

**ST. JOHN'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

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

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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** Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-32 (*Scripture found in 10:30 section*)

**Bible 772**

Psalm 25.1-8 *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

**BCP 614**

Philippians 2.1-13

**Bible 1339**

Matthew 21.23-32

**Bible 1168**

**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 371 Christ for the World We Sing

*Moscow*

**Dismissal**

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**Holy Eucharist, Rite Two**  
**10:30 AM**

**The Word of God**

**Voluntary** Elevation (from Messe Pour Les Couvents)

François Couperin le Grand (1668-1733)

**At the Procession**

Hymnal 450 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

*Coronation*

**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 S278** Glory to God – *Gloria in excelsis*

William Mathias

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,  
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**The Collect of the Day**

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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: Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-32**

**Bible 772**

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

**The Gradual: Psalm 25.1-8** *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

**BCP 614**

*The choir and congregation sing the psalm in unison.*



I To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*

let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their  
schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my  
transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.

### **The Epistle: Philippians 2.1-13**

**Bible 1339**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

### **At the Sequence**

Hymnal 655 O Jesus, I Have Promised

*Nyland*

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

### **The Gospel: Matthew 21.23-32**

**Bible 1168**

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax

collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

*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**

Call to Remembrance

Richard Farrant (1525-1580)

*Call to remembrance, O Lord Thy tender mercies and Thy loving kindness which hath been ever of old*

*O remember not the sins and offences of my youth: but according to Thy mercy think Thou on me, O Lord for Thy goodness. (Psalm 25.5-6)*

#### **At the Presentation**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

### **The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B**

**BCP 367**

Hymnal S-128 Holy, holy, holy Lord—*Sanctus*

Mathias

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

**BCP 364**

Fraction Anthem: S-161 Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

Hurd

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

### **At the Communion**

Hymnal 477 All Praise to Thee

*Engelberg*

Hymnal 704 O Thou Who Camest From Above

*Hereford*

Hymnal 492 Sing, Ye Faithful

*Finnian*

Hymnal 554 Simple Gifts

*Simple Gifts*

### **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**

**BCP 365**

### **Hymn at the Procession**

Hymnal 344 Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

*Sicilian Mariners*

### **Dismissal**

**Voluntary** Fugue in C

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750)



## STEWARDSHIP COFFEE HOUR

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.

*Make sure to pick up your pledge cards.*

## 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](mailto:menofsaintjohns@gmail.com) if you have questions or require assistance. Thanks for your support! Order: <https://tinyurl.com/ShrimpFall2026>

### **St. John's Ministry Update Luncheon**

**Tuesday, October 13 at 12 Noon**

*Barr Center Dining Room*

A pleasant meal and a presentation from Fr. Beasley on the church's staffing, goals, and finances.

Please RSVP by October 8 to [sje@stjohnscolumbia.org](mailto:sje@stjohnscolumbia.org).

## Our Worship

### **Those leading worship this Sunday:**

EM 8 AM: Bill Robinson

EM 10:30: Michael Burkett, Jason Lockhart

Acolytes: Will & Spence Jaillette, Keating Davison,  
Ainsley Beresford

Ushers: John and Pam Zemp, Chris Turnipseed, Scott Ballew

Greeters: Smith Richardson, Gordon Schell

Children's Chapel: Glennie Apoldite

Altar Guild: Carole Moser, Troy McLaughlin, Elizabeth Cotter, Vera Tucker

Altar Flowers: Gail Fisher

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Betty & Marvin Kelly and Betty & Ted Hoefer, by Elizabeth & Marshall Hoefer.

## Lemonade Stand!



The **Pre-YC** will be hosting a lemonade and bake goods stand today from **4 - 5:30** on the corner of Wheat and Holly. Come out and grab a Sunday snack! 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.

## More Blessed to Give

Our stewardship theme comes from Acts 20:35, where St. Paul says, "In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" That theme is inscribed on our large alms basin, one of the oldest objects used in our worship, dating from 1929. Our parish history by Doc Emerson tells us that the "Large Silver Alms Basin was given prior to 1930 by church members through their donations of silver pieces, which were melted down and made into this alms basin."

That is remarkable to consider. The very vessel in which we place our gifts was itself made from the gifts of the saints who came before us — parishioners who brought their treasure, whether sterling flatware, rings, bracelets, cups, or trays, to be melted down into a sign of their generous response to the generosity of God. We still place our treasure into that vessel today, where it joins with the gifts of others for the work of ministry each year.

There is something wonderful about the ministry budget our alms basin symbolizes. It represents a rare moment of collective action — a pooling of resources with no tangible product exchanged, no requirement or regulation to give, and no guarantee that others won't shirk the duty. And yet we give, and in giving we build a budget, and with that budget, a ministry, together. We did this with silver the year the Great Depression began, and we have done it with cash, checks, stocks, and bonds ever since.

Our church always seeks to be faithful with your gifts. In 2026, we carried out a top-to-bottom review of our ministry with children and youth. That review has already brought real change — a new curriculum, new opportunities to serve, and an expanded formation staff, with Lynae Beresford now leading children's ministry and Henry Scouten leading youth ministry. Our goals for 2027 include calling a new Associate Rector, sustaining funding for our larger formation staff, and completing our plans for the renovation of the Sacristy and Vesting Room.

I count it a blessing to give toward those holy and faithful purposes. Our church forms and shapes Christians to serve Jesus in the world, and we praise God for his mercy and love made known in Christ. I'll be giving 10% of my salary to St. John's next year, and I encourage you to find a proportional amount of your own income to give to God's work through the church. It is a spiritual privilege to be able to give, and I hope you'll discover that blessing for yourself this fall. - *Nicholas Beasley*

**Return a Pledge Card by November 1**  
**Or Pledge Online:**  
[stjohnscolumbia.org/make-a-pledge/](http://stjohnscolumbia.org/make-a-pledge/)

## Vestry 2026

Lauren McCauley, *Senior Warden*  
laureismccauley@gmail.com

Ann Ruderman, *Junior Warden*  
aruderman@sc.rr.com

Thomas Coleman  
thomaskcoleman81@gmail.com

Paul McCullough  
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Courtenay Mims  
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Gordon Schell  
gordoncschell@gmail.com

Rob Wilcox  
rwilcox369@gmail.com

## Prayer List

**Those to be Baptized:** Finley Funderburk, son of Olivia & Bevan Funderburk; Hampton & Grady Vang, sons of Jonathan Vang

**Those to Be Married:** Henry Scouten and Lucy Grace Burnett, October 11, at the Church of the Apostles

**Expecting Parents:** Maggie Mallette & Zack Smith; Ben & Mary Claire Martinsen;

**New Parents:** Margot Juliette Prioleau, born Sept 12 to Ashleigh & Fripp Prioleau

**For Military Service Personnel:** Matthew Simmons, Salters Kneece, Ryan Sheard, Jay Drake, William Moran, Byron Davison

**St. John's Church Members:** Mackie All, Pat Arnold, Bill Barksdale, Jr., Jackie Boylston, Abby Bray, Kathryn Close, Steve & Jan Evans, Janice Fort, Burton Fowles, Jr., Jason Gibson, Steve Hardin, Beaver Hardy, Miriam Hedgepath, Ginny Hungerford, Leigh Jones, Patrick Kneece, Rocky Kneece, Jim Knight, Shirley Knight, Larry Long, Lynda Lovelace, Joyce Mann, Bruce Marshall, Linda Mittenzwei, Stacy McCloghry, George Reid, Janet Roberts, Tommy Shealy, Katie & Jeremy Schoor, Annette Shuler, Jack Sterne, Roger Stroup, Nora Taylor, Mollie Sullivan, John Wallace, Lisa Wilcox, Jack Zemp

**Friends and Family of Church Members:** Joanna Beresford, Ann Bowman, Georgia Brenneke, Jim Camp, Kay Canipe, Anna Courie, Amy Crook, Ginnie Daguise, Brantley Daniel, Judy Dent, Brian Dressler, Melinda "Rosa" Franks, Douglas Frels, Lettie Fuller, Tawney Gavin, Keevin Glaze, Paul Gilley, Kristi Helmly, Al Hipp, Frances Jaillette, Sharon James-Hilyer, Pat Keane, Kevin Keeney, John Kissler, Mentz Family, Charlie Pate, Teddy Pate, Carol Preslar, Roberta Prioleau, Colleen Pruitt, Earl Ridout & family, Beaumont Riley, Pearl Sims, Courtney Smith, Linda Sparks, Eleanor Taylor, Jerry Trotter, Brooks Wheeler

## Family Ministries

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!** October 17-18: 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.

**Pre-YC TODAY!** See you this afternoon for the lemonade satnd. From 4 - 5:30 on the corner of Wheat and Holly. Get ready to raise money for Final Victory Animal Rescue.

## Basketball 2026-27

**Registration is open!** St. John's teams are available for boys and girls in 2nd-12th grades, with divisions for 2nd/3rd, 4th/5th, 6th/7th, 8th/9th, and 10th-12th grades. The CYBL Season goes from November 14, 2026 - February 12, 2027, and the Practice & Game Schedule will be determined once teams are formed.

The standard registration fee is \$70 per player, with reduced-fee options available. We are also looking for coaches. Please see the Epistle for registration and wavier links!

**Registration deadline: October 13th**

Questions? Contact Adam Plyler:

[adam.m.plyler@gmail.com](mailto:adam.m.plyler@gmail.com)

or Henry Scouten: [youth@stjohnscolumbia.org](mailto:youth@stjohnscolumbia.org)

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[www.stjohnscolumbia.org](http://www.stjohnscolumbia.org)

## 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 Will Grice.

**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 Lee Rambo.

**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/](http://stjohnscolumbia.org/trees-in-the-bible-life-death/)

## Music Ministry

**Chancel Choir:** The choir supports our worship through prayerful music and joyful fellowship, and this ensemble offers a meaningful opportunity to grow in both. No experience necessary, and all levels welcome. For more information, contact Amanda Hines Wrona at [ahw@stjohnscolumbia.org](mailto:ahw@stjohnscolumbia.org).

**Tilted Halos (K-2nd)** If your child would like to join, simply come to room 226 after church (12-12:45 PM) on Sundays! Tilted Halos will sing at Christmas Eve, Easter, and a few other Sundays throughout the year. Please reach out to Amanda Hines Wrona at [ahw@stjohnscolumbia.org](mailto:ahw@stjohnscolumbia.org) to receive the full schedule.

**St. John's Singers (3rd-8th)** If your child would like to join, simply come to room 226 after church (12-1 PM) on Sundays! St. John's Singers will sing at Christmas Eve, Easter, the Youth Sunday service in May, and a few other. Please reach out to Amanda Hines Wrona at [ahw@stjohnscolumbia.org](mailto:ahw@stjohnscolumbia.org) to receive the full schedule.

**The Contemporary Choir** provides valuable support and leadership during the Selah services, singing the more contemporary songs to lead our 10:30am worship service in praise. The Selah services take place about once every four to five weeks, with rehearsals at 9:00 AM the Sunday morning of the service. Contact Amanda Hines Wrona at [ahw@stjohnscolumbia.org](mailto:ahw@stjohnscolumbia.org) with any questions.

**St. John's Ringers** begin practice for fall and holiday handbell music on **TODAY** at noon in the Music Room. All interested should contact Bell Choir Director Kim Bray at [kim7bray@gmail.com](mailto:kim7bray@gmail.com).