



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.

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023
Holy Eucharist
Rite II, Prayer A**

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: I am Thine, O Lord

by W. Doane

Opening Hymn: *O Bless the Lord my Soul*- Hymnal 411

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.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING:

Lisa Norton-Rotella

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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

Pat Roberts

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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN- *God Down, Moses - LEVAS 228 (Red and Black Hymnal)*

All stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

All stand.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY – Lyndsey Hardegree- Executive Director, Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia.

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

Celeste Hall

All remain standing.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work; We pray today for our school partners, Liberation Academy, and for their students, parents, faculty and staff.

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; For Joe our President, Brian our Governor and Bianca, our Mayor.

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation; For an end to war wherever it may exist. For all who seek refuge in our country from poverty and violence.

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; Eleanor Buchanon, Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell, Fernanda Contreras, Coleman Parks, Brian Burnette, Kevin Hudson Mia Parnal, Sonya Thiessen and Carol Nabeel.

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop and for Rob, our Bishop and all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. For what and for whom do we pray today?

You may add your own petitions silently or out loud.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We give you thanks for the children and parents of College Park Kids Choir and for their director, Dr. Tamika Harris. We give you thanks for our beautiful new playground and for the generosity of the College Park Woman's Club. We give you thanks for our neighbors on this block and beyond.

For what and for whom do we give praise and thanks on this day?

You are invited to add your own thanksgivings and blessings.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. We pray today for Christion Files, Jimmy Buffett, Hugh Douglas, and Priscilla Shows.

Are there others who have died for whom we should pray today?

Silence

You are invited to add your own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant: 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

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- - At the Lamb's High Feast we Sing- H 174 (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 everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. 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

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.*

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 the 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- *Forgive our Sins as we Forgive-* H 674 (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- *Crown Him with Many Crowns* -H 494 (Blue hymnal)

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

People : Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE – Summer's End

by D. Alexander

PARISH NOTES

Join us after church for a discussion and presentation from Lyndsey Hardegree, Executive Director of the Episcopal Community Foundation- As we continue redeveloping our congregation, we seek partners in ministry. We look forward to hearing from Lyndsey today and how we can be a part of the work of the ECF. Please join us after coffee hour.

Wednesday Night Supper August 30 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.

Bible study will be in person and on zoom 7-800 this week. Use the same zoom as Sunday morning worship. We are continuing our walk through Acts. We will be reading Acts through August and will be beginning a study of Genesis in September.

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- 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

Sunday September 17, 2023

Readers: Lisa Norton-Rotella and Pat Roberts	Vestry Daniel Hudson, Hospitality
Prayers of the People: Celeste Hall	Archie Polk, Evangelism
Vergers: Val Valverde	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



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**

*To register for the Equitable
Dinner, email
priest@stjohnscollegepark.org*

Blessing of our Animal Companions Service 4:00 PM October 1, 2023

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



Bring your (leashed or caged) dog, cats,
gerbils, hamsters, snakes, & selves
for a special blessing service. *Rain or Shine!*
for more information email info@stjohnscollegepark.org