

ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

Welcome to St. John's Church. A quiet time for prayer is kept before our services. Prayers of preparation are found on p. 833-835 in the red Book of Common Prayer. All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.

BCP-Book of Common Prayer

WLP -Wonder, Love and Praise

The Holy Eucharist, Rite One
8:00 AM

The Word of God

Entrance Rite

BCP 323

The Collect of the Day

The Lessons Jonah 3.10-4.11 (*Scripture found in 10:30 section below*)

Bible 849

Psalm 145.1-8 *Exaltabo te, Deus*

BCP 801

Philippians 1.21-30

Bible 1339

Matthew 20.1-16

Bible 1167

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 327

Prayers of the People, Form V

BCP 389

Confession of Sin

BCP 330

The Peace

The Holy Communion

Offertory *All things come of thee, O Lord/And of thine own have we given thee. (1 Chronicles 29:14)*

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer II

BCP 340

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

The Communion

Postcommunion Prayer and Blessing

BCP 339

Hymn at the Procession

Hymnal 362 Holy, Holy, Holy

Nicaea

Dismissal

Holy Eucharist, Rite Two
10:30 AM

The Word of God

Voluntary

At the Procession O Worship the King

O worship the King all glorious above

O gratefully sing His wonderful love

Our Shield and Defender the Ancient of Days

Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise

O tell of His might O sing of His grace

Whose robe is the light and canopy space

His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form

And dark is His path on the wings of the storm

O measureless might ineffable love

While angels delight to worship above

Thy mercies how tender how firm to the end

Our Maker Defender Redeemer and Friend

(Repeat First Verse)

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And Blessed be His kingdom, now and forever, Amen.

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 our Lord. *Amen*

Song of Praise He Is Exalted

He is exalted

The King is exalted on high

I will praise Him

He is exalted forever exalted

And I will praise His name

He is the Lord

Forever His truth shall reign

Heaven and earth

Rejoice in His holy name

He is exalted

The King is exalted on high

The Collect of the Day

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

The First Lesson: Jonah 3.10-4.11

Bible 849

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: Psalm 145.1-8 *Exaltabo te, Deus*

BCP 801

The lector and congregation speak the psalm in unison.

1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.

2 Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.

3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.

4 One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.

5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.

6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.

7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Epistle: Philippians 1.21-30

Bible 1339

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.

At the Sequence There's Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice,
Which is more than liberty.

There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

There is welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior;
There is healing in His blood.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

There's no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There's no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

If our love were but more faithful,
We should take him at his word;
And our life would be thanksgiving
For the goodness of the Lord.

Procession to Children's Chapel for those under age 7. Children will return at the Peace.

The Gospel: Matthew 20.1-16

Bible 1167

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of

them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Prayers of the People, Form V

BCP 389

Confession of Sin and Absolution

BCP 360

The Peace

The Holy Communion

At the Offertory Recessional Hymn

Jodi Jones

At the Presentation

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.

Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Lord, we sing your praise.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, we sing your praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. God of power and might.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, we sing your praise.

(Dubay+)

The Breaking of the Bread Sanctuary

BCP 364

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary

Pure and holy, Tried and true

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living

Sanctuary for You

At the Communion

What a friend we have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and
griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything
to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless
pain we bear all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble
anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take
it to the Lord in prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our
sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a
load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge -- take
it to the Lord in prayer!

Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to
the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield
you; you will find a solace there.

Blessed Savior Thou hast promised Thou wilt all
our burdens bear May we ever Lord be bringing –
all to Thee in earnest prayer!

Great Are You Lord

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is
broken
And great are You Lord

Chorus

It's Your breath in our lungs

Breathe

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your holy presence living in me
This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very word spoken to me

More Precious Than Silver

Lord you are more precious than silver
Lord you are more costly than gold
Lord you are more beautiful than diamonds and
Nothing I desire compares with you

WLP #825 - Bless the Lord My Soul

People's response to the sending out of the Eucharistic Visitors

May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this Sacrament of Christ's presence.

Postcommunion Prayer and Blessing

Soon in glory bright unclouded, there will be no
need for prayer Rapture praise and endless
worship will be our sweet portion there.

So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord...*Chorus*

And I I'm desperate for You
And I I'm lost without You
(Repeat)

Ending

I'm lost without You
I'm lost without You
I'm lost without You
I'm desperate for You

BCP 365

Hymn at the Procession *In the Sweet By and By*

Refrain:

In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore
In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blest
And our spirits shall sorrow no more
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest ... Refrain

There's a land that is fairer than day
And by faith we can see it afar
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there ... Refrain

To our bountiful Father above
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days ... Refrain

Dismissal Voluntary

Put Your Hand in the Hand (Gene MacLellan)

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Those leading worship this Sunday:

EM 8 AM: Rob Wilcox

EM 10:30: Dan Fulton, Sarah Meacham

Acolytes: Eva Jaillette, Timothy Koutrakos, Charlotte Godwin, Charlie Turnipseed

Ushers: George Gallagher, Biff Blocker

Greeters: Thomas Coleman, Paul McCullough

Children's Chapel: Lainey Epting

Altar Guild: Gail Fisher, Kelly Turnipseed, Roger Wilson, Susan Smith

Altar Flowers: Susan Hilsman

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Guest Preacher Today:

The Rev. Rob Brown, D. Min.

Rob recently retired as the rector of St. Mathew's in Spartanburg, where he served with distinction for more than 20 years and was instrumental in the creation of a parish food bank, free medical clinic, and in the spiritual, physical, and numerical growth of the church. He previously served as associate rector of the Church of the Advent, also in Spartanburg. Rob is a graduate of the University of South Carolina Upstate and the seminary at Sewanee (twice!). He is an avid outdoorsman, willing even to attend a dove hunt on a Sunday afternoon.

STEWARDSHIP COFFEE HOUR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

We're kicking off this year's
Stewardship Campaign
with a delicious offering on the patio
after both 8 AM and 10:30 AM services.
Join us for biscuits, fruit, sweet rolls and more.
If you would like to contribute tasty goodies for
the table, please to sign up here:
<https://tinyurl.com/coffeehourhelp>
Pledge cards will be available for pick-up.

Upcoming Events

Blessing of the Animals: Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Sunday, October 4 at 6 PM

Refreshments following Scripture, Song and Prayer in thanksgiving for the life of St. Francis and the gift of God's creatures in our lives. All kinds of animals welcome! Keep them safe on leashes and in carriers.

Annual Shrimp Sale is Open!

The Men of St. John's are selling orders in 10-pound increments for \$150 per order. These fresh, head-off, wild caught Carolina shrimp will need to be on ice - so bring your cooler for pick up. A member of the Men of St. John's will be in touch about your pick-up date. Contact us at menofsaintjohns@gmail.com if you have questions or require assistance. Thanks for your support! Order: <https://tinyurl.com/ShrimpFall2026>

The FLOCK: Tailgate Time! Saturday, September 26 at 4:30 PM

St. John's Gym & Parking Lot. Bring an app to share. A fellowship group of younger families & adults.

Family Ministries

Confirmation Classes Begin September 20! Confirmation classes for 10th and 11th graders begin Sunday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the St. John's Dining Room. Classes will meet for six consecutive Sundays as we prepare for Confirmation with the Bishop on January 10, 2027. Email youth@stjohnscolumbia.org with questions.

Registration for **Happening** is now Open! This one is for 10-12th graders. The dates are November 20-22nd. Also, NEW this year will be a small group for adults. If you having been dying to learn more about Happening and find out what it is all about there will be a small group of candidates just for adults who volunteer or work with youth. Link in Epistle.

It's time to **Converge**! All middle school youth across the diocese are invited to Holy Cross, Simpsonville for our diocesan middle school retreat! Join us for fun activities and games, worship, faith-sharing and shaping with other youth from across the diocese. The cost is \$40. The event will begin at 11:00 am on Saturday and conclude following the 10:30 am service on Sunday. Link in Epistle.

The next **Pre-YC** on **September 27**. We will be running a lemonade stand with some baked goods and some little crafts for sale. It will be from 4:00 - 5:30 on the corner of Wheat and Holly. The kids are going to be raising money for Final Victory Animal Rescue. The money they raise will help Final Victory to build a new kennel that will allow for increased intake and an improved environment for animals in need. We hope to see St. John's show support for all of God's creatures.

Children's Worship Station: You may have noticed a little but BIG change in the Narthex of the church with The Children's Worship Station. This area is stocked with worship bags, children's bulletins, and children's Bibles for little and big kids to use during the service. We only ask that you place borrowed Bibles and bags in the basket, next to the stand, after the service so they can be refreshed for the following Sunday.

Sunday Formation

Sunday Mornings for Adults

Equipping the Saints meets in Room 215. Led by the Adult Formation committee and the clergy, the class is made of several different topics throughout the year. We begin with Genesis as Revelation of Jesus Christ. This week led by Jason Lockhart.

The Wired Word meets in the Library. This class works off lessons emailed to participants in advance, that provoke reflection on Scripture, current events, and our common life. Email Sandy Leach to be subscribed to the emails.

Faith at Home meets in the Parlor. We are reading *Habits of the Household: Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Family Rhythms* by Justin Whitmel Earley, available in the atrium. This week led by Fletcher & Michelle Spigner lead this Sunday about Chapter 4: Screentime.

The Monthly Sunday Early Adult Class meets monthly, usually on the first Sunday of the month, at 9 AM in the Dining Room of the Barr Center. Davis Bourne leads the class and provides a delicious breakfast. It takes up "The Exodus Story," which recounts God's claim of Israel as His people out of slavery in Egypt. Next Meeting Sunday, October 4.

Sunday Mornings for Children

For children 5th grade and under, parents please plan to walk your child to class and pick your child up from the door at 10:15.

Little Lambs, for 3 and 4 year olds, in Room 129.

Shining Stars, for K-2 meets in room 226.

Seeking Shepherds, for 3rd-5th meets in room 227.

Middle School: 6th-8th graders meet in room 221.

High Schoolers are invited to come to room 222 during the Sunday School hour.

St. John's Clergy & Staff

Daniel P. Richards, Bishop of Upper South Carolina

Nicholas M. Beasley, Rector

Alex Barron, Priest Associate

Amanda Hines Wrona, Director of Music

English Morris, Organist

Lynae Beresford, Director of Family Ministries

Henry Scouten, Youth Minister

Laura Fowles, Parish Administrator

Rhonda Gardner, Financial Administrator

Megan Griffin, Administrative Assistant

A Note from Fr. Nicholas

Lovers of trees can indeed find them as images and witnesses of God's work from the beginning of Scripture to its end. St. John's ministry is rooted at the corner of Wheat and Holly Streets, a site that has hosted many trees over our congregation's 114-year history. Early pictures of Shandon look like the prairie; later pictures of the church show trees that nearly hid it. We are now blessed to be in a neighborhood with lovely trees, and with a city administration that keeps planting more. Read the entire blog post here: stjohnscolumbia.org/trees-in-the-bible-life-death/

A Generous Church

St. John's begins its stewardship season on September 27, with the theme, More Blessed to Give. That verse encircles our alms basin, carried by one of the senior acolytes at the presentation of the monetary offering each week. Our church has been marked by sacrificial giving since our foundation in 1912. In 2026, our average pledge is \$6200 per year. The table below shows a distribution of gifts for 2026, each of them vital to the ministry we share.

Amount of Pledge	Number of Pledges
\$12,000 or more	27
\$10,000 - \$11,999	8
\$8,000 - \$9,999	14
\$6,000 - \$7,999	22
\$4,000 - \$5,999	33
\$2,000 - \$3,999	41
\$1,000 - \$1,999	31
\$500 - \$999	11
Total for 2026	187 pledges for
	\$1,154,704