



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.

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 2023
Holy Eucharist
Rite II, Prayer A
First Responder's Service**

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

priest@stjohnscollegepark.com + info@stjohnscollegepark.org+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!

PRELUDE: Ave Maria

by F. Schubert
Soloist: Val Verde

Opening Hymn : We all are one in mission- WLP 778



1. We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,
2. We all are called for ser - vice to wit-ness in God's name.
3. We all be - hold one vi - sion, a stark re - al - i - ty;
4. Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent, our pur - pose is the same:
the stew - ard of sal - va - tion was nailed up - on a tree.
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
Yet res - ur - rect - ed Jus - tice gives rise that we may share
We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so peo - ple of all na - tions may feel God's warm em - brace.
free re - con - cil - i - a - tion and hope a - mid de - spair.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

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.*

HYMN OF PRAYER AND PRAISE



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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through 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:

Sherron Davis

Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month

they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND READING:

Flo Webster

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling

of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN- *All who love and serve your city - vs 1-3 H 571 (Blue Hymnal)*
All stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

All stand.

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

All remain standing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Andrew Hales

Our Lord Jesus has promised that, when we gather in his name, he is here among us. Let us pray saying, “We are gathered in your name; *accept our prayers.*”

O Lord, you take pleasure in your people: May your Church be a community of honesty and humility. Help us to love each other—especially when love is a challenge. Help us to be known for our love before all else.

Silence

We are gathered in your name;

Accept our prayers.

O Lord, you adorn the poor with victory: be with the hungry and the oppressed. Comfort the grieving. Give peace to all whose lives have been upset by natural disaster and war. We pray for the people of Lahaina, Maui. We pray for the people of Ukraine and for all who live in places of violent conflict.

Silence

We are gathered in your name;

Accept our prayers.

O Lord, you have caused grapes to grow on the vine and wheat to grow in the fields so that we might celebrate this festival today. Bless the land to grow enough that all people may celebrate its bounty. Bless the harvest for this year and all who gather it for us.

We invite you to add your own petitions, followed by silence.

We are gathered in your name;

Accept our prayers.

O Lord, your Law is summarized, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Help us to love our neighbors so that we might do no wrong by anyone. We give you thanks for our neighbors in the Tri-Cities and beyond. We give you thanks for our school partners, Liberation Academy, and we pray for their students, parents, faculty and staff.

Silence

We are gathered in your name;

Accept our prayers.

O Lord, may all those who now lament see the day when they shall sing to you a new song—a song of joy and praise. May those who weep, dance for joy. We pray for all who face sickness or any kind of trouble. We pray today for Eleanor Buchanon, Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell, Fernanda Contreras, Coleman Parks, Brian Burnette, Kevin Hudson Mia Parnal and Sonya Thiessen. May the anxious rest on their beds in peace. And may all know that it was you, the Lord, who did this.

We invite you to add your own petitions, followed by silence.

We are gathered in your name;

Accept our prayers.

O Lord, care for the dead as they await the great day of resurrection. We pray for Jimmy Buffett, Christian Files and Hugh Douglas for all whom we love and see no longer. May all who have died rest in your peace. Are there others who have died?

We are gathered in your name;

Accept our prayers.

Almighty god, we give you thanks on this day for all who are called to the work of public service. We pray for all in law enforcement and for all who put out our fires and respond to our medical emergencies. keep them safe in their work, protect them from all harm. give them sound minds and good judgement. we offer our gratitude to you for their sacrifice and for their presence in our communities. help us to see how we can continue to support and love them in their public service. in your most holy name we pray, amen.

Silence

Celebrant: Lord, hear our prayers, and what we have asked faithfully may you grant effectually to the glory of your name, Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant:

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us 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:

There's a sweet sweet spirit in this place and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord.

There are sweet expressions on each face and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove, Stay right here with us, filling us with your love.

And for these blessings, we lift our hearts with praise;

Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

BLESSING OF THE FIRST RESPONDERS

All of our guests who are first responders or work in any capacity for the public safety of the citizens of this community are invited to come forward for a blessing, regardless of

belief or religious affiliation. You are also welcome to receive our prayers from where you sit in the congregation.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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-- Blessed City, Heavenly Salem- H 520 - vs. 1-3 (Blue 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

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

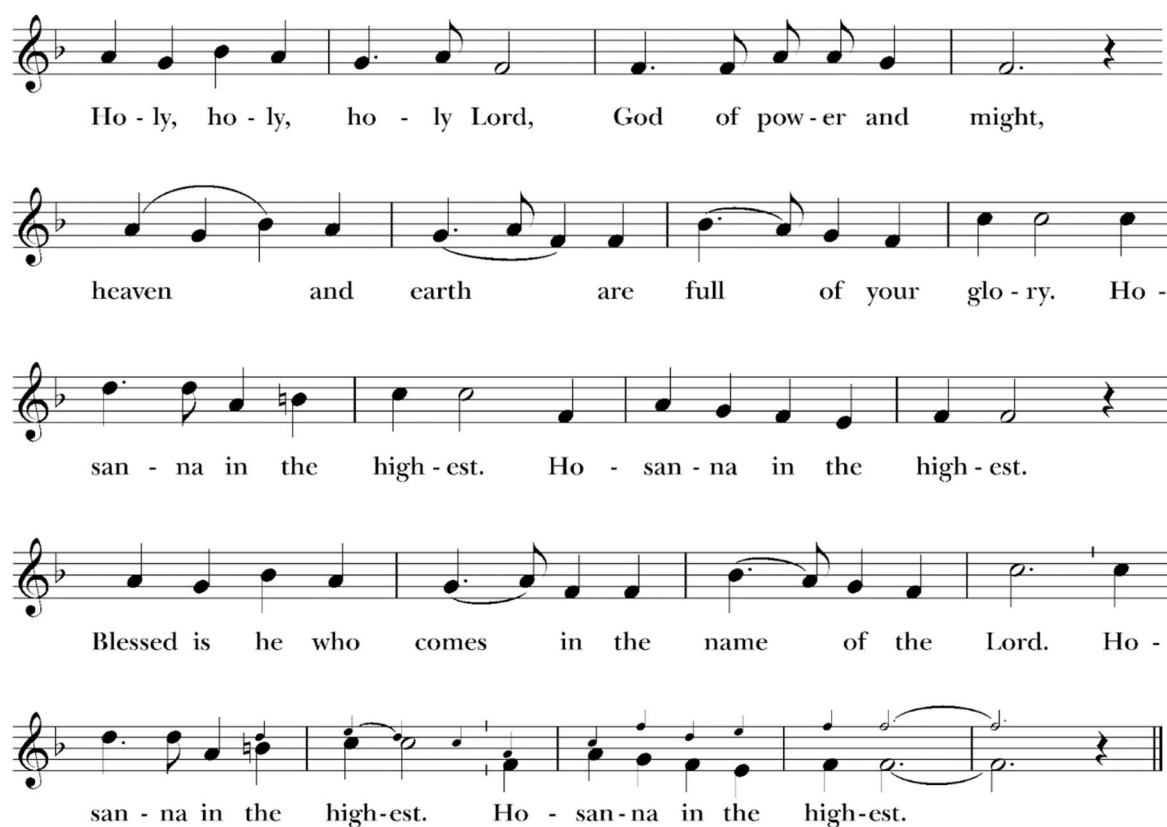
It is right to offer thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Celebrant and People



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

Christ stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night Christ was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Christ took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. *AMEN*. 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- *Come with us o blessed Jesus-* **H 336 (Blue Hymnal)**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people:

Life is short. We do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make this journey with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind, and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who made us, who loves us, who travels with us, be with you, now and forever. AMEN.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION HYMN- Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee -H 376 (Blue hymnal)

Priest: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People : Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE – For the Beauty of the Earth

by M. Jong

PARISH NOTES

At 10:00 AM: Join us via Zoom September 10, 2023 You may be prompted to enter the following: Meeting ID: 846 4584 1672 Password: 3480. 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.

Wednesday Night Supper September 13th from 6-7:00. Join your parish family for dinner at 6. Please email info@stjohnscollegepark.org to let us know if you are planning to join us.

**IN THE
BEGINNING**
בְּרֵאשִׁית
berasheet
**GENESIS
STUDY**

Our Fall Bible Study will focus on Genesis. Origin stories are always full of so many treasures and surprises that can enrich even modern folk like us. Join us online on zoom (**room ID: 846-4584-1672 password: 3480**) or in person in the Hospitality Suite, **Wednesdays at 7 PM.**

If you like, come have supper before at 6 PM. (Let us know you are coming by emailing info@stjohnscollegepark.org. See the link below to download resources and study questions.

Make Prayer Requests Online: <https://forms.gle/UTa6iMfrukhfurgD8>

Subscribe to Eagle Notes: To sign up, please email us at info@stjohnscollegepark.org or go to our website homepage, scroll to the bottom of the page and hit the “sign up for our newsletter” link.

Morning Prayer on Zoom Tuesday and Thursday- 10 AM- Start your day off with prayer on Tuesday and Thursday with the Morning Prayer group. 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

Sunday September 10, 2023

Vestry

Readers: Sherran Davis & Flo Webster Daniel Hudson, Hospitality

Prayers of the People: Andrew Hales Archie Polk, Evangelism

Verger: Michael Proscia, Jr. Warden

Priest in Charge: The Rev. Tim Black Pat Roberts, Sr. Warden

Organist: Toku Kawata Val Valverde, Worship & Music

Church Administrator: Terry Glover Sherran Davis, Clerk

Join us for Tri-Cities First Responders Sunday



Sunday, September 10, 2023

Service- 10:00 Cookout Picnic- 11:00

**To help with the day email
priest@stjohnscollegepark.org**

St. John's College Park Music Series Welcomes
Heart Hunters

FRIDAY, September 15 at 7 PM
In St. John's Horseshoe Garden

"Heart Hunters' music might sound delicate on first listen, but it packs a heavy punch. Born of the American zeitgeist, as well as the personal experiences of Brianna Blackbird and her husband No River City founder Drew de Man, American Eclipse is simultaneously a deeply personal and overtly political album."
— No Depression

SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | 3480 EAST MAIN STREET | COLLEGE PARK, GA 30337 | stjohnscollegepark.org

**EQUITABLE
DINNERS
ATLANTA**
Setting the Table for Racial Equity

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 from 5-7 PM

St. John's College Park
3480 E Main St. College Park 30337

Equitable Dinners combines art and conversation, over a pot-luck meal, to create an experience where every voice has space and every story is sacred. A short one person play invites everyone into a shared experience of the pains and the joys of life followed by a facilitated discussion. Join with your community in a conversation with depth, honesty, and mutual respect and leave inspired to make a difference

**To sign up click here or email
priest@stjohnscollegepark.org**