



SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ashfield, Massachusetts

THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 2, 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 "Entry" from the Waldszenen, Op. 82 by R. Schumann Emmet Chilton-Sugerman

****Gathering Hymn** #453*

As Jacob with travel was weary one day

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

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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 32:22-31

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 17:1-7, 16

Responsively by whole verse

¹ Hear my plea of innocence, O LORD; give heed to my cry; *

listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.

² **Let my vindication come forth from your presence; ***

let your eyes be fixed on justice.

³ Weigh my heart, summon me by night, *

melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.

⁴ **I give no offense with my mouth as others do; ***

I have heeded the words of your lips.

⁵ My footsteps hold fast to the ways of your law; *

in your paths my feet shall not stumble.

⁶ **I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; ***

incline your ear to me and hear my words.

⁷Show me your marvelous loving-kindness, *

O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand from those who rise up against them.

¹⁶**But at my vindication I shall see your face; ***

when I awake, I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

The Second Reading

Romans 9:1-5

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

I am speaking the truth in Christ~ I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit~ I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Sequence Hymn** #WLP 761

All who hunger gather gladly

The Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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 the Province of Uganda. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for Trinity Church, Shrewsbury; Hampden Region & Dean of Clericus; Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless, Worcester; Worcester Interfaith. In our towns' cycle we pray for police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders. Among our members and friends, we pray for The Rev. Mark H. Hatch; Lisa M. Henry; Bea Howes; Janice Howes; Pete Howes; The Rev. Victoria & Gosia Ix; Hannah Jarrell; Arnold Jones, Riley, Rowan. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Sean M. Skalski. And among our ministries we pray for our Hilltown Churches Food Pantry.

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 & Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Sing a New Song

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

Jesus Christ was a man

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 #472**

Hope of the world

The Dismissal

Postlude “Bird as Prophet” from the Waldszenen, Op. 82 by R. Schumann Emmet Chilton-Sugerman

Please stay for coffee and conversation!

EVENTS

August 2: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

August 4: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry

August 9: The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas is our supply priest

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

August 13: Community Picnic #2 at St. John's 5pm (rain date is August 20)

August 16: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

Vestry Meeting will not be held this month

August 23: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

August 28: Love in a Backpack filling at the Corner House 3-4pm

August 30: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

August 30: Loose plate offering is dedicated to the Vicar's Discretionary Fund

September 6: We welcome The Rev. Harvey Hill as our new Vicar

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!