



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

October 2022

Service Time Changes to 9 a.m. on October 9

St. John's will change its Sunday service time to 9 a.m. beginning on October 9. This will help the congregation prepare to welcome its new shared rector with St. Patrick's.

When St. John's formed a Profile Committee more than two years ago to create the church profile that would be used to advertise for a new rector and then later a Search Committee to continue the search process, it was clear that the church could only afford a part-time or shared rector. The search process identified St. Patrick's as an excellent partner for sharing a rector, so St. John's began working with them over a year ago.

At the annual meeting in February 2022, the vestry described the changes in the Sunday service schedule that would be necessary to share a rector. Because St. Patrick's has historically had a later morning service, it was agreed that the new schedule would be 9 a.m. for St. John's and 11 a.m. for St. Patrick's. This schedule would allow the rector some time to meet with members at St. John's after the weekly service before having to go to St. Patrick's.

The search process for a new rector is now almost complete. As St. John's and St. Patrick's hope to have a new shared rector by November, the service time change on October 9 will begin the preparation for this change.

The St. John's vestry appreciates that the change in time will require everyone to adjust their Sunday morning routine, which has been built around a 10 a.m. service at St. John's for many years. The vestry hopes that you will continue to celebrate Sunday worship services with your St. John's family as the congregation makes the change to 9 a.m.

After holding fellowship outside since May, St. John's has now resumed indoor coffee hours in the undercroft following the Sunday services. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex and volunteer to coordinate coffee hour one upcoming Sunday if you are able.

Worship services will continue to be live-streamed on Zoom every Sunday morning. For the Zoom access information, please see the worship bulletin sent by email each week.

If you have questions or need pastoral care, please contact Senior Warden Sandy Winger at 703-498-6990 (email: swarden@stjohnsarlingtonva.org).

Thank you for being an important part of the St. John's family!

Words on Hymns: *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

Our Gradual hymn for October 30 will be *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*, which is one of the oldest hymns in our collection. It is the 10th ode in the *Anth, Graeca Carm, Christ* by Synesius, a native of Cyrene, born circa 375. His descent was illustrious. His pedigree extended through 17 centuries, and in the words of Edward Gibbon, author of *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, "could not be equalled in the history of mankind." He became distinguished for his eloquence and philosophy, and as a statesman and patriot he took a noble stand.

Synesius's birthplace, in what is now Libya in North Africa, is also that of Simon of Cyrene, who carried Christ's cross. After spending some time in Athens, he went in 398 to the court of Arcadius in the eastern half of the Roman Empire and for three years tried to rouse it to the dangers that were coming to the empire. But Gibbon says, "The court of Arcadius indulged the zeal, applauded the eloquence, and neglected the advice of Synesius." His task was to obtain tax remissions for his country. In Constantinople he obtained the patronage of the powerful praetorian prefect Aurelianus. Synesius composed and addressed to Emperor Arcadius a speech entitled *De regno*, which contained a bold statement that the emperor's first priority must be a war on corruption and on the infiltration of barbarians into the Roman army.

His stay in Constantinople was wearisome and otherwise disagreeable; the leisure it forced upon him he devoted in part to literary composition. Aurelianus succeeded in granting him the tax remission for Cyrene and the Pentapolis (the five main Greek colonies that were united in the area of Libya) and an exemption from curial obligations, but then he fell in disgrace and Synesius lost everything. Later Aurelianus returned to power, restoring his own grants to Synesius. The poet

then composed *Aegyptus sive de providentia*, an allegory in which the good Osiris and the evil Typhon strive for mastery, and the question of the divine permission of evil is handled.

In 402, during an earthquake, Synesius left Constantinople to return to Cyrene. Along the road he passed through Alexandria. He returned to Alexandria in 403, where he married and lived until going back to Cyrene in 405. In the following years his major concern was the organization of the defense of the Pentapolis from the yearly attacks of neighboring tribes.

In 410, Synesius, whose Christianity had until then been by no means very pronounced, was popularly chosen to be bishop of Ptolemais. After long hesitation on personal and doctrinal grounds, he ultimately accepted the office. One personal difficulty at least was obviated by his being allowed to retain his wife, but as regarded orthodoxy he expressly stipulated for personal freedom to dissent on the questions of the soul's creation, a literal resurrection, and the final destruction of the world, while at the same time he agreed to make some concession to popular views in his public teaching.

His tenure was troubled not only by the deaths of three sons but also by the Libyan invasions of the country, which destroyed Cyrenaica and led to his exile, and by conflicts with the Roman governor Andronicus, whom he excommunicated for interfering with the Church's right of asylum. The date of his death is unknown, but it is most likely in 413.

The hymn's tune was written by William Damon (1540–1591), an Italian who arrived in England in 1566 to play the recorder in the Court of Queen Elizabeth I. He was a servant of Sir Thomas Sackville. He died from the effects of an ulcer and is buried in London.

Carol Dunlap



One potato, two potatoes: St. John's volunteers bagged more than half a ton at AFAC in September!

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

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Email articles to logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.
The deadline for the November issue is Oct. 27.

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

Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Judith Marcinko
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
Sexton: Julio Sorto

Vestry

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

Parish Leaders

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

Diane Henderson
Peter Olivere
Lisa Pope

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, November 1**, at 7:30 p.m. in the undercroft to discuss *Lost Roses* by Martha Hall Kelly. This historical novel follows the lives of three women from Paris to St. Petersburg to Long Island as they confront the turbulence of World War I. All are welcome!

Congratulations to:

➤ Christine Williams, St. John's newest member, who was received into the Episcopal Church by Bishop Susan Goff at Cristo Rey's service on Sunday, September 25.

Thank You to:

➤ St. John's Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) volunteers who bag food each month and to all those who continue to contribute food and monetary donations to AFAC.

➤ Everyone who has signed up to coordinate coffee hour following the Sunday services in upcoming weeks.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in October:

Erin Tallent Baynham, Bryan Harbin, Carrie Harbin, Taylor Robinson, and Liz White.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in October:

Barbara Wien and Robert Herman.

The Angel Tree Is Coming

St. John's expects to have the Salvation Army Angel Tree tags sometime after October 12, and the deadline for returning gifts to the church will be the week of November 14. Please think about taking a tag to provide gifts and clothing items for a child in need this Christmas season. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available!

