



SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ashfield, Massachusetts

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 9, 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 Beethoven's Minuet in G

Emmet Chilton-Sugerman

****Gathering Hymn** #410*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

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

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; 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 37:1-4,12-28

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell

him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105:1-6,16-22,45b

Responsively by whole verse

¹ Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

² **Sing to him, sing praises to him, ***
and speak of all his marvelous works.

³ Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴ **Search for the LORD and his strength; ***
continually seek his face.

⁵ Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

⁶ **O offspring of Abraham his servant, ***
O children of Jacob his chosen.

¹⁶ Then he called for a famine in the land *
and destroyed the supply of bread.

¹⁷ **He sent a man before them, ***
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

¹⁸ They bruised his feet in fetters; *
his neck they put in an iron collar.

¹⁹ **Until his prediction came to pass, ***
the word of the LORD tested him.

²⁰ The king sent and released him; *
the ruler of the peoples set him free.

²¹ **He set him as a master over his household, ***
as a ruler over all his possessions,

²² To instruct his princes according to his will *
and to teach his elders wisdom.

⁴⁵ **Hallelujah!**

The Second Reading

Romans 10:5-15

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Sequence Hymn** #398

I sing the almighty power of God

The Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

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

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

Shared silence

The Nicene Creed

BCP p.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:
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 Episcopal Church. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for All Saints', South Hadley; Berkshires Region & Dean of Clericus; Episcopal Young Adults & Campus Ministry; Anglican Society. 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 Sara Jonsberg, Cynthia Magrath; The Rev. Eric Kahl, Margaret MacNaughton; Jane Kaufman; Brian Kernan-Dufresne; Denise Kernan, Frank Dufresne; Joyce Ketcham; David King, Ruth Julian. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Richard Bromberg. And among our ministries we pray for our Liturgy 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 & God Moments

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

What wondrous love is this

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

I Sought The Lord

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 800**

Precious Lord, take my hand

The Dismissal

Postlude F. Schubert's Sonata in A Major, D. 664 2nd movement

Emmet Chilton-Sugerman

Please stay for coffee and conversation!

EVENTS

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 18: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry

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

Mailing address: PO Box 253, Ashfield, MA 01330-0253 | **Telephone:** 413-628-4402

Email: stjohnsashfield@gmail.com | **On the web:** stjohnsashfield.org |

Facebook: @stjohnsashfield

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!