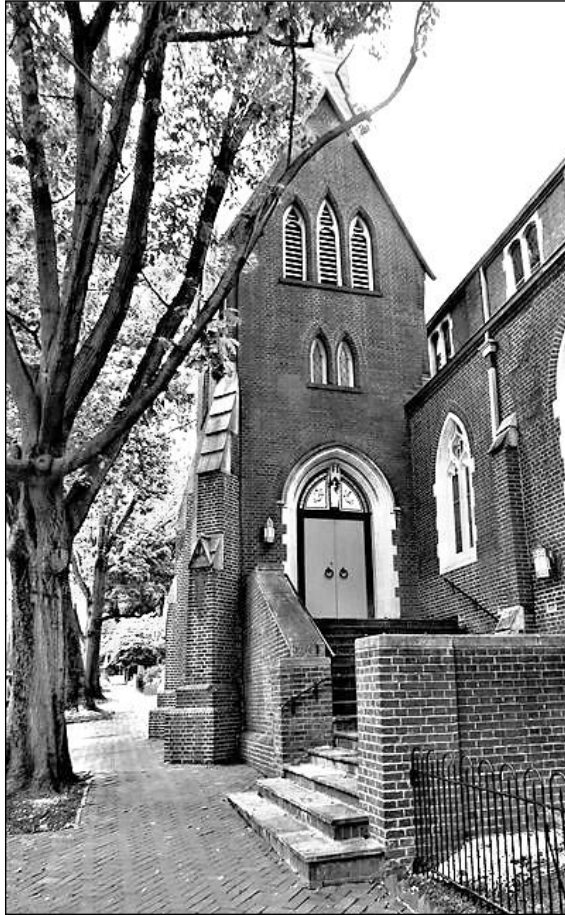


**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II**  
**SEPTEMBER 7, 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.

## **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 next to the restrooms. Thank you for being here!

## **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.

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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 by noon on Wednesday.*

**PRELUDE**                      *Festive Prelude on Sing praise to God*                      Paul Fey

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**                      *Sing Praise to God*                      **HYMNAL 408**

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

*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**                      *Glory to God*                      **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: Jeremiah 18:1-11** (*please be seated*)

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

*Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM 139:1-5,12-17**

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

- 14 My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day,  
when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*  
how great is the sum of them!
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; \*  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

### **THE EPISTLE: Philemon 1-21**

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

**GRADUAL HYMN**

*Hope of the World*

**HYMNAL 472**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL:** Luke 14:25-33 (*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.*

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

*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 IV**

**BCP 388**

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 Christ Memorial Church, Danville; The Anglican Church of Southern Africa; and Grace Church, Allentown, our “sibling parish”. God of love and mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all bishops, priests and deacons, especially Sean our Presiding Bishop; Audrey, our Diocesan Bishop; Amanda and Joe, our clergy; and Emma, our seminarian. 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 Donald, 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, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Sandy Grove, Peggy Zuke, Peggy Buscher, and Teresa Sullivan. 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 Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Sandra Gilpin, Cheryl and Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Collin, Eileen Waite, Andrew Wright, Denise Chandler, Shirley Parmer, Erin Heintzinger, Phyllis Shearer, Ann Marie, Ellen Keller, Sandy Patrone, Marshall, Leslie Tahsler, Eamon Nelson, Paul Hershey, John Kerner, Sr., Uylsse Adams and Mary Byerly; 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.*

*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.*

## **THE CONFESSION**

*Officiant*      Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.



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.

*Officiant* 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.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**BCP 830**

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts, may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## REDEDICATION OF THE MARY WINDOW

### THE HOLY EUCHARIST

#### THE OFFERTORY

*With a voice of singing*

Martin Shaw

#### THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise him, all creatures here below;  
 Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**HYMNAL 380 v.3**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A

*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. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**THE SANCTUS**      *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might*      **HYMN S-129**  
                                 *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.*

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:

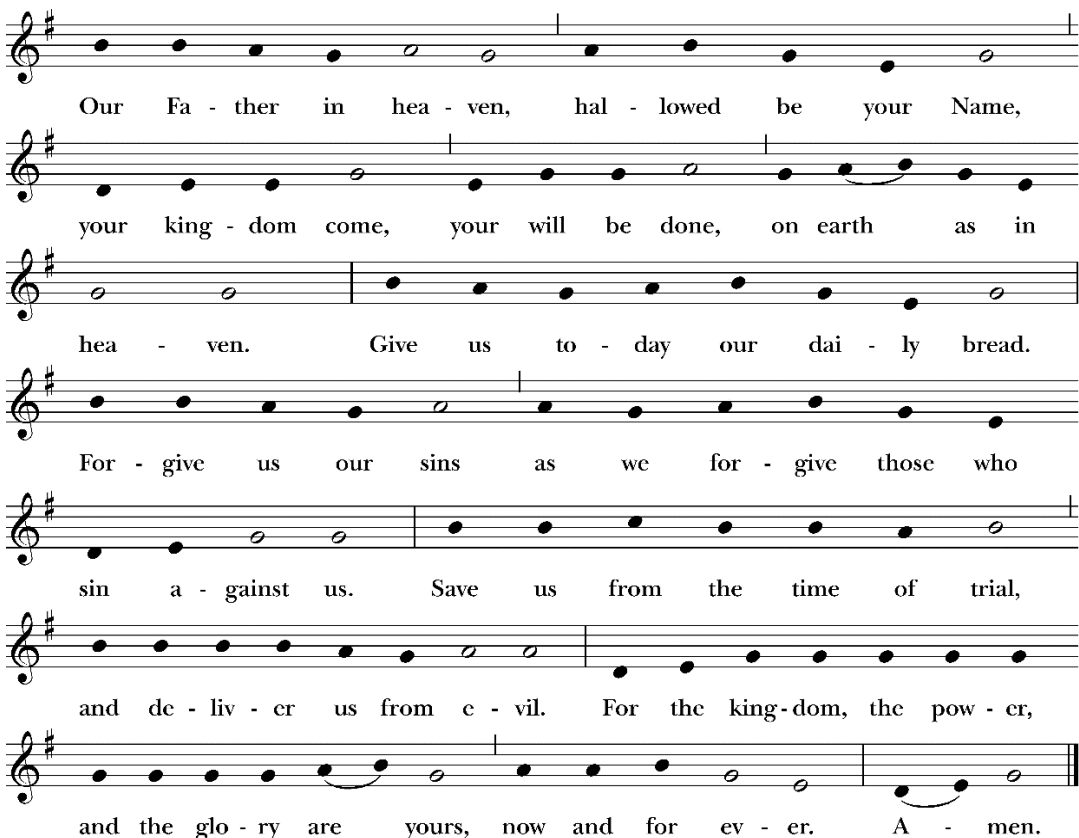
*Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.*

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.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. 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 MUSIC

*God is Love  
Where Charity and Love Prevail*

**HYMNAL 576**

**HYMNAL 581**

## 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

BCP 365

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

Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us, so be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

**HYMNAL 594**

## THE DISMISSAL

<i>Celebrant</i>	Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
<i>People</i>	<i>Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!</i>

## POSTLUDE

*Finale on Hymn to Joy*

Charles Callahan

### **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 Pastors Amanda and Joe,

Have you seen "The Lion King"? That's probably a silly question given how popular the movie was, and the stage musical continues to tour. However, the big news from The Lion King musical this week is that Tshidi Manye is stepping down from playing Rafiki, after more than 9,000 performances!! to return here to her home in Johannesburg South Africa. The show has strong connections to Southern Africa in other ways. Its lyrics have lines in five African languages, and four of them are common here: Zulu, Xhosa, Sesotho, and Setswana.

The province of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa includes 28 dioceses, and extends far from the country of South Africa itself. Mozambique, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Angola, and the island of St. Helena are all part of this province, containing three and a half million members. It's the oldest Anglican province in Africa, going back to the first few years of the 1800's when British clergy arrived with the English military. While worship began amongst the English entrepreneurs and colonists, local clergy and local parishioners gradually took over the leadership. I'm sure you know that the Anglican church here led the opposition to South Africa's system of racial apartheid. Also leading the opposition to apartheid was Steve Biko, who advocated for Black leadership to represent the Black populous. Biko had white friends who also opposed racial discrimination, but he felt the interests of Black people could best be understood by Black people. This follows the pattern of churches worldwide in the Anglican Communion, started by white Englishmen and gradually transitioning to local leaders. Desmond Tutu became the first Black bishop here in 1984. It's part of the wonder of the Anglican Church that it is able to be relevant to so many people of so many cultures, histories, traditions, and backgrounds. And just as those early English chaplains introduced some of their culture to a new community in southern Africa, we in the western world are enriched by the culture this area has to offer, if not in small part thanks to the artists performing in The Lion King. I saw a poster that says "Other cultures are not failed attempts at being like you, they are unique manifestations of the human spirit." I love that we all have things to share with others, and things to learn from others.

Blessings to you always,  
John Traveler

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

### **TODAY**

*Coffee Hour to follow each service*

*Homecoming Sunday*

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

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

4:00 PM Caring Ministry  
4:30 PM TLC  
6:00 PM Ministries Council

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

1:30 PM Martha's Ministry  
2:30 PM Food Pantry  
4:00 PM Finance Committee  
5:00 PM Immigration Clinic

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

12:00 PM Healing Service  
2:00 PM Men's Bible Study  
6:00 PM Foyer Group Kick-off Dinner  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
2:30 PM Food Pantry  
7:00 PM Bell Choir

### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

*Rector's Day Off*

### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

12:30 PM Citizen's Climate Lobby Group

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

*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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**FOYER GROUPS** will have their Kick-Off Dinner, Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The sign-up sheet is on the Parish Hall bulletin board. You may also contact Gretchen Walden at 540-817-9013 or [gretchdw@gmail.com](mailto:gretchdw@gmail.com).

**FALL COFFEE HOUR** sign-up please see the bulletin insert for details!

**MAKERS MARKET** organizational meeting is after the 10:15 a.m. service this morning in the Parish Hall.

Welcome Back, Amanda+!

## **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](mailto:amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org)

The Rev. Dr. Joe Pritchett, Assistant Rector  
[Joe@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:Joe@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](mailto:music@stjohns-lancaster.org))  
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper ([finance@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:finance@stjohns-lancaster.org))  
John Knouse, Property Manager ([property@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:property@stjohns-lancaster.org))  
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian  
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

**GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE**  
**[WWW.STJOHNS-LANCASTER.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNS-LANCASTER.ORG) / 717.299.1188**