



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**A Worshipping Community serving as a beacon of God's love by exemplifying the two great commandments; love God with our whole heart and love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 23, 2023  
Holy Eucharist  
New Zealand Book of Common Prayer**

St. John's Episcopal Church  
3480 E. Main Street  
College Park, Georgia 30337

[priest@stjohnscollegepark.com](mailto:priest@stjohnscollegepark.com) + [info@stjohnscollegepark.org](mailto:info@stjohnscollegepark.org) + [www.stjohnscollegepark.org](http://www.stjohnscollegepark.org)

*Straight and gay, rich and poor, and every color and age, St John's is a place of Radical Kindness, warm and open Christ-Followers who celebrate God's grace and love and cherish one another. We are proud and grateful to serve as a "neighborhood church" for the tri-cities: College Park, East Point and Hapeville. **Everyone needs a place to be cherished. We invite you to make St John's yours!***

# The Word of God

**Prelude:** Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand

by J. Dykes

**OPENING HYMN-** *Praise to the living God-* **Blue Hymnal 372**

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

*People:* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever, AMEN

## COLLECT FOR PURITY- *Celebrant and People*

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 holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## Centering Song- *Spirit of the Living God*

The musical notation is written on four staves in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me, Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me. Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those

things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## THE LESSONS

### FIRST READING: Genesis 28:10-19a

Richard Pfleger

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        *Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23-** *Read responsively, by whole verse, beginning with Celebrant*

1. Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
2. You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.
3. Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
4. You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.
5. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
6. Where can I go then from your Spirit? where can I flee from your presence?
7. If I climb up to heaven, you are there;  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
8. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
9. Even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast.
10. If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,  
and the light around me turn to night,"

11. Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.
22. Search me out, O God, and know my heart; \*  
try me and know my restless thoughts.
23. Look well whether there be any wickedness in me \*  
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

**SECOND READING:**  
**Romans 8:12-25**

Celeste Hall

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

*Reader*        *The Word of the Lord.*

*People*        *Thanks be to God.*

*Silence may follow.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN- *God the Sculptor of the Mountains* WLP 746**



1. God the sculp-tor of the moun-tains, God the mil-ler of the sand,  
2. God the nui-sance to the Pha-raoh, God the cleav-er of the sea,  
3. God the un-ex-pect-ed in-fant, God the calm, de-ter-mined youth,  
4. God the dress-er of the vine-yard, God the plant-er of the wheat,



God the jewel-er of the heav-ens, God the pot-ter of the land:  
God the pil-lar of the dark-ness, God the bea-con of the free:  
God the ta-ble turn-ing pro-phet, God the res-ur-rect-ed Truth:  
God the reap-er of the har-vest, God the source of all we eat:



you are womb of all cre - a - tion, we are form-less; shape us now.  
you are gate of all de - liv' - rance, we are sight-less; lead us now.  
you are pres-ent ev-ery mo - ment, we are search-ing; meet us now.  
you are host at ev-ery ta - ble, we are hun - gry; feed us now.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43**

*All stand.*

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of

Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

*Priest*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **HOMILY – The Rev. Tim Black**

### **THE CREED**

*All stand.*

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.

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pat Roberts

*All remain standing.*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Sisters and brothers, surely the Lord is in this place! So let us cry out to God, saying, “Abba! Father! *Hear our prayer.*”

O Great Parent, you have adopted us as your own children. You have made us joint heirs with Christ. You love us. Lead us by your Spirit and strengthen our hope.

*Invite the congregation to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence*

Abba! Father!

*Hear our prayer.*

God our King, you have planted us in a complex and often confusing world. Give us patience to live with each other, not judging our neighbors but trusting in your wisdom.

*Silence*

Abba! Father!

***Hear our prayer.***

Present God, even creation groans as it waits on you for freedom. Forgive us for the times in which we have subjected it to futility. Give us eyes to see your presence in the heavens, on the earth, and in the seas.

*Silence*

Abba! Father!

***Hear our prayer.***

God of Light, darkness is not dark to you. Brighten the places in our city where darkness serves as a cover for crime and violence. Redeem all who are lost.

*Silence*

Abba! Father!

***Hear our prayer.***

God of Glory, we wait in hope for the day when we will be set free from the bondage of decay. Even now, free the suffering from pain and the sorrowful from heartache. We pray today for: Eleanor Buchanon, Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell and Fernanda Contreras.

*Invite the congregation to add their petitions, followed by silence*

Abba! Father!

***Hear our prayer.***

Eternal God, may the righteous shine like the sun in your kingdom. We trust that, even in the grave, you are with us. In hope, save the dying and the dead. We pray today for: Renetta Lynch, Jimmie Troutman and Rhenita Peel.

*Invite the congregation to add their petitions, followed by silence.*

Abba! Father!

***Hear our prayer.***

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Celebrant:*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

### *Minister and People*

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

*The Priest stands and says*

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**

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*        The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*            *And also with you.*

*Then the Minister and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*We conclude the Passing of the Peace by singing:*

We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that our unity may someday be restored.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS**

### **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*The Celebrant says*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

**OFFERTORY HYMN- *We are climbing Jacob's ladder-* LEVAS 220 (Red and Black Hymnal)**



*The congregation stands as the offerings are presented during the singing of the Doxology.*

### THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all — bless - ings flow,  
Praise Him all crea - tures, here be - low.  
Praise Him a - bove ye — heav - en - ly host.  
Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

### THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*Celebrant:* The Lord is here.

*Congregation:* ***God's Spirit is with us.***

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*Congregation* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Congregation* ***It is right to offer thanks and praise.***

### PROPER PREFACE

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

## SANCTUS

### *Celebrant and People*



All glory and thanksgiving to you, almighty God, that on the night before he died your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me. After supper Christ took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

### *Celebrant and People*

*Glory to you, Lord Christ; your death we show forth; your resurrection we proclaim your coming we await; Amen! Come Lord Jesus.*

Therefore, loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for

the service of your kingdom. United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

### ***Celebrant and People***

Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.

*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### ***S 119 The Lord's Prayer (Traditional) (Plainsong/Douglas)***

*People and Celebrant*



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed  
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,  
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead  
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us  
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,  
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

*Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome at God's table.*

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*We will be sharing communion in both kinds available by either intinction (dipping the host in wine) or common cup. If you desire common cup, you can communicate this by holding out one hand for bread only, two hands for bread and wine. If you prefer intinction, you can communicate your preference by holding your hands in a prayer position or simply by telling the Eucharistic minister.*

**COMMUNION HYMN- *Nearer, my God to thee- LEVAS 54 (Red and Black Hymnal)***

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

*The Priest blesses the people:*

Live without fear, your creator has made you holy and loves you like a Mother. Walk the good road, do not return evil for evil and always show hospitality to the strangers in your midst. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, now and always. AMEN.

*Amen.*

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN : *Lord, dismiss us with your blessing H 344 (Blue Hymnal)***

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

**POSTLUDE - Postlude: What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

by C. Converse

## PARISH NOTES

**At 10:00 AM: Join us via Zoom July 23, 2023** You may be prompted to enter the following: Meeting ID: 890 4465 2335 Password: 704817. If you do not have a camera-enabled device, but want to participate via audio only, then call (toll-free) 1-929-205-6099 and use the same meeting ID and password as above.

***Bible study and Wednesday Night Supper will be taking a break in July and returning on August 2. Bible study will resume its deep dive into the Acts of the Apostles in August.***

**Make Prayer Requests Online:** <https://forms.gle/UTa6iMfrukh furgD8>

**Subscribe to Eagle Notes:** Complete information about what is happening at St. John's can be received in your inbox just by signing up for our weekly email. (If you do not get email, we can make arrangements for you to get a copy of the weekly news). To sign up, please email us at [info@stjohnscollegepark.org](mailto:info@stjohnscollegepark.org)

**Morning Prayer on Zoom Tuesday and Thursday- 10 AM-** One of the vastly underutilized gifts of the Episcopal Church is morning prayer. Start your day off with prayer with our online community each week on Tuesday and Thursday. Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305

**Compline Night Prayer Thursday - 7:00 pm**

Join us on zoom. Meeting ID: 843 7684 4017 Password: 848486

**Give by Texting-** You can use your phone's text messaging capabilities to give to St. Johns. **Just text 73256 and enter our code 3480 as the message.** You will be taken to the giving page where you can make your selections. You can also set up online giving through a link in our weekly email. To subscribe to the weekly email, please contact our administrator at [info@stjohnscollegepark.org](mailto:info@stjohnscollegepark.org)

**Book Club will begin once again on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:30** after coffee hour. We will be discussing the book *Having Nothing, Possessing Everything- Finding Abundant Communities in Unexpected Places*. The book is available on Amazon and other online outlets. Father Tim has 5 copies of the book available for \$10.00 each. This book tells the story of an intown church in Bloomington, Indiana, and how they became a vital force for good in their neighborhood. (Kind of like we are doing now!). For more information email Father Tim at [priest@stjohnscollegepark.org](mailto:priest@stjohnscollegepark.org)

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**Sunday July 23, 2023**

Readers: Richard Pflieger and Celeste Hall  
Prayers of the People: Pat Roberts  
Vergers: Michael Proscia  
Priest in Charge: The Rev. Tim Black  
Organist: Toku Kawata  
Church Administrator: Terry Glover

Vestry Members  
Daniel Hudson, Hospitality  
Archie Polk, Evangelism  
Michael Proscia, Jr. Warden  
Pat Roberts, Sr. Warden  
Val Valverde, Worship & Music  
Sherran Davis, Clerk  
Richard Pflieger, Treasurer

**ST. JOHN'S MOVIE NIGHT  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 25 7:00**

**FEATURING**



**THE  
ANTIDOTE**

*A documentary that shares stories of kindness, decency, and the power of community. The Antidote is about who we are and who we can be. Film followed by a discussion. Free popcorn and drinks (lemonade, tea and water). All are welcome. Sponsored by St. John's Genesis II team.*

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH+ 3480 E MAIN ST. COLLEGE PARK 30337

Straight and Gay, rich and poor, and every color and age, St. John's is a place of Radical Kindness, warm and open Christ-followers who celebrate God's grace and love and cherish one another. We are proud to serve as a "neighborhood church" for the tri-cities: College Park, East Point and Hapeville



**SAINT JOHN'S  
ON TAP**



**THURSDAY  
JULY 27 - 7 PM**

**THE BRASS TAP  
HAPEVILLE**

JOIN YOUR TRI-CITIES "NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH" FOR AN INFORMAL GATHERING AT THE BRASS TAP (925 VIRGINIA AVENUE 30354). COME ENJOY AN EVENING OF CONVERSATION, FOOD, DRINKS AND FUN OUT IN THE COMMUNITY. SEE YOU THERE!

St. Johns Episcopal Church+ 3480 E Main St. College Park+ [stjohnscollegepark.org](http://stjohnscollegepark.org)