

**18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 21**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2026**

**WELCOME!**

**10:00 AM**

*YOU are welcome here, regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, sex, national origin, marital status, family makeup, socioeconomic status, or political persuasion. St. John's Episcopal Church is a community of people who gather to acknowledge our need for divine and human love, and to respect our common humanity. At St. John's, ALL ARE WELCOME.*

*It is our pleasure to have you join us for worship today. If this is your first visit, or even if you've been attending for a little while, and you'd like to learn more about us, please take a 'Welcome' card from our pews, complete and place the 'Connect' side in the offering plate or hand it to one of our greeters or clergy so that we may follow up with you. Or, feel welcome to contact us using the information on the back of this bulletin.*

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***Our mission***

*LINKING LIVES IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST*



**Parable of the Two Sons**

Mironov, Andrei (Andrei Nikolaevich), 1975-  
from *Art in the Christian Tradition*

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***Our vision***

*WE JOYFULLY GATHER TO PRAY, WORSHIP, LEARN AND SERVE  
AS WE SEEK TO FOLLOW JESUS, AND INVITE ALL TO JOIN US  
ON A SACRED JOURNEY OF HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION*

Following the pattern of **THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER – RITE II**

**Prelude** - “Fairiest Lord Jesus”

*Martha Crawmer, cello*

*arr. Don Whitman*

**Welcome**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Opening Acclamation

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

**People** And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*All are invited to stand, as able*

**Opening Hymn** - “At the Name of Jesus”

#435 in **The Hymnal 1982\***



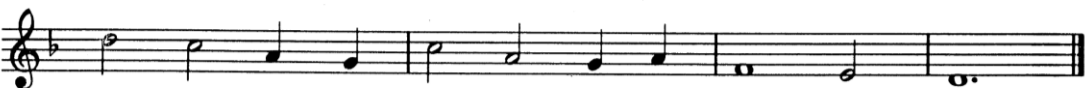
1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,  
2 Hum-bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name  
3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,  
4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;  
2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,  
3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,  
4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,  
2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,  
3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;  
4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.  
2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;  
3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.  
4 ev - er to be wor - shiped, trust - ed, and a - dored.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), alt.

Music: *King's Weston*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

65. 65. D

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant      The Lord be with you.

**People      And also with you.**

Celebrant      Let us pray.

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.**

*All are invited to be seated*

## The Lessons

### First Lesson - Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

*Judy Ellis*

Reader      A reading from Ezekiel.

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.

Reader      The Word of the Lord.

**People      Thanks be to God.**

### Psalms 25:1-8 - *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

*All are invited to read responsively by verse*

1 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.**

## **Second Lesson - Philippians 2:1-13**

*Sara Philo*

Reader            A reading from Philippians

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.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.

**People            Thanks be to God.**

*All are invited to stand, as able, for the Gospel Procession*

**Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia”**

#257 in **Gather Comprehensive\***

*Cantor will invite the congregation to join in on the refrain.*



Music: Alleluia 7; Jacques Berthier, © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Verse: My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;  
I know them, and they follow me. (*John 10:27*)

**Gospel Reading - Matthew 21:23-32**

*The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson*

Reader 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.”

Reader The Gospel of our Savior.

**People Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Gospel Acclamation - “Alleluia”**

*See above . . .*

*All are invited to be seated*

**The Sermon**

*The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson*

**The Nicene Creed**

p. 358 in **The BCP**

**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.**

**Prayer of the People - Form III (p. 387 in **The BCP**)**

*Ann Wright*

|               |                                                                            |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Leader        | Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;                             |
| <b>People</b> | <b>That we all may be one.</b>                                             |
| Leader        | Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;      |
| <b>People</b> | <b>That your Name may be glorified by all people.</b>                      |
| Leader        | We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;                             |
| <b>People</b> | <b>That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.</b>    |
| Leader        | We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; |
| <b>People</b> | <b>That there may be justice and peace on the earth.</b>                   |
| Leader        | Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;                    |

**People**            **That our works may find favor in your sight.**  
 Leader            Remembering especially those on our parish prayer list: Cathy & Juan, Char, Henry, Julie, Vicki, Bob, the family of Ed Patterson, John, Chris, and Arie, have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**People**            **That they may be delivered from their distress.**  
 Leader            Give to the departed eternal rest.

**People**            **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**  
 Leader            We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**People**            **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**  
 Leader            Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
                       *[The people are invited to offer their own prayers]*

### Concluding Collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Confession of Sin

p. 359 in **The BCP**

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

**Together**        **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.**

### Absolution

Celebrant        Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### The Peace

Celebrant        The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**People**            **And also with you.**

*All are invited to greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.*

### Announcements

## Prayer for Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Other Milestones

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

### Offertory Anthem - "Come to Me"

Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir; Michael Goto, Tenor; Martha Crawmer, cello

*As the Gospel invites us to consider how we respond to God's call, this anthem offers Christ's gracious invitation to come, be known, and find rest in the depth of God's love.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*All are invited to stand as able*

### Eucharistic Prayer A

p. 361 in The BCP

The musical notation is presented in four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes.

**Staff 1:** The lyrics are "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The first part is for the Celebrant, and the second part is for the People.

**Staff 2:** The lyrics are "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The first part is for the Celebrant, and the second part is for the People.

**Staff 3:** The lyrics are "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." This is for the Celebrant.

**Staff 4:** The lyrics are "It is right to give him thanks and praise." This is for the People.

Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

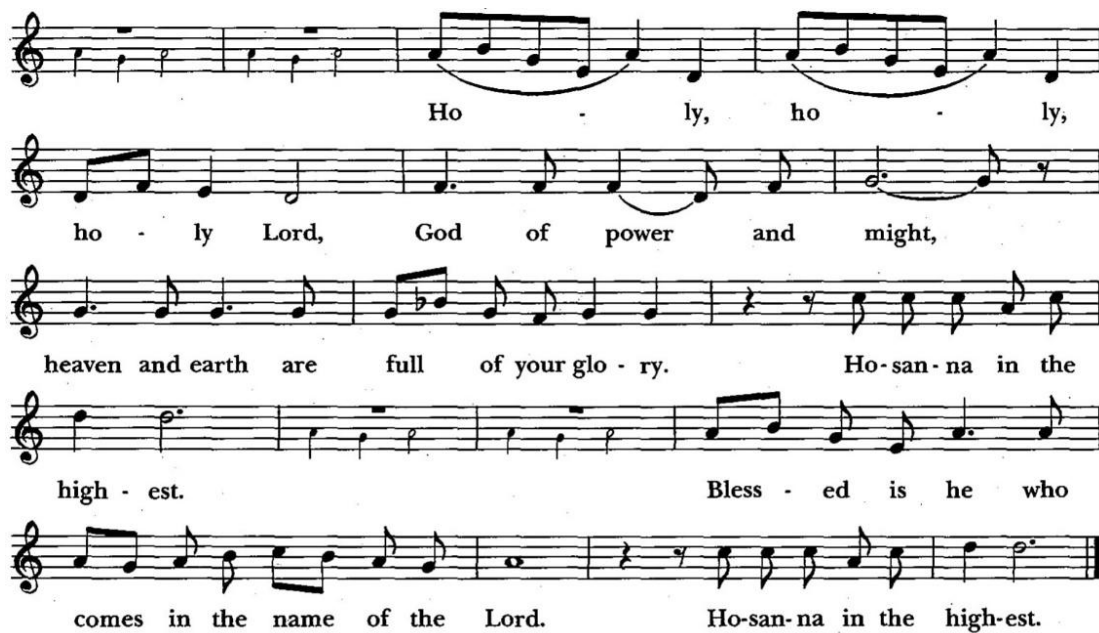
**Celebrant** It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Sanctus

#S 128 in The Hymnal 1982\*



Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934)

*All are invited to stand or kneel, as able*

**Celebrant** Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

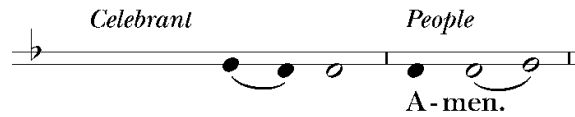
**Together** **Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and

serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



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## The Lord's Prayer

p. 364 in The BCP

Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Together

**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.**

## Fraction Anthem

#S 155 in The Hymnal 1982\*



Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

*All are invited to be seated*

## **Holy Communion**

*All are welcome to receive communion. St. John's uses gluten-free bread, and wine. You may eat your bread/wafer and return to your seat, or hand it to a chalice-bearer who will intinct (dip) the bread and hand it back to you. Individually sealed cups with gluten-free, allergen-friendly hosts, and grape juice are available by request. Please follow the directions of our ushers.*

### **A Prayer in lieu of Sacramental Reception**

attributed to *The Rev. Charles Curtis*

*Those worshipping with us on our live stream are invited to use the following prayer as our in-person congregation receives Communion.*

O blessed Jesus, our Savior and Lord, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of your body and Blood. We love you above all things, and we long for you in our souls. Since we cannot now receive you in your sacramental Presence, grant that we may still be fed by your Holy Spirit in our hearts. We welcome you and embrace you, and unite ourselves wholly to you; and grant, most gracious Lord, that we may evermore dwell in you, and you in us. Amen.

### **Communion Hymn - "Fairest Lord Jesus"**

#383 in **The Hymnal 1982\***

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture, O thou of  
2 Fair are the mea - dows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and all the

God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,  
bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,  
twink - ling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.  
Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.  
Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

Words: German composite; tr. pub. New York, 1850, alt.

Music: *St. Elizabeth*, melody from *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842; harm. Thomas Tertius Noble (1867-1953)

568. 558

## Post-Communion Prayer

p. 365 in The BCP

Celebrant Let us pray.

Together **Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Blessing

*The priest blesses the people*

People **Amen.**

*All are invited to stand, as able*

**Closing Hymn** - "Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness"

#685 in The Hymnal 1982\*



1 Sing, ye faith - ful, sing with glad - ness, wake your no - blest,  
2 Sing how he came forth from hea - ven, bowed him-self to  
3 So, he tast - ed death for mor - tals, he, of hu - man -  
4 Now on high, yet ev - er with us, from his Fa - ther's



sweet - est strain, with the prais - es of your Sa - vior  
Beth - lehem's cave, stooped to wear the ser - vant's ves - ture,  
kind the head, sin - less one, a - mong the sin - ful,  
throne the Son rules and guides the world he ran - somed,



let his house re - sound a - gain; him let all your  
bore the pain, the cross, the grave, passed with - in the  
Prince of life, a - mong the dead; thus he wrought the  
till the ap - point - ed work be done, till he see, re -



mu - sic hon - or, and your songs ex - alt his reign.  
gates of dark - ness, thence his ban - ished ones to save.  
full re - demp - tion, and the cap - tor cap - tive led.  
newed and per - fect, all things gath - ered in - to one.

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt.  
Music: *Finnian*, Christopher Dearnley (b. 1930)

87. 87. 87

**Dismissal**

Celebrant     Let us bless the Lord.

**People     Thanks be to God.**

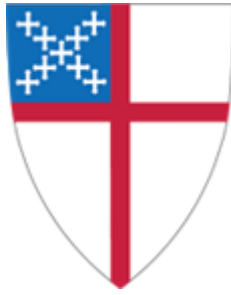
**Postlude** - "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

*arr. Gary Lanier*

*Martha Crawmer, cello*

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*The flowers on the Altar are given to the glory of God and  
in thanksgiving for our St. John's family..*



**HEAD OF THE CHURCH – JESUS CHRIST**  
**MINISTERS – ALL OUR MEMBERS**

**Clergy**

The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson .....*Rector*

**Staff**

Travis Fader ..... *Director of Operations &  
Organist/Pianist*

Linda Germain.....*Children & Youth Director*

Colleen O'Dell .....*Bookkeeper*

Ellen Woodard..... *Administrative Assistant*

Nick Lowthian.....*Sexton*

Vickie Densmore .....*Janitor*

**SERVING**

Presiding ..... The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson  
Preaching..... The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson  
Organist/Pianist ..... Travis Fader  
Interim Choir Director.....Nykkoa Lurie  
Greeter/Usher.....Katharine Rose, Bob Stoney  
Element Bearers..... Judy Ellis, Jenny Estabrook  
Lectors.....Judy Ellis, Sara Philo  
Intercessor.....Ann Weight  
Crucifer/Eucharistic Minister..... Sara Philo  
Eucharistic Minister ..... Eric Heglin  
Altar Guild ..... Judy Ellis, Andrea Burditt  
Broadcast Technician ..... Bill Kent  
Coffee Hour Host ..... John & Jan Marcou  
(signup sheet posted on the bulletin board outside Williams Hall)

**OUR VESTRY – OUR ELECTED LEADERS**

**Class of 2027**

Eric Heglin, *Clerk*

Fred Schuster, *Co-Warden*

**Class of 2029**

Nykkoa Lurie

Mike Spencer

**Class of 2028**

John Adams

Doug Germain

Ann Wright, *Co-Warden*

To get in touch with any Clergy, Staff Member or Member of the Vestry, call  
or email the parish office:

(989) 631-2260

[office@sjec-midland.org](mailto:office@sjec-midland.org)

**Contact Us**

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Midland, MI 48640

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Monday thru Thursday ... 9am-3pm  
Friday ... 9am-noon

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**Parish email:** [office@sjec-midland.org](mailto:office@sjec-midland.org)

**Website:** [www.sjec-midland.org](http://www.sjec-midland.org)

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**YouTube:** @st.johnsepiscopalchurchmid894