



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

June 2020

Rev. Ann Barker Accepts Call to St. Joseph's Church

The Rev. Ann Barker has accepted a call to serve as rector of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in McDonough, Georgia, near Atlanta. Her last Sunday with St. John's will be June 28. St. Joseph's is only an hour from her son and daughter-in-law, and she has wanted to be nearer to them. We will miss Ann, but we wish her all the best in her new position.

As of June 1, the St. John's community continues to worship virtually and share in fellowship together each Sunday at 10 a.m. via Zoom. The Zoom link and instructions along with the bulletin for the service are sent by email each week to the St. John's mailing list. If you only want to participate by phone, instructions for dialing in are also included. Please continue to join your St. John's family in worship as we prepare to say goodbye to Ann.



St. John's prepares to say goodbye to Rev. Ann this month after 19 years of service.

From the Rector: Letting Go

I am trying to let go. When I was interviewing for my new position, I would write a thank you note after each interview and then think of a dozen other things I wanted to say. Sometimes I sent a follow-up letter. But after my last interview, when I wanted to send another note, I got a message. I heard from God in that sudden insight I sometimes get, and God said, "Let go and let me work." I thought, "Oh yes, the Holy Spirit has a part in this, and it can't get a word in edgewise if I am continuing to 'do' things instead of waiting in faith and hope."

Getting God more involved in our lives can take lots of forms. We can let go of burdens that are too much for us to bear. I don't believe in the adage that God never gives us more than we can handle. Lots of times we have more than we can bear. Sometimes we are taking care of an elderly parent who is going downhill fast. Sometimes our children are seriously ill or have disabilities. Sometimes we are suffering and may not even know it. Eventually, we are exhausted and maybe depressed all the time. This is the time to say, "Oh, wait, I can't do this myself. God can help me and I think I will let go and let God." In order to recover from their addiction, people in 12-step programs make a decision to turn their wills and their lives over to the care of God. Yes, we get more than we can bear alone, but not more than we can bear with God's help. Give your burdens to God.

Let go of trying to be worthy of God's love. You can't be. God's love is pure grace. We get it because we are, not because of anything we do. Of course that is not a license to do anything we want to. It is a license to be grateful. It is also a license to drop the excessive busyness, to stop trying to have a perfect house (I gave up on that years ago), to stop trying to help everyone in your world

(though help sometimes is a good thing). You have permission to rest and play more, to be with family and friends, to balance your life. And if you have no idea how to do this, God will help you. God wants to be part of our lives, and we need to open the door for God.

Stop clinging to things that are no longer useful or helpful and have sometimes become harmful. Clinging is about fear, says Brother John Hall of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE). Clinging is not embracing and leaving room for God to act. Clinging is holding on to a job you can't stand because you are afraid you won't get another one or are simply afraid of change. Clinging to your children at any age, trying to control them and tell them what they should do, is bad for you and for them. My in-laws once offered us money if we would spend it on what they thought we should have. That's clinging. It is also clinging to hang on to relationships that are not good for us because someone may be hurt and we want everyone to like us. Clinging is not love, and God wants love for us. Let God work those miracles in your life.

God has put a restlessness in our hearts that only God can fill. St. Augustine said, "You have made us for yourselves, O God, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Restlessness is uncomfortable and we have a built-in desire to fill ourselves up so we will stop longing. But we shouldn't. That longing leaves space for God to enter our lives and fill it up. Take some time to walk in the park (when they open). Take some time to be quiet and meditate to let God in. Inviting emptiness on purpose is really scary but it will eventually be very fulfilling.

To truly let God be the center of our lives, we have to let go of trying to do it all ourselves, because we feel like we have to or because we want control. Brother Geoffrey

Tristram (SSJE) says that the potter (God) is very confident in what God is doing all along the way. The clay (us) is clueless and we have to have faith that the potter knows what is going on and is shaping us into the best we can be. To surrender to the potter is to surrender to love. To let go of obsessive self-direction is to be shaped and formed by God, who created us in the first place. Who better to keep shaping us?

Letting go is not easy, but it is fruitful. God will show us how to be and what to do if we only give God room. God does God's best to act in our lives whether we have let go or not, but it is infinitely better to practice this discipline on a regular basis. We will hear God's voice and feel God's love.

Ann †

Bible Study Continues To Examine the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus

The Wednesday Bible study on the "I Am" sayings of Jesus continues until June 17 at 3 p.m. weekly. Each lesson is self-contained, so you can jump in now and participate in the last two or three lessons. The group would love to have you join. The study is held via conference call, so if you are interested, please contact Rev. Ann for the phone number and meeting code.

St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Judith Marcinko
Family Programs Director: Jonathan Muehlke
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
Child Care Provider: Kaitlyn Osteguín
Sexton: Julio Sorto

Vestry

Sandy Winger, Senior Warden
Bryan Harbin, Junior Warden
Jeff Aitken

Parish Leaders

Peter Olivere, Treasurer
John Restall, Pledge Clerk
Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Diane Henderson
Richard Henry
Peter Olivere

Words on Hymns: Trinity Sunday

Our Gradual hymn for June 7, Trinity Sunday, has a tune that's gotten a lot of mileage. *Thou, Whose Almighty Word* joins another Trinity hymn, *Come, Thou Almighty King*. There's also *Christ for the World We Sing!* The idea has been put forward that hymn tunes, no matter how worthy, can be used too much with multiple texts. I haven't gotten tired of *Moscow* yet, but who knows down the road?

Sometimes called *Italian Hymn* or *Trinity*, *Moscow* was composed as a musical setting for *Come, Thou Almighty King* by Felice Giardini at the request of Countess Selina Shirley. This hymn tune, along with three others of Giardini's, was first published in Martin Madan's *Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes* in 1769.

Felice Giardini was born in Turin in 1716. When it became clear that he was a child prodigy, his father sent him to Milan. There he studied singing, harpsichord, and violin, but it was the latter that made him a famous virtuoso. By the age of 12, he was already playing in theater orchestras. In a famous incident about this time, Giardini, who was serving as assistant concertmaster during an opera, played a solo passage for violin that the composer Niccolò Jommelli had written. He decided to show off his skills and improvised several bravura variations that Jommelli had not written. Although the audience applauded loudly, Jommelli, who happened to be there, was not pleased. He suddenly stood up and slapped the young man in the face. Giardini, years later, remarked, "It was the most instructive lesson I ever received from a great artist."

During the 1750s, Giardini toured Europe as a violinist, scoring successes in Paris, Berlin, and especially in England, where he eventually settled. For many years, he served as the orchestra leader and director of the Italian Opera in London and gave solo concerts

under the auspices of J.C. Bach, a close friend. He directed the orchestra at the London Pantheon. From the mid-1750s to the end of the 1760s, he was widely regarded as the greatest musical performing artist of the time. In 1784, he returned to Naples to run a theater, but encountered financial setbacks. In 1793, he went back to England to try his luck there. But times had changed, and he was no longer remembered. He then went to Russia, but again had little success. He died in Moscow in 1796.

Giardini was a prolific composer, writing for virtually every genre that then existed. His two main genres, however, were opera and chamber music. Virtually all of his music is now out of print, with the exception of a few songs and works of chamber music.

Thou, Whose Almighty Word stresses the importance of light to everything. The first stanza talks about the Creator; the second, Christ; the third, the Holy Spirit; and the fourth verse ties it all together in the Trinity. Each verse ends with "let there be light!" The words were written by an Anglican clergyman and poet, John Marriott (1780–1825). In 1824 Marriott developed a brain condition called ossification. He was taken to London in the hope of treatment but without success. He died in 1825 at the age of 45. He wrote several hymns, but the only one that survives is *Thou Whose Almighty Word*. It is thought to have been written in 1813 and was published posthumously in *The Friendly Visitor* in 1825 with the title *Missionary Hymn*.

An interesting account is told of *Come, Thou Almighty King's* use during the Revolutionary War. A group of British troops invaded an American church service one Sunday morning demanding that the congregation sing *God Save Our Gracious King*. The people responded with the requested tune but sang *Come, Thou Almighty King*

instead. The hymn is of unknown authorship, but is often attributed to Charles Wesley, although there is no evidence supporting this attribution.

Samuel Wolcott (1813–1886) wrote the text for *Christ for the World We Sing!* His hymn writing began late in life but extended to more than 200 hymns. This hymn is the only one by Wolcott in our hymnal. Wolcott told the story

that having allowed the YMCA to use the church where he was pastor for a meeting, he saw their banner over the pulpit: “Christ for the World, and the World for Christ.” This suggested the hymn *Christ for the World We Sing!* He was on his way home from that service when he composed the hymn.

Carol Dunlap

Play St. John’s Virtual Bingo on Saturday, June 6

Play bingo with St. John's on Zoom on Saturday night, June 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The St. John’s community will play for fun and fellowship rather than prizes. There is no charge to play. To request a bingo card or cards that will be emailed to you, send a note to Sandy Winger at the.lost2@hotmail.com. If you prefer to pick up a bingo card at the church, send an email to Sandy and she can leave it for you in the box outside the front entrance of St. John's where the copies of "Forward Day by Day" are placed. Anyone who requests a bingo card will receive the Zoom link to sign in Saturday night to play. See you Saturday!



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 (preferred) or left at the church office. The deadline for the July/August issue is June 20. Article ideas for future issues are also welcome.

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.

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

- Play virtual bingo with St. John's on **Saturday, June 6**, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For information on how to play, see page 5.
- The St. John's Book Club is starting its summer break, but stay tuned for an announcement of the book the group will be reading over the summer for discussion in September.

Thank You to:

- Sandy Winger, Linda Simmons, and Lynn Robinson for putting together the bagged lunches for May. Thank you also to Barbara Wien for delivering them. This is a critical ministry, especially now, so if you can help, please call Rev. Ann at 703-532-3936 or 703-622-2373.
- Lynn Robinson for taking the food St. John's has donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).
- Pete Olivere, who did incredible amounts of work to ensure that St. John's obtained a Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan. The loan, which is forgivable, will provide 2.5 months of funding for payroll and other specific expenses.
- Lin Novak for putting up signs outside the church to congratulate the neighborhood graduates and offer wishes for a happy Mother's Day.
- Pete Olivere for his continued efforts to keep Zoom working well during St. John's services, in spite of technical problems on Zoom's end.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in June:

Charles Adair, Sienna Baynham, Sam Beavin, Michael Cavey, Cathi Del Gallo, Angie France, Paul Harless, Adrienne Hubbard, Matthew Hubbard, Judith Marcinko, Kaipō McCartney, Leslie Mead, Stacy O'Connor, Lisa Pope, Faye Pritchard, James Robinson, Jones Tallent, Matthew Tallent, and Christopher Van Wyk.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in June:

Peter and Patricia Broida; Ray and Stacy O'Connor; Barbara and Pete Olivere; Rev. Peter and Angela Swarr; Eileen and Bob Tallent; and John and Valerie Wilson.

