



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.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023

Holy Eucharist

Rite II, Prayer A

St. John's Episcopal Church

3480 E. Main Street

College Park, Georgia 30337

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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!

Opening Hymn : *Praise to the Living God*- **Hymnal 372**

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

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "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 music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for church services.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING:

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Phyllis Smith

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol,

whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm- Psalm 80:7-14

7. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

8. *You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.*

9 You prepared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

10 *The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.*

11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea and its branches to the River.

12 *Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?*

13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

14 *Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine; *
preserve what your right hand has planted.*

SECOND READING:

Val Valverde

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in

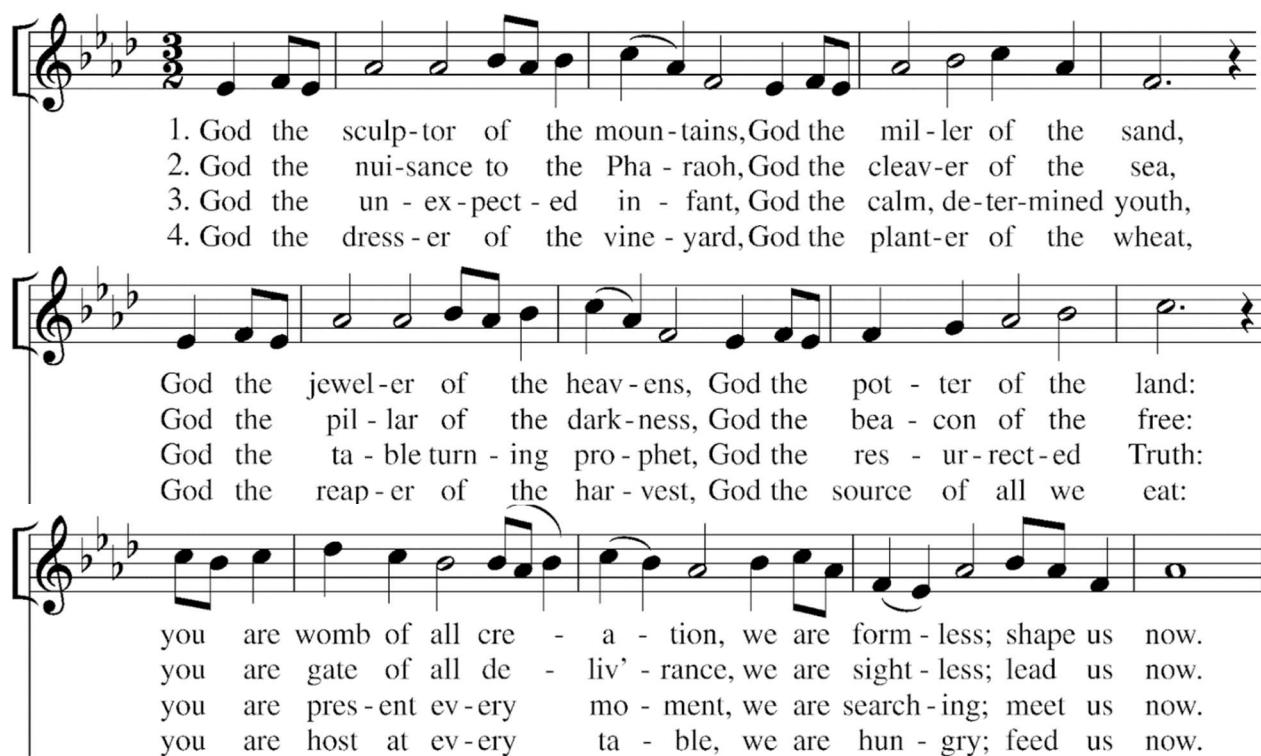
Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN- *God the Sculptor of the Mountains - WLP 794*

All stand.



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 21:33-46

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But

when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Jane Graham

Sisters and brothers, the law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul! So let us appeal to our Lord God, saying, "Let the words of our mouths and meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, *O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.*"

For what and for whom we give thanks today? *We invite you to add your thanksgivings.*

Let the words of our mouths and meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

Lord our God, you command us to have no other gods before you: give your Church such singleness of mind that we might not be distracted by the rubbish of our lives, but may strive to know Christ and the power of his resurrection.

Silence

Lord our God, you command us to bear not false witness against others: Help us to live in peace with one another. In a world of harmful rhetoric, may we use our words to encourage and love—especially those whom we consider different.

Silence

Let the words of our mouths and meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

Lord our God, you command us to keep a holy Sabbath: make us generous stewards of this planet that it may be renewed and refreshed.

Silence

Let the words of our mouths and meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

Lord our God, you command us to covet nothing that belongs to our neighbor: give us kind and generous hearts for those with whom we share our neighborhoods. We pray today for the people of College Park, Hapeville, and East Point. We pray for our school partner, Liberation Academy and its parents, students, teachers, and staff. May a loving spirit rule our communities.

Silence

Let the words of our mouths and meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

Lord our God, you desire that your people be not afraid: Pour on the sick, suffering, and struggling the abundance of your mercy. Bless them with goodness and healing through Jesus the Christ. We pray today for: Eleanor Buchanon, Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Barbara Hammond, Rainer Robinson and Daniel Hudson.

We invite you to add your petitions.

Let the words of our mouths and meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

Lord our God, you have made us your own: may we, and those who have run the race of faith before us, attain the resurrection from the dead through the abundant mercy of your Son. We pray today for: Inayat Shamdin, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Sir Michael Gambon and Sandra Dorsey.

We invite you to add your petitions.

Let the words of our mouths and meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

Celebrant: 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 which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 SONG- *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go-* Mike Spring and Fr. Tim Black

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

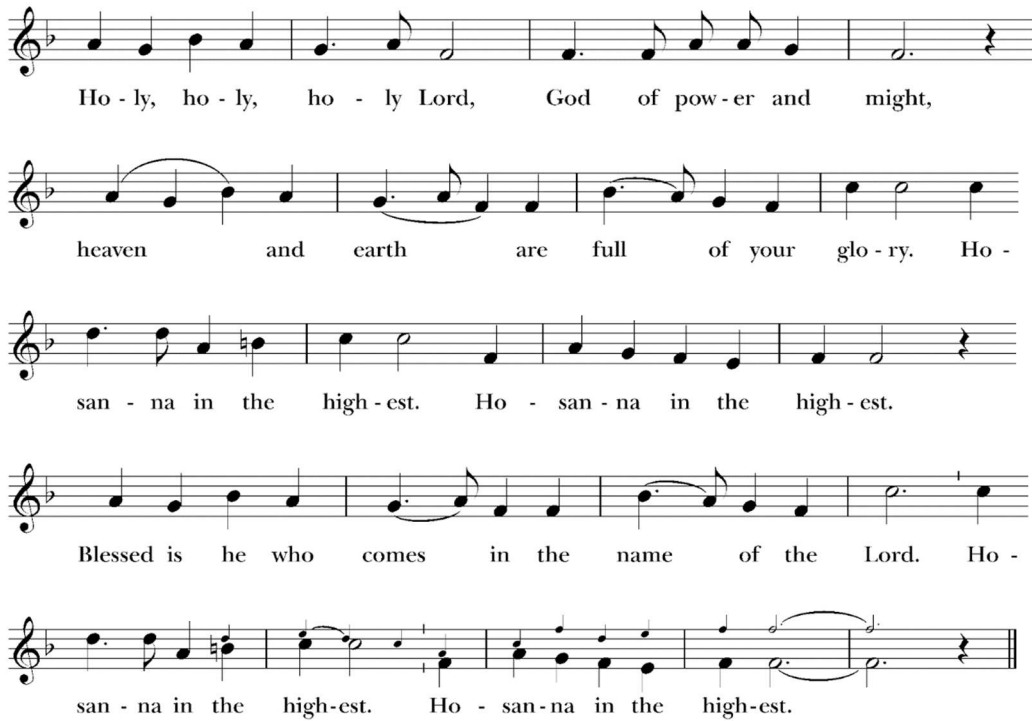
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The celebrant will sing the starting pitch, after which the congregation and celebrant will sing, a cappella.

Celebrant and People:

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

The celebrant will sing the starting pitch, after which the congregation and celebrant will sing, a cappella.

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- - *Let Us Break Bread Together* – H325 (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.

POST COMMUNION HYMN- *O Love, How Deep, How Broad How Wide* -H 448 (Blue hymnal)

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

People : Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

PARISH NOTES

Wednesday Night Supper October 11 from 5:30-7:00. Join your parish family and others for dinner starting at 5:30. 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 through November.

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

"Second Cup" -an online hangout space for St. John's parishioners
Mondays 11:00 AM – Noon – 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305

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 October 8, 2023 Readers: Phyllis Smith & Val Valverde Prayers of the People: Jane Graham Vergers: Michael Proscia Priest in Charge: The Rev. Tim Black Church Administrator: Terry Glover	Vestry Daniel Hudson, Hospitality Archie Polk, Evangelism Michael Proscia, Jr. Warden Pat Roberts, Sr. Warden Val Valverde, Worship & Music Sherran Davis, Clerk
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