

# 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*

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July/August 2021

## Regathering in July

St. John's will gather for another outdoor service in July as well as the first indoor worship service since March 2020. Please see the details below and make plans to participate as you are able:

### July 11: Outdoor Worship

The service will also be livestreamed on Zoom (in the event of rain, it will only be held on Zoom).

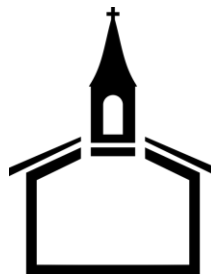
- Following the worship service, those who wish may join a reception on the church grounds. Please bring your own refreshments.
- The church will be open for you to visit it.

### July 18: Indoor Worship

The service will also be livestreamed on Zoom.

- Following the worship service, those who wish may join a reception on the church grounds. Please bring your own refreshments.
- Specific instructions about this service will be publicized well in advance so that you may make your own choice about attending.

If you did not respond to the Regathering Survey distributed last month and would like to fill it out, please contact Peter Olivere at 703-626-2520 or [treasurer@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:treasurer@stjohnsarlingtonva.org).



## Words on Hymns: *The God of Abraham Praise*

The following is the list of the 13 Principles of Judaism. They begin with the words, “I believe with perfect faith that...” (“that” is omitted in Number 12).

1. ...the Creator, blessed be His Name, is the Creator and Guide of everything that has been created, and He alone, has made, does make, and will make all things.
2. ...the Creator, blessed be His Name, is One, and that there is no unity in any manner like unto His, and that He alone, is our God, who was, is, and will be.
3. ...the Creator, blessed be His Name, is not a body and that He is free from all the properties of matter, and that He has not any form whatever.
4. ...to the Creator, blessed be His Name, is the first and the last.
5. ...to the Creator, blessed be His Name, and to Him alone, it is right to pray and that it is not right to pray to any being besides Him.
6. ...all the words of the prophets are true.
7. ...the prophecy of Moses, our teacher, peace be unto him, was true, and that he was the chief of the prophets, both of those who preceded and of those who followed him.
8. ...the whole Torah [law] now in our possession is the same that was given to Moses our teacher, peace be unto him.
9. ...the Torah will not be changed, and that there will never be any other Law from the Creator, blessed be His Name.
10. ...the Creator, blessed be His Name, knows every deed of the children of men, and all their thoughts as it is said. It is He that fashioned the heart of them all, that giveth heed to all their works.

11. ...the Creator, blessed be His Name, rewards those that keep His commandments, and punishes those that transgress them.

12. ...in the coming of the Messiah; and though he tarry, I will wait daily for his coming.

13. ...there will be a revival of the dead at the time when it shall please the Creator, blessed be His Name, and exalted be His Name for ever and ever.

Maimonides—also known as Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon or Rambam (1138–1204)—compiled and composed the 13 principles of Jewish faith. He is often compared in greatness to Moses and towers above his peers among medieval Jewish thinkers and leaders. The 13 principles of faith were shaped about 1400 by Daniel ben Judah, a Jewish liturgical poet living in Rome. The principles are included in every Jewish prayer book and are recited as a liturgical hymn at the conclusion of a Friday or Festival service. This recitation is known as the *Yigdal* and embodies Judaism's fundamental pillars of traditional belief, just as the Apostles' or the Nicene Creeds do for Christians.

This is an introduction to this month's hymn, *The God of Abraham Praise*. In 1772, Thomas Olivers (1725–1799), an ardent follower of John Wesley, heard cantor Myer Lyon sing the *Doxology of the Yigdal* at the Great Synagogue, located at Duke's Place in London. The Sabbath Eve service and the music so impressed Olivers that he wrote a Christian hymn based on the *Yigdal* with the tune *Leoni* named after the cantor, whose stage name was Michael Leoni. Some think that Leoni himself transcribed the tune for Olivers following the service. John Wesley included it in his *Sacred Harmony* (1780), and the tune has been paired with Olivers' paraphrase ever since.

Olivers was one of the many people from the middle and lower classes that were converted through the evangelical ministry of George Whitfield. One day Olivers heard Whitfield preach on the text, “Is this not a brand plucked out of the fire?” from Zechariah 3:2. He was converted and his life changed dramatically. John Wesley recognized Olivers' talents and persuaded him to become one of his evangelists.

The opening stanza of *The God of Abraham Praise* is based on Exodus 3:6, “I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham,” and Exodus 3:14, “I am that I am.” Each of the original 12 stanzas is packed with scriptural allusions.

Another translation begins, “Praise to the Living God.” It was composed around 1885 by Unitarian minister Newton Mann and Rabbi Max Landsberg. That translation appeared in *The Union Hymnal for Jewish Worship* (1914) and served as the basis for the hymn later included in various hymnals. Several Presbyterian, Baptist, and UCC hymnals misattributed *The God of Abraham Praise* to Mann and Landsberg instead of Olivers due to William Gannett recasting the work to change the title from *Praise to the Living God* to *The God of Abraham Praise*. A number of versions of Methodist hymnals also made the same error until the 1980s.

Carol Dunlap

**LOGOS**

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

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Email articles to [logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org). The deadline for the September issue is August 23.

**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.

**St. John’s Staff and Leadership**

**Staff**

Supply Plus Minister: The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. Packard  
 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

**Parish Leaders**

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

**Vestry**

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

Diane Henderson  
 Richard Henry  
 Peter Olivere

## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ Have you given virtual bingo a try? Join St. John's game on **Saturday, July 17**, at 7 p.m. To obtain bingo cards and be sent the Zoom link or dial-in details to play, send an email to [bingo@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:bingo@stjohnsarlingtonva.org) or contact Sandy Winger at 703-498-6990.

➤ St. John's Book Club will meet next on **Tuesday, September 14**. Club members are reading *China Rich Girlfriend* by Kevin Kwan over the summer. Come join the discussion in September! Details about the meeting will be publicized closer to the date.

### Rest in Peace:

➤ Janet Spence, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on June 14.

### We celebrate with all who have birthdays in July and August:

Marshall Adair, Nolan Baynham, Michael Beavin, Carol Bogart, Joy Candelieri, Henry Carter, Brian Cavey, Carolyn Corlett, Dennis Eckhout, Nancy Gibb, Lexie Hart, McKenzie Hart, Klaus Held, Thomas Held, Janice Hull, Chelsea Kaufman, Elise Kaufman, Billie Jean Keith, Nathan Lewis, Kenji McCartney, Helen Naw Mumu, Ray O'Connor, Virginia Pearson, Paul Petrich, Bill Pritchard, Harriet Sheehan Rawls, Patrick Rawls, Marion Reed, Lynn Robinson, Christian Tallent, Jones Tallent, Sawyer Tallent, Angie Turner, Bill Turner, Simon Van Wyk, Kim White, and John Wilson.

### We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in July and August:

Dennis and LuAnne Eckhout; the Reverend Sue and Rob Hardman; Matthew and Adrienne Hubbard; Michelle and Nathan Lewis; Lisa Pope and Justin Cohen; and Jones and Sharon Tallent.

