

# LOGOS

The Newsletter for St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington

*"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" John 1:5*

December 2017

## Celebrate and Worship: Christmas at St. John's

Sunday, December 17, 10 a.m.	Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 24, 10 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent (no 8 a.m. service)
Sunday, December 24, 5 p.m.	Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols and a children's message
Sunday, December 24, 11 p.m.	Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols
Monday, December 25, 10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols
Sunday, December 31, 10 a.m.	Lessons and Carols service (no 8 a.m. service)



## Convention Approves Call of Bishop Suffragan

The 223rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia approved Bishop Shannon Johnston's call to elect a second Bishop Suffragan to join him and Suffragan Bishop Susan Goff when Bishop Ted Gulick retires in December. The election of the new bishop is expected to take place at the 224th annual convention in November 2018. The bishop will have offices in Northern Virginia and a specific set of ministries for which he or she will be responsible.

The convention passed resolutions on a variety of topics, including combatting wage theft; preventing opioid addiction; improving public transportation; including transgender youth in churches, schools, and camps; and supporting both the Paris Climate Accord and family leave for church employees.

Delegates passed a balanced budget of just over \$5 million that increased funding for campus ministries. In his pastoral address, Bishop Johnston made a special appeal to each church to increase its pledge to the annual diocesan budget by 2.5 percent or \$25 per \$1,000 currently given. He pointed to three specific needs: employing college chaplains for all universities in the diocese, supporting fledgling and small mission congregations, and improving compensation to attract and retain diocesan staff.

Bishop Johnston also spoke about the role of the church in racial reconciliation. "We learned that when the church shows up and takes a stand, people notice and are themselves strengthened to oppose any form of injustice or inhumanity."

The convention closed with a tribute to Bishop Gulick, who will retire to his home in Fauquier County and continue in some active ministries in the diocese.

## Sunday Seminar Studies Joseph

During Advent the adult Sunday Seminar will discuss a four-part study entitled "Faithful," which centers around Joseph. Just as Joseph encountered circumstances that he would never have chosen for himself, so do we encounter unexpected turns in our lives. Joseph provides an example for us of obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength God provides. Come and join the conversation at 9 a.m. in the parlor. The Sunday Seminar will conclude this fall's discussion of *The Evolution of God* in the new year.



**Join St. John's for the annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17, at 10 a.m.**

## From the Rector: Unleash Your Giftedness

More than 2,000 years ago, God gave us the very first Christmas gift. Jesus was a small unassuming gift wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger. No fancy wrapping and bows, no brass bands, no speeches. But there were angels in the fields—God’s messengers that came to say what God wanted this gift to be to us. God wanted Jesus to bring peace and joy to the world. God also wanted Jesus to express God’s love for us in all that he did and to help us be reconciled to God.

Jesus was God’s gift to us that very first Christmas, but now it is we who are God’s gifts to the world. It is we who are Jesus’s hands and feet, who do the kingdom work on earth. How do we do that? We need to unleash our giftedness on the world. Have you ever seen a dog in a dog park quivering in anticipation because it knows it is going to be let off the leash? When that leash is unclipped, there goes the dog, romping and running and being its doggy self. The dog is free to run and play and greet other animals and smell all kinds of smells and revel in the fact that it is a dog.

That’s the way it is with us. We are created to play particular roles in building up God’s kingdom. We are gifted in certain ways to serve God’s purposes. Now we don’t all possess a set of 13 gifts that we know we have, although there are tools for discovering your spiritual gifts. But God wants us to unleash ourselves on the world and use everything God has given us to be a gift to creation.

There are some ways we can work on finding and giving our gifts.

Unleash your creativity. Use your imagination. What do you do that you are passionate about? Do you sing or dance or write or think or knit or organize or work in other ways to produce something that is beautiful for the world? I know that I am 100

percent the gift God wants me to be when I sing. There is just a zing in my heart when I open my mouth that I can’t compare with anything else. What gives you zing? There is at least one thing and probably more. God made us that way. Your creativity is part of God’s Christmas gift to the world.

Unleash your compassion. Jesus had compassion for all God’s children and that relational impulse is implanted in our hearts. Sometimes though, we get so wrapped up in our lists and our routines and our work that we brush compassion away as a gift to give when we have time. I know I have to be careful when someone comes in or calls for help and I am in the middle of something. I have to stop and breathe and remember that the interruptions in my day are sometimes more important than what I am doing. Sometimes hearing a long drawn-out story before you give someone a food card is one of the most compassionate things you can do. There are many things we can do to show our compassion. We can be with people where they are by listening and giving to the best of our ability. We can work for charitable organizations. We can care for the earth. Giving Jesus’s gifts to the world is our ministry as baptized Christians.

Unleash your generosity. Two-year-olds go through the “mine” phase, when they are learning how to separate from their parents and know themselves as a self. That is an important developmental stage but not a permanent state in which to remain. Children are soon taught to share, to know that letting someone play with your toys or even giving a gift at a friend’s birthday party is a way to stay in loving relationship. We all have things with which we can be generous. Some of us have money that we can give to people on the street, to an organization that does research into a disease, to the church. Some of us have a lot of

money to give, while others have the widow's mite. Whatever we can give in the spirit of love is appreciated by God and others. We can also give our time and talents. Sometimes that is harder, because our schedules are so busy, but it is vital for our well-being to be able to share ourselves. Deliver Meals on Wheels, read to school children, build Habitat for Humanity houses. We all have something we can give.

How does it feel to think of yourself as a Christmas present to the world? How does it feel to know that what you have to give is something the world will be drawn to as a

child (or any of us) is drawn to a present under the Christmas tree? How does it feel to know that the very things that give you joy are the gifts you are supposed to give to the world in love? We are unleashed by God to be us—to create and share and love as Jesus did.

You are a long-awaited gift with which God has blessed the world. Give the Christmas joy that is yours to give, at this time of year and always.

Ann †

### *St. John's Monthly Financial Statement*

October income:	\$8,087
Pledge + Plate:	\$6,920
Year-to-date income:	\$94,857
October expense:	\$12,200
Year-to-date expense:	\$136,419

### **St. John's Staff and Leadership**

#### **Staff**

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker  
 Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson  
 Organist: Judith Marcinko  
 Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson  
 Nursery Attendant: Kaitlyn Osteguin  
 Sexton: Julio Sorto

#### **Vestry**

Lisa Pope, Senior Warden  
 Bryan Harbin, Junior Warden  
 Jeff Aitken

#### **Parish Leaders**

Bill Thomson, Treasurer  
 John Restall, Pledge Clerk  
 Dave Dunlap, Chair, Finance Committee  
 Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Diane Henderson  
 Del Hunt  
 John Restall

## Words on Hymns: Discovering a *Land of Rest* and Heavenly Hymns

This month is a two-part Words on Hymns. The good news is that I wrote my November column early in October, knowing I would be out of town for two weeks at the end of the month. The bad news is that I forgot to send it before I left. So here goes the double dose.

Our Gradual hymn for November 12 was *Jerusalem, My Happy Home*. The words are not terribly familiar to our congregation, but the tune, *Land of Rest*, certainly is. We have sung it many times as *I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord*. *Land of Rest* is an American folk tune with roots in the ballads of northern England and Scotland. A gentle waltz, it was known throughout the Appalachians; a shape-note version of the tune was published in *The Sacred Harp* (1844) and titled *New Prospect* as the setting for "O land of rest! for thee I sigh." The tune was published again with that same text in J.R. Graves's *Little Seraph* in 1873. The name *Land of Rest* derives from the tune's association with that text.

The text, as is the case with many hymns, is much older. It was first published by Joseph Bromehead in *Psalms and Hymns for Public or Private Devotion* in 1795. The original manuscript in the British Museum, dated around 1583, is inscribed, "A song made by F. B. P. to the tune of Diana." The author is thought to have been a Catholic priest, possibly imprisoned in the Tower of London by Queen Elizabeth I or King James I, who based the hymn on the writings of St. Augustine. The author penned 25 (!) verses. Fortunately, in the interests of going home before total vocal exhaustion befalls us, our hymnal contains only five.

For some centuries the volume known to us as *The Meditations of St. Augustine (Liber Meditationum)* had been popular and had widely influenced the thought of the Church. At the time of the Reformation, Roman Catholic and Protestant alike vied to translate it, in whole or in part. In many editions Cardinal P. Damiani's hymn on Paradise, "Ad perennis vitae fontem," is included

and has thus become frequently ascribed to St. Augustine.

One of my favorite hymns, which we frequently sing at the Lessons and Carols service (although not this year), is *Let all mortal flesh keep silence*. I love the text, and the tune is not too shabby either. It is one of the earliest Christian hymns still in common usage. Its roots date to the 4th century and it is based on the Greek text, "Prayer of the Cherubic Hymn," in the Liturgy of St. James. According to hymnologist Albert Bailey, the ancient Liturgy of St. James originated with the Church at Jerusalem and is sometimes called the Liturgy at Jerusalem. Originally it was thought to have been the work of James the Lesser, the brother of Jesus, but now it seems to have been created under Cyril of Jerusalem (c. 347) and later amplified.

Bailey explains the context of the original hymn: "In performance this liturgy leads up to the celebration of the Eucharist, our Communion. Since the Eucharist was an awesome rite in which, according to universal ancient belief, Christ was actually present under the guise of bread and wine, it should be approached only after due spiritual preparation."

The celebrant would say the following Preface during the Eucharistic liturgy, setting the context for the hymn: "We remember the sky, the earth and the sea, the sun and the moon, the stars and all creation both rational and irrational, the angels and archangels, powers, mights, dominations, principalities, thrones, the many-eyed Cherubim who say those words of David: 'Praise the Lord with me.' We remember the Seraphim, whom Isaias saw in spirit standing around the throne of God, who with two wings cover their faces, with two their feet and with two fly; who say: 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth.' We also say these divine words of the Seraphim, so as to take part in the hymns of the heavenly host." You'll recognize some of the words as coming from Revelation.

During the Oxford Movement, when some of the early texts of the Christian church were translated from Greek and Latin into English, Gerard Moultrie (1829–1885), an Anglican priest, provided a translation from the Greek in 1864 that appeared in the collection *Lyra Eucharistica* by Orby Shipley. English hymnologist J.R. Watson notes: “In the original Liturgy of St. James, [the hymn] was used as the bread and wine were brought into the sanctuary.” The tune, “Picardy,” dates back to the 17th century and is found in a book of French folk songs, *Chansons Populaires des Provinces de France*, published in 1860. The English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) paired it with this text for the *English Hymnal* (1906), and the text and tune have been inseparable since that time. Picardy is a region and former province in northern France.

By the way, in case you were wondering, the musical term “Picardy third” has nothing to do with this tune. (A Picardy third is when a piece of music in a minor key ends a section, cadence, or the whole piece in a major key.) Rather, it is thought that it comes from the development of contrapuntal music in northern France and Flanders. Another possibility is that it stems from the northern French dialect word “picart,” meaning “sharp,” since the third of the chorus is raised in the Picardy third. This probably tells you more than you were interested in hearing, so I’ll stop now.

Carol Dunlap

**St. John’s Vision Statement**

St. John’s Episcopal Church is an inclusive congregation that nurtures Christian spiritual growth and community through worship, education, outreach, mutual care, and fellowship.

**St. John’s Mission Statement**

St. John’s mission is building a strong spiritual community in Christ; welcoming all who enter our doors, including believers, seekers, and doubters; and reaching out to those in need both within our congregation and around us.

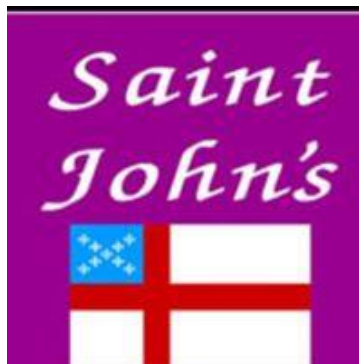
**LOGOS**

LOGOS is published monthly at the beginning of the month, except for a combined July/August issue.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Articles for LOGOS may be emailed to [logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org) (preferred) or left at the church office.

The deadline for the January issue is December 15. Article ideas for future issues are also welcome.



Join the St. John’s community on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/StJohns-Episcopal-Church-VA-873585192690377](http://www.facebook.com/StJohns-Episcopal-Church-VA-873585192690377)

## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet **Tuesday, December 5**, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett. The novel tells the story of how an unexpected encounter changes the lives of two families forever. All are welcome!

➤. The children of St. John's and the community will present the annual Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, December 17**, at the 10 a.m. worship service.

### Thank you to:

➤ Michael Birmingham for serving as stewardship chair during the 2018 commitment campaign.

➤ Peter Olivere for creating a flyer for the Family Programs Minister position.

➤ Everyone from St. John's and Cristo Rey who participated in the Thanksgiving Potluck on November 19 and all those who brought food and assisted in set-up and clean-up.

### Rest in Peace:

➤ Esther Kalin, Justin Cohen's grandmother, who died October 21. May her memory be for a blessing.

### We celebrate with all who have birthdays in December:

The Rev. Catherine Campbell, Eileen Flynn, Maddie Harbin, Lori Held, Galen Henderson, Del Hunt, Vernon Martin, Barbara Olivere, Angie Rollet, Angela Swarr, and Camron Tallent.

### We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in December:

Carol and Dave Dunlap; Klaus and Lori Held; Penny and Don Hess; Cooper and Mary Mackin.



The children of St. John's, Cristo Rey, and the community celebrated Halloween a little early on Sunday, October 22. Participants enjoyed zombie tag and other games, bobbing for apples, and refreshments!