



SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ashfield, Massachusetts

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 21, 2026

Welcome to Saint John's!

Our mission at St. John's Church in Ashfield is to grow, through worship, in God's gospel of hospitality and wholeness, and to faithfully live that word in our fellowship, families, communities, and the world. May all who enter here be received as Christ.

A Land Acknowledgement

We worship and share God's mission on the unceded land of the Nipmuc, Pocumtuc, and Wabanaki peoples. We are mindful that our blessing came at the price of their sorrow and we pledge to grow in our awareness of racial injustice with God's help.

Invitation to Holy Communion

This is God's table. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To eat, present your hands to be given bread. To drink, take a sip as the cup is held to your lips. To receive a blessing, instead of bread, cross your arms on your chest.

An * indicates that we invite you to stand as you are able

Bold text is said by the assembly

Prelude Bach's Prelude in C major, BWV 846

Emmet Chilton-Sugerman

***Gathering Hymn** #530

Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

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

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

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.

***Gloria** S- 277

Hurd

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Genesis 21:8-21

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."

So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- ¹ Bow down your ear, O LORD, and answer me, *
for I am poor and in misery.
- ² **Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; ***
save your servant who puts his trust in you.
- ³ Be merciful to me, O LORD, for you are my God; *
I call upon you all the day long.
- ⁴ **Gladden the soul of your servant, ***
for to you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- ⁵ For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving, *
and great is your love toward all who call upon you.
- ⁶ **Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer, ***
and attend to the voice of my supplications.
- ⁷ In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, *
for you will answer me.
- ⁸ **Among the gods there is none like you, O LORD, ***
nor anything like your works.
- ⁹ All the nations you have made will come and worship you, O LORD, *
and glorify your Name.
- ¹⁰ **For you are great; you do wondrous things; ***
and you alone are God.
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant; and save the child of your handmaid.
- ¹⁷ **Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; ***
because you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

The Second Reading

Romans 6:1b-11

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that

Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Sequence Hymn #675 (vs.1-3)**

Take up your cross, the Savior said

The Gospel

Matthew 10:24-39

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Mark Hatch

Shared silence

***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:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

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 Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Miguelina our Bishop; 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.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Cycles of Prayer

We pray for all those in our cycles of prayer: In the Anglican cycle we pray for The Church of South India (United). In our Diocesan cycle we pray for Church of the Nativity, Northborough; Diocesan Council; Episcopal Church Women (ECW); Trans Episcopal. In our towns' cycle we pray for our schools, preschools, and all who work and learn in them. Among our members and friends, we pray for Thad Bennett, George Connell; Kevin Blanchard; Craig Borchardt; Nancy Boyd; Ross Branch, Jacqueline. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Sean M. Skalski. And among our ministries we pray for our Vestry Team.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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 Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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 Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Wardens' Welcome & Anointing for Healing

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Anthem: St. John's Madrigal Singers

I have decided to follow Jesus

Celebrant God 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 our thanks and praise.**

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

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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 LEVAS 255

Brown

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker of all.

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

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior 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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior: By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

**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 S-161

Hurd

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Armed Services Prayer Book, 2008

ALL: In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory.

CONGREGANTS ONLINE: Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come.

ALL: Amen.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Anthem

His Eye is on the Sparrow

Let us pray.

*** 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.**

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.

***Recessional Hymn #WLP 757**

Will you come and follow me

The Dismissal

Postlude George Gershwin's "Someone to Watch Over Me"

Emmet Chilton-Sugerman

Please stay for coffee and conversation!

EVENTS

June 21: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

June 21: Vestry Meeting 11:30am

June 23: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry

June 26: Love in a Backpack filling at the Corner House 3-4pm

June 28: Bishop's Visitation

June 28: Loose plate offering is dedicated to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund

July 5: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

July 11: Climate Action - Ring the Bells at St. John's 11am

July 12: Rev. Canon Steven Wilco is our supply priest

July 16: Community Picnic at St. John's 5pm

July 19: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

Would you like to make a donation to St. John's? Please scan this code to donate by credit card, debit card, or with a PayPal account.

Thank you for your generous support!



Acknowledgements

- The Book of Common Prayer, 1979
- Eucharistic Prayer A, Expansive
- The Book of Occasional Services 2022
- The Holy Bible, The New Revised Standard Version
- Venite App

CONTACT US

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Lay Leaders & Clergy

Co-Senior Wardens: Sue Craft, 413-628-0289 and Andy Wickline, 413-628-1220

Junior Warden: Maddy Roberts

Treasurer: Raven Harris **Assistant Treasurer:** Jody Skinger Hall **Clerk:** Darlene Monds

Vestry: Lynnette Leidy Sievert, Jane Wagener

Licensed Preachers: Raven Harris, Andrew Wickline

Lay Eucharistic Visitors: Sue Craft, Andrew Wickline, Kristen Wickline, Jane Wagener

Licensed Worship Leaders: Andrew Wickline, Kristen Wickline, Sue Craft, Maddy Roberts

Staff

Director, Madrigal Singers: Julie Meservey

Organist: Emmet Chilton-Sugerman

Parish Administrator: Lis Henry **email:** stjohnsashfield@gmail.com

Financial Administrator: Amy Murray **Sexton:** John Wickline

Ministries

Pastoral Care Team: Sue Craft

Digital Ministry: Ted and Kara Toothaker, Andy Wickline, Jane Kaufman

Buildings & Grounds Team: Maddy Roberts **Green Team:** Kristen Wickline

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Kristen Wickline **LOVE in a Backpack:** Jenny Burke

Bicentennial Celebrations: Addison Hall

Would you like to support our Love in a Backpack program? Purchase items directly from our wish list by scanning this code:



Thank you!