



# SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ashfield, Massachusetts

THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 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 Minor

Emmet Chilton-Sugerman

**\*Gathering Hymn** #617

*Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round*

*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 us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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*

*Exodus 16:2-15*

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45*

*Responsively by whole verse*

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; \*  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

<sup>2</sup> **Sing to him, sing praises to him, \***  
**and speak of all his marvelous works.**

<sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy Name; \*  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

<sup>4</sup> **Search for the LORD and his strength; \***  
**continually seek his face.**

<sup>5</sup> Remember the marvels he has done, \*  
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

<sup>6</sup> **O offspring of Abraham his servant, \***  
**O children of Jacob his chosen.**

<sup>37</sup> He led out his people with silver and gold; \*  
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

<sup>38</sup> **Egypt was glad of their going, \***  
**because they were afraid of them.**

<sup>39</sup> He spread out a cloud for a covering \*  
and a fire to give light in the night season.

<sup>40</sup> **They asked, and quails appeared, \***  
**and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.**

<sup>41</sup> He opened the rock, and water flowed, \*  
so the river ran in the dry places.

<sup>42</sup> **For God remembered his holy word \***  
**and Abraham his servant.**

<sup>43</sup> So he led forth his people with gladness, \*  
his chosen with shouts of joy.

<sup>44</sup> **He gave his people the lands of the nations, \***  
**and they took the fruit of others' toil,**

<sup>45</sup> That they might keep his statutes \*  
and observe his laws. Hallelujah!

*The Second Reading*

*Philippians 1:21-30*

A Reading from the Letter to the Philippians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and

joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well~ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Sequence Hymn #690**

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*

*The Gospel*

*Matthew 20:1-16*

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The Sermon*

*Rev. Harvey Hill*

*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 Anglican Church of Australia. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for Holy Spirit, Sutton; Mass. Council of Churches; Construct Inc., Berkshires. In our towns' cycle we pray for police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders. Among our members and friends, we pray for Madeleine Roberts; Don Robinson; Julianne & Steve Rossi; Bill Scaife; The Rev. Dr. Susan Schaeffer; Ray & Andrea Sears; Dr. Kathleen Sheridan. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Richard Bromberg. And among our ministries we pray for our Vestry Team.

### *The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *Confession of Sin*

#### *The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**God of compassion, have mercy upon us. Heal our relationship with all creation. Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect of the creatures who share the earth with us. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent for what we have done to harm them, and for what we have not done to help them.**

**Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another and for all creatures, according to your will and in the fullness of your love; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. 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** Peace with yourself. Peace with Creation. Peace with one another.

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

*Not here for high and holy things*

*\*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 all 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

*The Last Shall be First*

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 #541**

*Come, labor on*

*The Dismissal*

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve God's Creation.

*People* **Thanks be to God the Creator.**

Postlude Schubert's Impromptu No. 3 in A-flat, D. 935

Emmet Chilton-Sugerman

*Please stay for coffee and conversation!*

## EVENTS

September 27: Loose plate offering is dedicated to the Vicar's Discretionary Fund

September 29: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry

October 4: Blessing of the Animals 11:15am

October 10 & 11: Ashfield Fall Festival

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

October 18: Vestry Meeting

November 1: UTO Ingathering

November 1: Jazz Vespers

**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*

**Vicar:** Rev. Harvey Hill, 706-676-1078 revharveyhill@gmail.com

**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

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Thank you!