



# 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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November/December 2022

## St. John's Welcomes New Rector Rev. Julie Bryant



The Reverend Julie D. Bryant will join St. John's family on December 1 as a shared Rector with St. Patrick's in Falls Church.

Julie hails from the West Coast, where she was educated, ordained in 1996, and has served in a variety of congregational settings in the Dioceses of San Diego and Los Angeles. Her early life was in Texas, and she lived in the Midwest a bit, but this is her first trip east with more than a suitcase. Julie has family just north of here, and a smattering of friends around, but knows nothing about the rhythms of the DC metropolitan area and is hoping her new congregations will help her fall in love with this part of the world!

St. John's and St. Patrick's conversations with Julie have focused on how the two congregations can support each other, and what we might discover about God's purpose for us when we enlarge the conversation to include both congregations. The Letter of Agreement with Julie describes St. John's and St. Patrick's as distinct congregations working collaboratively. Julie is thinking about the time ahead as a season of discovery and service — and she is eager to get started. Come welcome her as she leads St. John's in worship on her first Sunday, December 4!

## Christmas Worship at St. John's

Come celebrate Christmas with your St. John's family and new rector Rev. Julie Bryant! St. John's will hold its Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend the service at St. John's, you are invited to worship at St. Patrick's, which will feature Christmas music at 7 p.m., followed by the service at 7:30 p.m. There will not be a Christmas Day service at St. John's this year, but ring in the new year as worship resumes at 9 a.m. on New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1.



### LOGOS

LOGOS is published monthly at the beginning of the month, except for the July/August issue and occasional other double issues.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

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

Rector: The Rev. Julie D. Bryant  
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson  
Organist: Judith Marcinko  
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson  
Sexton: Julio Sorto

#### Vestry

Sandy Winger, Senior Warden  
Jeff Aitken  
Dave Dunlap  
Bryan Harbin

#### Parish Leaders

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

Diane Henderson  
Peter Olivere  
Lisa Pope

## Words on Hymns: *Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve*

Our processional hymn on October 23 was *Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve*. It is one of the few hymn tunes written by George Frideric Handel. However, it wasn't written as a hymn tune.

Handel (1685–1759) became a musician and composer despite objections from his father, who wanted him to become a lawyer. Born in Halle, Germany, Handel studied music with Zachau, organist at the Halle Cathedral, and became an accomplished violinist and keyboard performer. He traveled and studied in Italy and then settled permanently in England in 1713 and became a citizen. Although he wrote many instrumental works, he is known mainly for his Italian operas, oratorios (including *Messiah* in 1741), various anthems for church and royal festivities, and organ concertos. He composed only three hymn tunes. *Gopsal* is in our hymnal as *Rejoice, the Lord is King!* A number of hymnal editors took themes from some of Handel's oratorios and turned them into hymn tunes; *Antioch* is one example, long associated with *Joy to the World*. He was strongly influenced both by the middle-German polyphonic choral tradition and by composers of the Italian Baroque. In turn, Handel's music forms one of the peaks of the “high baroque” style, bringing Italian opera to its highest development, creating the genres of English oratorio and organ concerto, and introducing a new style into English church music. He is consistently recognized as one of the greatest composers of his age.

In 1719, Handel was appointed music director of an organization called the Royal Academy of Music (unconnected with the present day London conservatory), a company under royal charter to produce Italian operas in London. Handel was not only to compose operas for the company but hire the star singers, supervise the orchestra and musicians, and adapt operas from Italy for London

performances. He composed more than 40 opera serie (serious opera as opposed to opera buffa or comic opera). In 1737, he had a physical breakdown, changed direction creatively, and addressed the middle class by making a transition to English choral works. After his success with *Messiah*, Handel never composed an Italian opera again. His orchestral *Water Music* and *Music for the Royal Fireworks* remain steadfastly popular. In 1727 Handel was commissioned to write four anthems for the coronation of George II. One of these, *Zadok the Priest*, has been performed at every British coronation since 1727. You'll probably hear it if you watch the coronation of King Charles III on May 6, 2023. Handel was almost blind when he died in 1759, a respected and rich man, and was given a state funeral at Westminster Abbey, where he is buried. The last performance he attended was of *Messiah*.

Our hymn tune was taken from the beginning of the soprano aria “Non vi piacque ingiusti dei” from the opera *Siroe*, first performed on February 17, 1728, in London. *Siroe, re di Persia* (*Siroes, King of Persia*) is a fictionalization of some events in the life of Kavad II (also known as Sheroe), King of the Sasanian Empire in 628 CE.

The author of the text, Philip Doddridge (1702–1751), belonged to the Non-conformist Church. Offered an education by a rich patron to prepare him for ordination in the Church of England, Doddridge chose instead to remain in the Non-conformist Church. For 20 years he pastored a poor parish in Northampton. Doddridge wrote some 400 hymn texts, generally to accompany his sermons. These hymns were published posthumously in *Hymns, Founded on Various Texts in the Holy Scriptures* (1755). While relatively few are still sung today, seven of them are in our hymnal.

Carol Dunlap

## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, December 6**, at 7:30 p.m. over Zoom (visit the Calendar section on [www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org](http://www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org) to obtain the Zoom link) to discuss *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata. This Japanese novel introduces readers to an unusual young woman whose life revolves around the convenience store where she works. The January selection will be *Victoria & Abdul* by Shrabani Basu. The book tells the true story of how a young Indian Muslim became a personal attendant and teacher to Queen Victoria. All are welcome!

### Thank You to:

- Dave Dunlap and Peter Olivere for chairing the Stewardship 2023 campaign.
- Everyone who brought donations for the Arlington Food Assistance Center Thanksgiving drive and to Faye Pritchard for coordinating the collection.
- All those who chose an Angel Tree tag and bought gifts for local children and to Patricia Broida for organizing the Angel Tree initiative.

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

The Rev. Catherine Campbell, Dave Dunlap, Maddie Harbin, Galen Henderson, Del Hunt, Michelle Lewis, Roger Ludwig, Barbara Olivere, and Camron Tallent.

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

Ginger and Marshall Adair; Jeff and Michelle Aitken; Carol and Dave Dunlap; Del and Carole Hunt; and The Rev. Larry and Melissa Packard.



**Merry Christmas!**