 30 years is coming out as a trans woman, the two decide to embark on a cross-country road trip to process this new stage of their relationship in an intimate portrait of friendship and transition."

6-9pm, movie starts 6:30. Popcorn & snacks provided, or bring some to share! Bring a friend! Questions? See Maria Weaver-Hollowniczky or email [mariaweaverh@gmail.com](mailto:mariaweaverh@gmail.com).

### **FENCE OF LOVE**

Your donations of hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and socks for adults and children are urgently needed. There is a collection basket in the Atrium. Thank you!

### **SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 4**

**PANCAKE SUPPER!** Check the March Messenger for more details about our Shrove Tuesday celebration and Lenten events!

## 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

## VESTRY

Drew Dorgan (*Sr. Warden*), Charles Wear (*Treasurer*), Ted Loose (*Jr. Warden*), Molly Moyer (*Secretary*), Liz West, Kathy Kyper, Gretchen Walden, Penn Glazier, Mary Huber, Bruce Waskowicz, Sarah Jones

## DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Pam Loose, Br. David Rutledge, Joe Way, Drew Dorgan

## STAFF

Mark Herr, Minister of Music (*music@stjohns-lancaster.org*)  
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper (*finance@stjohns-lancaster.org*)  
John Knouse, Property Manager (*property@stjohns-lancaster.org*)  
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian  
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

**GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE**  
**WWW.STJOHNS-LANCASTER.ORG / 717.299.1188**