



St. John's Episcopal Church

415 S. Lexington Street, Arlington, VA 22204
The Reverend Julie D. Bryant, DMin

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 17, 2023, 9 in the morning

Typically, Episcopalians stand to sing and for the proclamation of the Gospel; kneel for confession and prayer; and sit while listening to reading or preaching. You will see some indication for those postures in the bulletin. Your presence is more precious than your posture: please stand, sit, or kneel as you are able and prefer.

Welcome! We're glad you're here!

Page references are to the red Book of Common Prayer. Music is indicated by "S" for service music (front of blue Hymnal), "LEVAS" for hymns from Lift Every Voice and Sing, and "WLP" for hymns from Wonder, Love, and Praise.

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS

The Reverend Julie D. Bryant, DMin, Rector
Lynn Robinson, Minister of Music • Mariko Hiller, Guest Musician
Susan Thompson, Usher • Lynn Robinson, Altar Guild
Volunteer, Reader • Volunteer, Prayers of the People
Patricia Broida, Intinction Cup Bearer
Bryan Harbin and Volunteer, Tellers • Julie Bryant, Fellowship
Peter Olivere and Sandy Winger, Sound and Live-stream Coordinators

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**Live-Stream Worship Continues on Sundays.** We continue to use the following Zoom access link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87353789589?pwd=OWlmaElNYnpDZ1N2ZVFSWDNIKoZDUT09> and Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589. The password is still 2020. Any other information remains the same. If you can't copy the link, go to [zoom.com/join](https://zoom.com/join) and enter Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589 and Password: 2020.

*If you don't have Zoom on your device, you will need to install that prior to the service.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome: We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and newcomers. All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Or you may come forward and receive a blessing.

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by the Adairs in memory of Professor Nan Huaijin.

Please join us for coffee hour outdoors after the service.

Emergency Pastoral Care. For pastoral emergencies please call or text the Reverend Julie D. Bryant at 703-336-2255. Her email address is rector@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.

Blessing of the Animals is today at 1 pm in the St. John's Garden. You are invited to bring your pets to be blessed (please have them on leash or caged); knowing some animals are fearful of crowds, you are welcome to bring pictures or other mementos, too. Animal blessings are offered near the feast of St Francis, lover of all creation.

Our regular 9 am service is being held **outdoors today** - you're welcome to join us!

Odeon Chamber Music Concert, will also be held **today** at 4 pm. *District 5 Woodwind Quintet*, featuring flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and French horn, will be kicking off the season with *Hopelessly Romantic*. Experience the passions and pitfalls of love as District 5 guides you through a humorous evening of tantalizing works by Hector Berlioz, Cecil Chaminade, Franz Liszt, Amy Beach, and more.

These concerts are held at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 3241 Brush Drive, Falls Church 22042. Admission is free but a donation of \$20 helps them to defray costs and will allow them to continue to provide fine concerts.

Worship in the time of Covid 19. We encourage wearing masks. Please continue to exercise good judgment and sensitivity during your time in Church. Please do not ask those who continue to wear masks why this is the case; and respect any wish for distance. Please continue to wave as a means of **Passing the Peace**.

Communion will be in both forms using an intinction cup, and the celebrant will wear a mask for the distribution of the Sacrament.

The Holy Eucharist

Season of Creation Liturgy, modified for Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

The Word of God

Opening Music "I am so glad Jesus lifted me"

arranged by Mariko Hiller

This is the day the Creator has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your only name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 380 From all that dwell beneath the skies (v 1 & 2)

**From all that dwell beneath the skies let the Creator's praise arise!
Let the Redeemer's Name be sung through every land, by every tongue!**

**Eternal are thy mercies, Lord, and truth eternal is thy word;
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.**

Collect of the Day

The Creator be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lessons and Gospel

Book of Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed

the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Psalm 114 In exitu Israel

Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *

the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

Judah became God's sanctuary *

and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled; *

Jordan turned and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams, *

and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *

O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *

you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *

and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Paul's Letter to the Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Sermon

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

In the beginning, **God was.**
Here and now, **God is.**
In the future, **God will be.**

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Silence

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Silence

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

Silence

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.

Silence

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

Silence

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

Silence

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

Silence

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

Silence

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help [especially _____].

Silence

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died [especially _____].

Silence

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant concludes

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will: and those good things we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

**Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.
We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as
you desire and intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Music "Standing in the need of prayer"

arranged by Mariko Hiller

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer for Creation

*The following prayer has been adapted by the Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley
from liturgical resources around the Anglican Communion.*

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life. Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people. And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus 130

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in th highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: “Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: “This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me.”

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew. Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
Who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.

All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.

Communion Music "Peace like a River"

arranged by Mariko Hiller

Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

Holy One,

**you feed us with bread from heaven
and the gifts of mother earth.**

**In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace
and you call us to friendship with one another.**

You have given us the gift of reconciliation.

**May we who have tasted that gift from you,
offer ourselves in peace and humility to one another.**

And may you always walk among us as friend. Amen.

Blessing

May God who established the dance of creation,

Who marveled at the lilies of the field,

Who transforms chaos to order,

Lead us to transform our lives and the Church

To listen to the voice of all creatures

That reflect God's glory in creation. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 396 Now thank we all our God

**Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers arms hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
eternal, Triune God, whom earth and heaven adore;
for this it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve God's Creation.

Thanks be to God the Creator.