



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.

The Blessing of a Marriage for Nabeel and Carol

November 12, 2023

Holy Eucharist

Rite II

St. John's Episcopal Church

3480 E. Main Street

College Park, Georgia 30337

priest@stjohnscollegepark.org + 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!

The Word of God

OPENING HYMN- *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*- 657 (Blue Hymnal)

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, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy 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 musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has 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," "Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me.", "Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.", and "Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me."

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: O gracious and everliving God, you have created us in your image: Look mercifully upon Nabeel and Carol who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

The congregation is seated.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: **Genesis 2:15-24**

Michael Noel

Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the

birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND READING: **Ephesians 5:1-2; 21-33**

Nida Noel

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

All stand for the singing of the hymn and reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Hymn- Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing- LEVAS 111 (Red and Black Hymnal)

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Mark 10:6-9; 13-16

But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and

said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

HOMILY – *The Rev. Tim Black*

The Blessing of Carol and Nabeel's Marriage

Nabeel and Carol, you have come here today to seek the blessing of God and of God's Church upon your marriage. I require, therefore, that you promise, with the help of God, to fulfill the obligations which Christian Marriage demands.

The Celebrant then addresses the husband, saying

Nabeel, you have taken Carol to be your wife. Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, to be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The Husband answers I do.

The Celebrant then addresses the wife, saying

Carol, you have taken Nabeel to be your husband. Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, to be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The Wife answers I do.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying:

Will you who have witnessed these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People We will.

The Celebrant blesses the rings.

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be a sign of the vows by which Carol and Nabeel have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant joins the right hands of the husband and wife and says

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

THE PRAYERS

Pat Roberts

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony. *Amen.*

Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. *Amen.*

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life. *Amen.*

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. *Amen.*

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. *Amen.*

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. *Amen.*

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. *Amen.*

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with you Son, and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Marriage

The people remain standing. The husband and wife kneel, and the Priest says one of the following prayers

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of two people in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon Nabeel and Carol. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast forever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

The husband and wife still kneeling, the Priest adds this blessing

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

All stand.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The couple greets one another in the name of the Lord. Then, the Ministers 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

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- *How Great Thou Art*- LEVAS 60 (Red and Black Hymnal)

The congregation stands

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 Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

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

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the love of two people joined in marriage, you have given us an image of the heavenly Jerusalem, adorned as a bride for her bridegroom, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who loves her and gave himself for her, that he might make the whole creation new. 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:

Celebrant:

Celebrant and People- The celebrant will sing the starting pitch.

The musical score is written on five staves of music. The lyrics are: 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.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

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 maker 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 he 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 Christ 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 many 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 priest continues:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty 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 forever. *AMEN.*

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Celebrant will sing the opening pitch, after which the congregation and celebrant will sing The Lord's Prayer 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 share communion in both kinds available by either intinction (dipping the bread in wine) or drinking from the common cup. For common cup, hold out one hand for bread only, two hands for bread and wine or put your hands in a prayer position for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN- Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord- H 178 Blue Hymnal

The people stand, as able:

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: *O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: We give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ Grant that by your Holy Spirit, Carol and Nabeel, now blessed in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Priest blesses the people:


Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the ways of those who travel this journey with us. So, be swift to love, and slow to anger. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you all, now and forevermore, Amen.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN : Blessed Assurance- LEVAS 184- Red and Black Hymnal

Celebrant Go, in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Please join us downstairs in Bott Hall for a Second Sunday Brunch in honor of Carol and Nabeel. To get to Bott Hall, go through the double doors to the right at the front of the sanctuary and down the stairs, or out the back door and around to the side of the church to the covered walkway where you will find the side door opened. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Parish Notes

THE GIFTS OF THE SAINTS	
My Yearly pledge \$ _____	Name _____
<i>I pledged online</i> _____	Address _____
To be paid: Weekly__ Monthly __ Yearly __	_____
Signature _____	Phone _____
<small><i>Pledge online by scanning the QR code with your phone. If you do pledge online, please turn in a pledge card as well for our records..</i></small>	Email _____
	

Wednesday Night Supper November 15th 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 reading through Genesis and will finish with it in November, followed by an Advent study of the three nativity stories. For more information, consult the weekly newsletter.



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.

Online Prayer and Fellowship Groups: “Second Cup” – fellowship time- Mondays 11:00 AM – Noon – 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305 / Morning Prayer on Zoom Tuesday and Thursday- 10 AM - Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305 / Compline Night Prayer Thursday – 7:00 pm 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

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

<p>Sunday November 12, 2023 Readers: Mishael Noel & Nida Noel Prayers of the People: Pat Roberts Verger: Val Valverde Priest in Charge: The Rev. Tim Black Church Administrator: Terry Glover</p>	<p>Vestry Daniel Hudson, Hospitality Archie Polk, Evangelism Michael Proscia, Jr. Warden Pat Roberts, Sr. Warden Val Valverde, Worship & Music Sherran Davis, Clerk Richard Pfleger, Treasurer</p>
---	--