

ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 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; a card with guidance is found in the pew rack.

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 Isaiah 25.1-9 (*Scripture found in 10:30 section*)

Bible 641

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

BCP 612

Philippians 4.1-9

Bible 1340

Matthew 22.1-14

Bible 1170

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 327

Prayers of the People, Form VI

BCP 392

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 7 Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Ratisbon

Dismissal

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

The Word of God

A Bluegrass Service with The Front Porch Boys

Voluntary Life is Like a Mountain Railway

M. E. Abbey (1891)

At the Procession—Over in the Glory Land

I've a home prepared where the saints abide

Over in the glory land

I long to be by my Saviors side

Over in the glory land

Just over in the glory land

I'll join (yes join) the happy angels band

Over in the glory land

Just over in the glory land

There with (yes with) the mighty host I'll stand

Over in the glory land

I'm on my way to those mansions fair
Over in the glory land
There to sing Gods praise and his glory share
Over in the glory land

What a joyful thought that my Lord Ill see
Over in the glory land
And the kindred say there forever I'll be
Over in the glory land

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—I Saw the Light

I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin
I wouldn't let my dear savior in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

[Chorus]

I saw the light, I saw the light
No more darkness, no more night
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

Just like a blind man, I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man that God gave back his
sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light
(repeat chorus)

I was a fool to wander and a-stray
Straight is the gate and narrow the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

The Collect of the Day

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; 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: Isaiah 25.1-9

Bible 641

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. The Word of the Lord / *Thanks be to God.*

The Gradual: Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

BCP 612

The lector and congregation recite the psalm by half verse.

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his
Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5 You spread a table before me in the presence of
those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for
ever.

The Epistle: Philippians 4.1-9

Bible I 340

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. The Word of the Lord / *Thanks be to God.*

At the Sequence—I'll Fly Away

Some bright morning when this life is over I'll fly away
To that home on God's celestial shore I'll fly away

When the shadows of this life have gone I'll fly away
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly away
(repeat chorus)

Chorus:

I'll fly away oh glory I'll fly away (in the morning)
When I die hallelujah by and by I'll fly away

Just a few more weary days and then I'll fly away
To a land where joys will never end I'll fly away
(repeat chorus)

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

The Gospel: Matthew 22.1-14

Bible I 170

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

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.
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 VI

BCP 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For [N. our Presiding Bishop, and N. (N.) our Bishop(s); and for] all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.
We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence
The People may add their own petitions
Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Peace

The Holy Communion

At the Offertory

The Scarlet Purple Robe

There's a story so unkind in the Holy book we find and it tells how Jesus stood alone one day. False accused and there condemned yet they found no fault with Him, the man who wore the scarlet purple robe. Purple robe my Savior wore oh the shame for me he bore as He stood alone, forsaken on that day And they placed upon His head piercing thorns and blood stained red, His raiment was a scarlet purple robe. In the common judgment hall he was mocked and scorned by all and a tear of sorrow fell upon His cheek Soldiers of the wicked man smote Him with their evil hand, the Man who wore the scarlet purple robe. Words of truth that day were plain from the lips of Pilot came, In this man I find no reason He should die, But the multitudes replied let Him now be crucified, the man who wore the scarlet purple robe

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

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 him thanks and praise.

Sanctus

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.

Memorial Acclamation Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

At the Communion

Voice of My Savior

I heard a sweet voice so tenderly calling
Saying arise be saved evermore

And I knew it must be the voice of my Savior
For I had not heard a voice like it before

I remember one night in an old fashioned meeting
I was praying to God to redeem my poor soul
When I heard the sweet voice of my lovin' Savior
And I started that night to make heaven my home

Great Speckled Bird

What a beautiful thought I am thinking
Concerning a great speckled bird
Remember her name is recorded
On the pages of God's Holy Word.

All the other birds are flocking 'round her
And she is despised by the squad
But the great speckled bird in the Bible
Is one with the great church of God.

All the other churches are against her
They envy her glory and fame
They hate her because she is chosen
And has not denied Jesus' name.

Desiring to lower her standard
They watch every move that she makes
They long to find fault with her teachings
But really they find no mistake.

I'm glad that I heard the voice of my Savior
I know I'm redeemed by his wonderful grace
Someday when he calls I'll go up to Heaven
And then in that city I'll look on His face.

She is spreading her wings for a journey
She's going to leave by and by
When the trumpet shall sound in the morning
She'll rise and go up in the sky.

In the presence of all her despisers
With a song never uttered before
She will rise and be gone in a moment
Till the great tribulation is o'er.

I am glad I have learned of her meekness
I am proud that my name is on her book
For I want to be one never fearing
The face of my Savior to look.

When He cometh descending from heaven
On the cloud that He writes in His Word
I'll be joyfully carried to meet Him
On the wings of that great speckled bird.

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 Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come,
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

Dismissal

Voluntary Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Our Worship

Those leading worship this Sunday:

EM 8 AM: Michael Burkett

EM 10:30: Jason Lockhart, Will Grice

Acolytes: Berkeley McCants, Ezra Grice, Henry Koehler, Claire McCants

Ushers: Billy Koehler, Brandon Templeton

Greeters: Fletcher Spigner, George Gallagher

Children's Chapel: Glennie Apoldite

Altar Guild: Margaret Axson, Betty Jones, Barbara Jones, Julian Horst, Margaret Woodrum

Altar Flowers: Gail Fisher

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Wednesday Night Program

Join us for five nights this fall for an exploration of Jesus' parables. We'll dwell in the Gospels of Luke & Matthew, seeking a word for faithful living in the Lord's pithy, powerful, life-changing stories.

Children in 4k-5th grade are invited to join Lynae for 'Building Faith Brick by Brick'. We will be exploring the parables through imaginative play with Legos and blocks. This will be located in room 137 from 6:15-7:15 during the adult program.

Nursery will be available for those 3 and under to help unwind through play and music at the end of the day.

This program is only possible with your help. A parent assistant is needed for the Children's Wednesday Night Program. Sign up link in the Epistle.

Supper 5:30-6:15

Teaching 6:15-7:15

Register for supper: <https://tinyurl.com/WNSFall2026>

Menu 10/14: Chili, Cornbread, Salad Bar, Dessert

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

More Blessed to Give

To our many friends and followers of St. John's, may these words reach you in the name of Christ Jesus, Amen. My first memory of having an allowance struck me as an immediate opportunity to acquire playthings. Indeed, I was mostly obsessed with GI JOE action figures, particularly Flint, and Nintendo Cartridges, as conquering certain games necessitated additional accomplishments be made, that I boast to my friends at school. But after listening more deeply to my Pastor at Saxe Gotha in Lexington about Giving, I had an epiphany that I had a role to play in the Glory of God. Meager as it was, I had ten dollars. I informed my mother I was going to give it to Saxe Gotha. She looked at me curiously and asked if I was "sure about that?" My first impulse was to defend my decision, but I also hesitated to argue with her as I felt she wanted me to simply tithe the total amount. As I now have my children of my own, it is difficult to dampen my enthusiasm if they wish to give to the Church in any way. Hance has always loved Super Heroes, and his first sacrifice was to place a Superman action figure in the collection plate! It comes from an honest place, truly.

The Tradition of the St. John's Alms plate is a sacred reminder of your duty to practice a living Faith in the Lord, your God. Who are you in Christ Jesus, lest you not sacrifice? Moreover, who among us would deny that the unity of the Church is not strengthened by Stewardship? Giving and Generosity gentles the human condition and exemplifies the act of loving your neighbor. In Genesis 23, though Abraham and Ephron the Hittite came to an agreement, Ephron wished to donate land to Abraham for Sarah's burial. Conflict regarding Stewardship is a familiar theme in every generation. Nehemiah 5:1 cites opposition in the Jewish community on rebuilding the walls after returning from a horrendous exile.

Think also on this: in Matthew 22:15-22, the Pharisees try to trap Jesus on the issue of paying Imperial Tax. One of the reasons it was so easy to amaze them is He wasn't carrying money. He made them bring Him a denarius for their lesson. What would your devotion to the Church look like if you had the same regard for your time, your money, and your talents? All these things being God Given are best spent on unifying our efforts to grow in Grace, Love, and the Safeguarding of blessed home, St. John's Episcopal, where we all rest in The Lord.

-Greg Black, M.D.

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

or Henry Scouten: youth@stjohnscolumbia.org

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.

Link in Epistle.

State Fair Trip: Join us for an afternoon at the State Fair on Sunday, October 18, from 1:00–4:00 PM! Youth are invited to come enjoy the fair together, and we are looking for trained adult volunteers to join and help with the group. Sign up link in Epistle.

EYC: MS 5:00-6:00, dinner 6-6:30, HS 6:30-7:30

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 25, 4:30-5:45 PM

Calling all Goblins, Ghouls, Ninjas, and Princesses! We are revving our engines (more like opening our trunks) for another St. John's Trunk or Treat. We need YOU, whether you are a guild, a group, a family, or an individual to join us in the St. John's parking lot with a decorated trunk. Who will win the new coveted Trunk of the Year Trophy? We will find out! Children will trick or treat from trunk to trunk and after we will move to the dining room for dinner hosted by the Flock. If you plan to have a trunk please fill out the form! Email Lynae at dfm@stjohnscolumbia.org with questions.

Host a Trunk: <https://forms.gle/ufRsZhgUMEaz2kWWQ6>

Upcoming Events

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. Contact us at menofsaintjohns@gmail.com if you have questions or require assistance. 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 to sje@stjohnscolumbia.org.

Lunch & Learn: October 20

Will and Emily are members of St. John's who both work in lobbying. Will is Vice President of Government Affairs at South Carolina Manufacturers and Commerce; Emily is Director of Government Affairs for South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. Their life together began in similar circles in Washington, D.C. We'll hear from them about life "in the lobby," and about a shared professional experience that comes home with them each evening! Join us at 12 Noon in the Dining Room for lunch (\$5), the presentation, and conversation. Bring a friend! RSVP to sje@stjohnscolumbia.org

Kanuga Retreat 2027

January 15 - 17

Registration is open!

Guest Speaker: Rev. Porter Taylor

Join us in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina at Kanuga Conference Center for the annual parish retreat.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/Kanuga2027>

**Blessing of the Animals:
Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
Today 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 are welcome! Keep them safe on leashes and in carriers.

In case of rain, join us in the Gym!