



# ST. JOHN'S GLOUCESTER

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN  
THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE IV  
A CONTEMPORARY TEXT UNDER  
1979 RITE II RUBRICS.

OCTOBER 5, 2025  
10:00AM

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*For thousands of years, First Nations people walked on this land in Gloucester; their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives and spirituality. St. John's is gathered on the traditional territory of the Pawtucket, and we give thanks to them, and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.*

*They followed the seasons, hunted, fished, raised families, grieved for their dead, nourished their living, shared the stories of their ancestors, and considered themselves the caretakers of this place.*

# THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

## PRELUDE

*Prayer of St. Gregory*


Alan Hovhaness (1911-2000)

## THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Love astounding, Love confounding*


HOLY MANNA

F(C) Dm(Am) Bb(F) F(C) Am(Em) Dm(Am) Bb(F) C(G) F(C)




1 Love a - stound-ing, Love con - found - ing lim-its fear - ful minds im - pose.  
2 Love re - ceiv - ing, Love be - liev - ing, we re - joice with thanks and song,

F(C) Dm(Am) Bb(F) F(C) Am(Em) Dm(Am) Bb(F) C(G) F(C)




Love re - new-ing, Love pur - su - ing ev - ery heart un - til it knows  
faith re - gain-ing, hope pro - claim-ing; Love has taught us, we be - long

Am(Em) Dm(Am) Am(Em) Gm(Dm) F(C) Dm(Am) Bb(F) C(G)



Love's trans-form-ing, heal - ing good-ness, Love's a - bid - ing, gen - tle grace,  
safe with - in Love's tend - er keep-ing, safe from fear's per - sis - tent call.

F(C) Dm(Am) Bb(F) F(C) Am(Em) Dm(Am) Bb(F) C(G) F(C)



Love's en - dur - ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol - ing, strong em-brace.  
Love de - fend-ing, Love un - end - ing, Love of God en - fold - ing all.

## THE OPENING SENTENCES

*Celebrant* Blessed be God! The One, the Word, and the lifegiving Spirit.

*People* And blessed be God's presence, now and forever.

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ the Word.

*People* Amen.



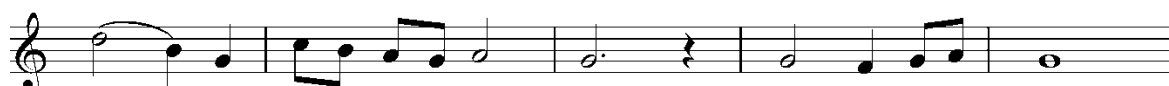
1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -



might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



5. you are scat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

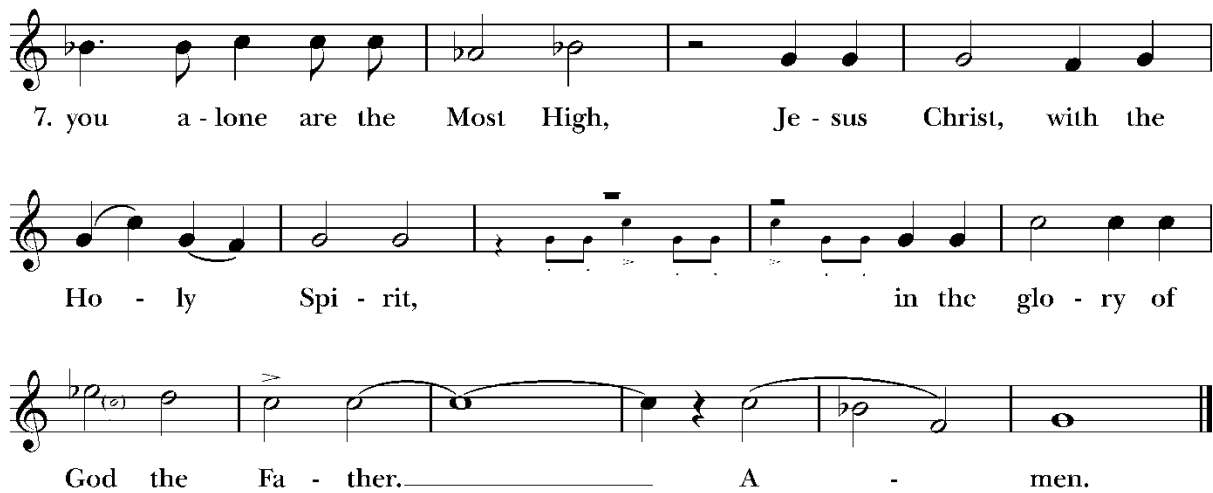


ceive our prayer.

6. For



you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* And within you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray together.

**Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light, that we, being illumined by the teaching of your apostle and evangelist John, may so walk in the light of your truth, that at length we may attain to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR God's Voice on the Winds

*Chief Yellow Lark 1887*

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice we hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear us. We are small and weak and need your strength and wisdom. Let us walk in beauty and make our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make our hands respect the things you have made and our ears sharp to hear your voice. Make us wise so that we may understand the things you have taught our people. Let us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades, as the fading sunset, our spirits will come to you. **Amen.**

## THE CHOIR ANTHEM

*I Choose Love*

Mark Miller (b. 1967)

*In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,  
I await the sun again, I choose love.  
In the midst of war, I choose peace.*

*In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,  
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.*

*When my world falls down, I will rise.  
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,  
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.*

*In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,  
I await the sun again, I choose love.*

## **THE HEBREW BIBLE**

A reading from Exodus 33:18-23.

Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live." And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

*Reader* The words of holy scripture.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM

Psalm 103:1-7

*Sing the response at the designated time.*

*Read the Psalm responsively by section.*

1  
Praise the Lord to - geth - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia,

2  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### **Response**

*Lector* Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

*People* Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all of God's benefits who forgives all your iniquity

*Lector* who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit,

*People* who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

*Lector* who satisfies you with good as long as you live

*People* so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

### **Response**

*Lector* The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

*People* He made known God's ways to Moses, God's acts to the people of Israel.

### **Response**

## THE GREEK BIBLE

A reading from Romans 12:6-13.

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 encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

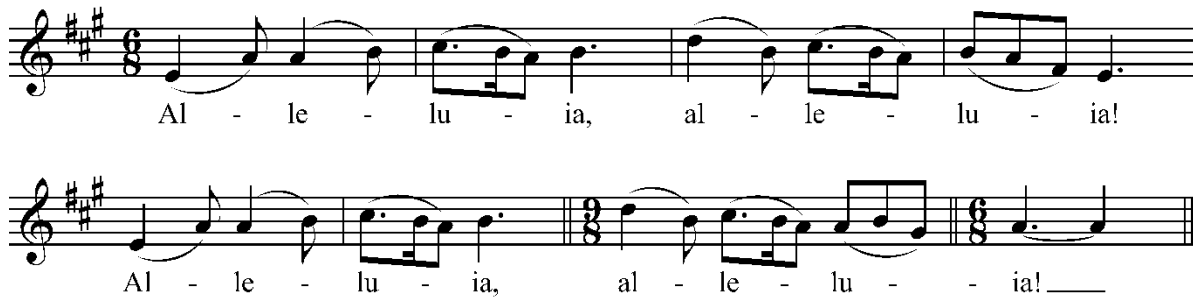
*Reader* The words of holy scripture.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Pause to reflect on the reading.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The Choir and Congregation will sing before and after the Gospel Reading.*



## THE GOSPEL

John 3:1-8

*Celebrant* The Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to John.

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

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

*Celebrant* The good news of our Savior.

*People* **Praise be to Christ.**

## THE HOMILY

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in the One God: Source of all, ruler of all, maker of heaven and earth: of all things seen or unseen.**

**And in one Lord: Jesus of Nazareth, Christ the Messiah, the only-born Word of God; eternally issued of that of the One: God of God, light of light, true God of true God; issued, not made: the same being as the One; and through whom all things are made;**

**That for us mortals and for our salvation came down from heaven; and was made flesh of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary; and became human;**

**Was also crucified, for our sake, in the time of Pontius Pilate: and suffered, and was buried; and arose on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures, and went back up into heaven; and sits in power beside the One: and shall come again, in glory, to judge those living and dead; and whose presence shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Spirit: the Holy, the Lord, and the lifegiving; that pours forth of that of the One: that with One and Word together we worship and glorify as God; that speaks in the prophets.**

**In one holy, universal, and missionary church: we accept one baptism for the forgiveness of sins; we await the raising of the dead, and the life of the age soon to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*(During the prayers and confession, we invite you to stand or kneel, as you are able.)*

Let us pray for the whole church and the world, asking almighty God, to hear our prayer. Open our eyes, dear God, to behold your revelation in nature, discerning your gracious hand in all your works: that we attend to the intricate beauty of this world, and gently nurture it; so that rejoicing with all creation we may show forth your glory.

Dear God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Give grace, our heavenly Maker, to all bishops, priests, and other ministers: that they may both in their life and doctrine set forth your true and living word, and rightly and duly administer your holy sacraments. Dear God, we pray for the Churches of the North Shore Deanery: St. Michael's Church, Marblehead; St. Mary's Church, Rockport; Grace Church, Salem; St. Peter's Church/Iglesia de San Pedro, Salem; Congregations: Secretaries and Administrators.



Dear God, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Maker, today, we bless and give thanks for all whose lives are closely linked with ours. *Please add your own **thanksgivings** aloud or silently.*

Dear God, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Dear God, who became poor among us that we might know the riches of your grace: have mercy for all in need around our shores, those without home or work; those who will eat poorly today or eat not at all; those who are famished by drink or drugs; those diminished by illness or grief. We especially pray for:, **Latricia Reed, Carolyn and Bob Stewart.**

*Are there others to be named aloud or silently?*

Dear God, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

And we ask you to inspire all people with the spirit of truth, unity, and harmony: that all who share this earth may live in peace. We ask you also, so to incline the hearts of those entrusted with authority in this and every land, that they may honestly and impartially do justice, grant mercy, and act wisely: that we and every nation may be well and quietly governed, for the peace and wellbeing of all.

Dear God, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

And we bless your holy name for all your servants who departed this life in the grace of faith: that light perpetual may shine upon them; and that, by faith, we too may share in your divine presence. We remember especially those close to us who sleep in your eternal peace, and whom we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Dear God, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant says the following prayer*

Grant these our prayers, almighty God, for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, our only representative before you, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

## **THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins to the Almighty.

## THE CONFESSION

**Almighty God; maker of all, judge of all: 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 deeply sorry and we earnestly repent. Have mercy upon us, dear merciful God, for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ: Forgive us our sins. And grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life; to delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the honor and glory of your name. Amen.**

## THE ABSOLUTION

May God our heavenly Maker, who with great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with earnest repentance and open faith turn to the good, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Christ the Word. **Amen.**

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of God be ever with you!  
**And within you!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with gladness devote the fruits of creation to our Maker.

## THE OFFERTORY HYMN

*I love to tell the story*

HANKEY

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat  
4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
 than all the gold-en fan - cies of all our gold-en dreams.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der-ful - ly sweet.  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, it did so much for me;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 and that is just the rea - son I tell it now to thee.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in glo - ry,

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

## THE DOXOLOGY

*The gifts of the people are brought to the Altar.*

*Praise God, who fills each cup and plate,  
Whose table's wide and love is great.  
From broken bread, may all be fed,  
And Justice rise where fear is spread. Amen.*

## THE MINISTRY OF THE TABLE THE GREAT THANKSGIVING EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER H

*The Altar Flowers are given by Carole Secrest in memory  
of the birthday of Christopher Secrest.*

*The sanctuary lamp burns this week in celebration of the 37<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of  
Peter and Patricia Anders.*

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* **And within you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

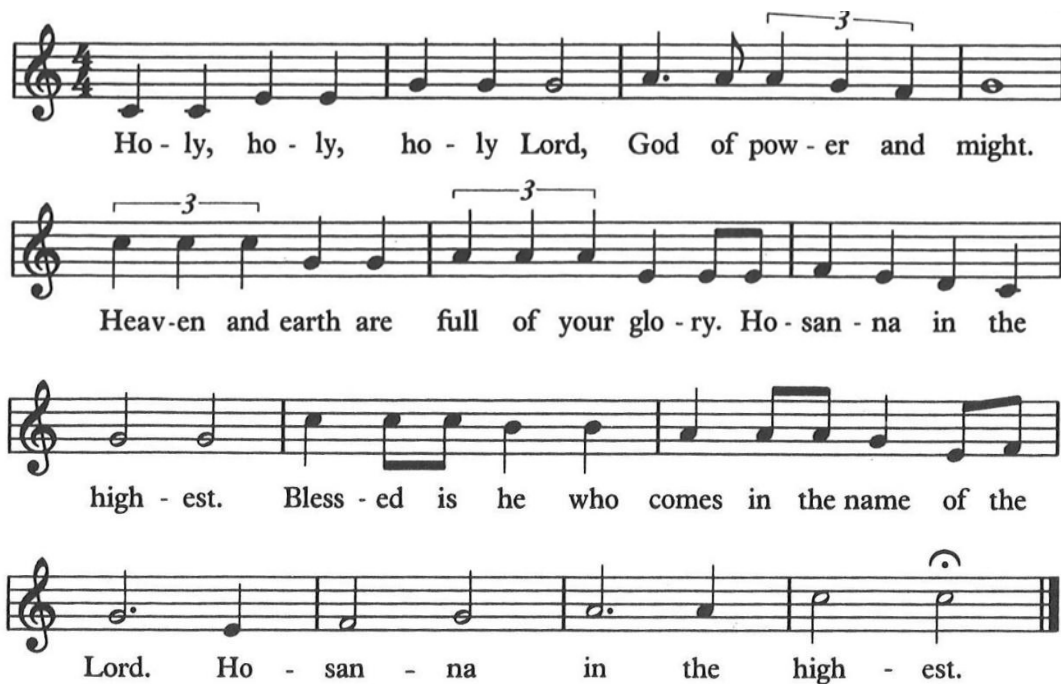
*People* **It is good and right to do so.**

It is very good, right, and our joyful service, always and everywhere to lift thanks up to you, the source of all, our holy Creator, almighty, everliving God. For you alone are the one God, the font of all being and the form of all good, resting beyond time and forever. That through Christ your eternal Word brings all things into being: sun, moon and stars; earth, wind and waters; and every living thing. That makes all that is made, and breathes life into the earth.

For your Holy Spirit, that on the day of Pentecost came down from heaven with a sudden great sound, like a mighty wind, like fiery tongues lighting upon the apostles to teach them and to lead them into the truth: giving them the gift of many languages and the boldness to preach the good news to all people; to bring us out of darkness and error into the clear light and true knowledge of you, our almighty Creator, and of your Word our Savior Jesus Christ.

And so raising our voices with angels and archangels and all the chorus of heaven who forever exalt your glory, we praise you rejoicing as we sing:

## THE SANCTUS



Most holy and gracious God, in your infinite love you made us in your own image, a faint reflection of the eternal Word.

And when we fell into sin and faced evil and death, you did not abandon us. For you are the one God. You called your people as a light to the nations. You led them out of bondage and into a new land. You handed down the law, and spoke in the prophets.

And then, in the fullness of time, you in your mercy sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Word, to be born for our sake: to live and die as one of us; to reconcile us to you. Born of a woman, of our very nature, Jesus taught the law, healed the sick, and fed the poor.

And when the time had come, Jesus stretched out arms upon the cross, and died for our salvation. Almighty God, in Christ you bring us out of error into truth, out of sin into grace, out of death into life.

For in the night before God died for us, Jesus took bread; and after giving thanks, Christ broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Likewise after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks, Christ gave it to them, saying, "Drink of this, all of you: for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and the many for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." And so, dear God our heavenly Maker, offering to you your own from your own, we your people do gather here before you to celebrate the sacrament of faith:

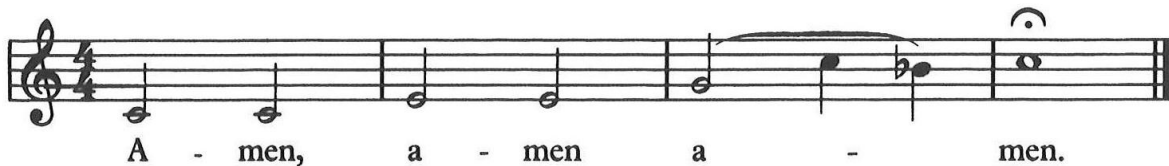
## THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



And we appeal to you, dear merciful God, to hear us, and of your almighty goodness to pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, to bless and sanctify these your creations of bread and wine: that they may be to us the body and blood of your Word our Savior Jesus Christ; and that we receiving them may share in that most blessed presence; so that we, and all those who share in your holy communion, may be filled with your grace and heavenly blessing, and in pure love and charity be made one body with Christ your Word: that Christ may live in us, and we in Christ.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, our almighty Creator, time without end.

## THE AMEN



And now, as Jesus has taught us, we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our dear God, that is in heaven: blessed be your name.**

**Your dominion come: your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our next day's bread: and forgive us our offenses,  
as we forgive those who offend against us.**

**And leave us not prey to temptation: but deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the dominion: the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant* The bread of life!

*People* Alleluia!

## THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for you, the People of God!

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:*

*The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.*

*The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*St. John's welcomes everyone to come to God's table, for communion, to share in Christ's sustaining life. You may participate by extending your hands and placing one hand over the other for the bread and sipping from the chalice. If you prefer not to receive wine, you may cross your hands over your chest. If you prefer gluten free wafers, let us know. You may also come to the altar simply for a blessing, while others come for communion. To receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest. The Priest will pray for God's blessing upon you.*

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

*Let us break bread together*

## **THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Almighty and everliving God, we most gratefully thank you for feeding us, in this holy sacrament, with the spiritual food of the most blessed presence of your Word our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us thereby of your favor and goodness towards us; and that we are living members of the body of Christ, the blessed assembly of all faithful people; and may also share, through hope, in your everlasting reign. And we earnestly pray you, our heavenly Maker, so to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as you have prepared for us to walk in; through Christ your Word, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, time without end. Amen.**

## **BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND PRAYERS FOR TRAVEL**

### **THE BLESSING**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of the Word our Savior Jesus Christ; and may the blessing of God almighty, the One, the Word, and the lifegiving Spirit, be among and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **THE RECESSIONAL HYMN**

*God is Love, let heaven adore him*

1982 Blue Hymnal #379

ABBOT'S LEIGH

### **THE DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE POSTLUDE

*Fanfare for an Angel*

James M. Stephenson

## PARTICIPATING IN THE LITURGY

*The People of God gathered in St. John's Church*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Marya DeCarlen
<i>Lector</i>	Patricia Anders
<i>LEM</i>	Carolyn Stewart
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sue Lupo, Geoff Grow
<i>Ushers</i>	Dani Stotzer, Ian Bedford
<i>Musicians</i>	Congregation, Choir, John Churchwell – <i>Director of Music</i> John Glennon - <i>Trumpet</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Dani Stotzer
<i>Flower Guild</i>	Rosemary Sullivan, Kip Ellis
<i>Live Streaming</i>	Norm Barr
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Gwen Kopka, Katharine Newhouse
<i>Action Lunches</i>	Carolyn Stewart

## WE WELCOME YOU TO ST. JOHN'S GLOUCESTER

We know that Christ is present in each person here and we celebrate the diversity of the body of Christ. If this is your first visit, please introduce yourself today and visit again sometime. If you've been away, welcome back. If you are here every week, it's always great to see you! We worship in the Anglican tradition and are a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, which is part of the Episcopal Church USA. We honor individuals of every age, gender, ethnic heritage, sexual orientation and religious background. We respect the dignity of every human being.

## NEWCOMER'S WELCOME

Please accept our warmest welcome! We hope you will experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship together. Please greet the Priest as you leave and complete a visitor's card found in each pew and place it in the offertory plate, give it to an usher, or give it to the Priest. Please join us for coffee hour, which is located in the Parish Hall, so our community can get to know you informally. We have two restrooms; one (handicapped accessible) is located next to the Parish Hall, the other restroom is located on the second floor up the stairs from the Parish Hall kitchen.



## **DATES TO KEEP IN MIND AND HEART FOR OUR WORSHIP LIVES TOGETHER**

October 5	The Feast of St. John (10:00am)
October 12	Indigenous People's Sunday (10:00am)
October 26	Prayers for Healing (10:00am)
	The Rev. Ali Lutz Co-Preaching with Edward Ball
November 2	All Saints Sunday (10:00am)
November 2	Boston University Recital: Dr. Shiela Kibbe Dr. Alison Trainer (3:00pm)
November 9	Concert Fundraiser for the Open Door (4:00pm)
November 22	The Village Fair (9:00am – 2:00pm)
November 23	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at West Gloucester Congregational (3:00pm)
November 30	First Sunday of Advent (10:00am)
November 30	Prayers for Healing (10:00am)
December 7	Advent Evensong (5:00pm)
December 13	Middle Street Walk (10:00am-3:00pm)
December 14	Boston University Recital: Abigail Cunningham (3:00pm)
December 24	Christmas Eve Service (5:00pm)
December 28	Prayers for Healing (10:00am)
January 11	Epiphany Lessons and Carols (3:00pm)
January 25	Annual Meeting

## **NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATOR**

Please welcome Veyla Tibert to St. John's as our new Parish Administrator. She started orientation and training this week with Elizabeth and John And will continue with Marya and Marge next week before she starts occupying the position fully. We hope to meet her during an upcoming Sunday for worship and coffee hour!

Veyla has grown up and lived in Gloucester for the majority of her life. She holds an undergraduate degree from Salem State University in English, and a Masters in Education from Gordon College. Veyla's happy places are her garden, her kitchen, and the woods. She has too many hobbies to count and is always trying to collect more. Veyla is married to her high school sweetheart, Matthew Tibert, of Rockport, and is the loving mother to a bubbly boisterous boy, Gus. Veyla is taking the place of Elizabeth, as the Parish Administrator.

## PRAYER GROUP

Weekly, a group of parishioners gathers at St. John's to speak aloud the names on our short and long term intercessory prayer lists, to wander into that liminal space where we share with God our concerns for those we cherish. If you would like to join us, we are resuming for 2025-26 on Tuesday, October 7 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. Questions? Call Sarah Larson 703-395-4233.

## SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH

LET'S DO THIS! During Hunger Awareness Month, it is so important that the shelves at The Open Door are well stocked. Picking up an extra box of cereal, or checking the pantry for some extra canned goods and bringing it all to church on Sunday would help meet the goal of feeding families in the Cape Ann community. The following would be most appreciated: healthy cereal, oatmeal, granola/breakfast bars, pasta, and juice boxes. Thank you.

*The Open Door and its mission to provide nutritious food to the families of Cape Ann has increased over the past year. Since August 2024, in addition to clients already receiving services, The Open Door has registered 820 new households for services at its Gloucester and Ipswich food pantry locations: An average of 68 new families per month.*

## SURVEY

This Sunday and the following, Sept 28 and Oct 5, you will be handed a VERY SHORT survey asking what times of the week are best for you to attend St. John's Adult Formation classes and programs. Please give this some thought beforehand, bearing in mind whether you like to drive/walk at night and whether you're willing to bestir yourself during the week. Like Gypsy Rose Lee, we aim to entertain you (though fully clothed at all times), but hate to perform to an empty house.

## PARISH HALL LABYRINTH

Beneath the tables and chairs and shoes and walker wheels in our Great Hall is a labyrinth, patterned into the tiles. The brainstormers of the Adult Formation team would like to offer a program on labyrinths—their history, how they factor into our faith journey, what they offer to us today.

While we have one expert on hand, we are looking for a **BUDDY EXPERT!** Do you need to know anything in advance about labyrinths? That would be great, but not really. All you need is a lively curiosity and a willingness to learn and help run a class for your fellow parishioners.

Intrigued? Call Sarah Larson at 703-395-4233

## MUSIC NOTES

This Sunday, as we celebrate The Feast of St. John, you will notice that the music for the day is about Love. How does John's writing on the Great Commission fit into the story of love and our own beloved parish of St. John's? In my opinion, our Offertory Hymn surmises this thought.

Arabella Katherine Hankey (1834-1911) grew up in the family of a wealthy English banker associated with the evangelical wing of the Anglican Church. As a teenager she taught a girls' Sunday school class. Later she traveled to South Africa to serve as a nurse and to assist her invalid brother.

While recovering from a lengthy illness of her own at age 30, she wrote a poem on the life of Christ. This poem had two sections, the first published in January 1866 and entitled *The Story Wanted*, the second published later that year in November under the title *The Story Told*. Our Offertory hymn is drawn from stanzas in the second section. The text of the refrain was written by the composer of the music, William G. Fisher, in 1869. (A musician herself, Hankey wrote her own tunes for the text, but others found little use for them.)

In 1867 Englishman Major General Russell cited the text of "I Love to Tell the Story" at a large international YMCA gathering in Montreal. William Doane, a composer of more than 2000 gospel songs including music for many of Fanny Crosby's hymns, was in the audience. His musical setting did not stick, but another setting composed by William G. Fisher, a Philadelphia musician and piano dealer (1832-1912), did. When Phillip Bliss and Ira Sankey included Fisher's version in their influential *Gospel Hymns and Sacred Songs* (1875), its fame was assured.

The personal, intimate language comes through in such phrases, for example, as "it [the story] satisfies my longings as nothing else can do" (stanza one) and "it did so much for me, and that is just the reason I tell it now to thee" (stanza two). Hankey is passionate about this story and how it has changed her life. In the refrain the word "love" takes on a double meaning -- both about the state of the singer and the message of Jesus: "I love to tell the story . . . of Jesus and his love."

St. John's Gloucester is about LOVE. Can you describe the feeling you get when you arrive at 48 Middle Street? Do you love to tell the story of St. John's? I hope this Sunday's music of love and companionship will inspire you to tell your friends and neighbors about a place that demonstrates an Astounding and Confounding Love; a place that Chooses Love; and a place that Loves to tell the Story.

**GENEROSITY POTLUCK**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025**  
**5:00pm – 7:00pm**

Join your fellow parishioners for the first potluck of the season to kick off our annual stewardship campaign! Potlucks are a great way to share food, drink and fellowship and if you haven't attended one before you're in for a joyful event. In addition, we'll be sharing our stories about the importance of St. John's in our faith journey. There's a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for folks to help with setup, cleanup, and of course, with your potluck offering. Since the days are getting shorter, we want to be sure folks who have concerns about driving after dark can attend the pot-luck so rides can be arranged. Please let Marge in the office know if you need transportation.



**St. John's Gloucester**

stjohnsgloucester.org  
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The Rt. Rev. Julia E. Whitworth, Bishop of Mass. & The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol Gallagher, Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen, Priest-in-Collaboration  
mdecarlen@comcast.net  
Priest Associates: The Rev. Malcolm Henderson  
and The Rev. Ali Lutz  
Marge Bishop, Church Assistant  
marge@stjohnsgloucester.org  
John Churchwell, Director of Music  
Veyla Jackson, Parish Administrator

Wardens: Patricia Anders & Katharine Newhouse  
Clerk: Geoff Pope  
Treasurer: Karen Kasper, Assistant Treasurer: Sue Lupo  
**VESTRY:** 2026: Dee Dee Bedford, Rick Britton, Sarah Larson  
2027: Maryann Tapiro  
2028: Sue Lupo, Doug Parsons, Lindsay Smith, Barbara Soreng

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