



St. John's EPISCOPAL CHURCH



God thinks you are fabulous,
and so do we.

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

The Baptism of Simeon Harold Shelton

“Great Day “ New Member Welcome Service

February 11, 2024 +Holy Eucharist+ Rite II

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!

St. John's Episcopal Church +3480 E. Main Street+ College Park, Georgia 30337+
pOriest@stjohnscollegepark.org +info@stjohnscollegepark.org+stjohnscollegepark.org

Welcome to St. John's. We hope you will experience worship with your whole being. Your presence, however, is all that is required for you to be in prayer and worship with us on this Lord's Day. There are no “mistakes” in worshipping God. The bulletin is designed with you in mind, and most rubrics (directions) are in italics. If you find you're out of sync with whatever is going on, do not worry. It is all prayer. **Please fill out a visitor card so we can get to know you and invite you into life together** at St. John's. We want to be known as a place that practices the radical kindness and hospitality of Jesus and where it is apparent that “God thinks you are fabulous - and so do we.” Let us know on a visitor card if you are interested in membership or baptism, and we will be in touch about next steps. Please say hello, and come have some coffee in the Hospitality Suite after church. Take a look at our announcements for ongoing activities, and please come and join us on our journey as Christ-followers. **Children are always welcome.** We even have a “kids' spot” in the lobby with books, coloring pages, and stuffed animals. Their noise is prayer! If you ever feel uncomfortable, you can sit with your child in the Kids Spot or find comfy seats in the hospitality suite. Children are a part of God's church. **Restrooms are** through either of the doors at the front of the Church. Go down the hall (on the right) or across the hall (on the left) to the Hospitality Suite. Blessings and Peace! - St John's Welcome Team

Our newest members will lead the "Great Day" service today.

Processional Hymn- To God be the Glory- VF 108



1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done! So loved he the
2 O per - fect re - demp-tion, the pur - chase of blood! To ev - ery be -
3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done, and great our re -

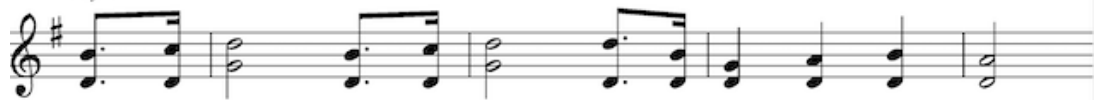


world that he gave us his son, who yield - ed his life an a -
liev - er the pro - mise of God! The vil - est of - fen - der who
joic - ing through Je - sus the son; but pur - er and high - er and



tone - ment for sin and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
tru - ly be - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus for - give - ness re - ceives.
great - er will be our won - der, our rap - ture, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!



O come to the Fa - ther, through Je - sus the son,



and give him the glo - ry! Great things he has done!

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

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

Celebrant: *There is one body and one Spirit*

Congregation: *There is one hope in God's call to us.*

Celebrant: *One hope, one faith, one baptism.*

Congregation: *One God and Father of All.*

Celebrant: *The Lord be with you.*

Congregation: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: *Let us pray.*

Celebrant:

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The congregation is seated.

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Gabi Shelton

Reader : The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading : 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Michael XXXXX

Reader : The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: *Thanks be to God.*

Please stand, as able, for the hymn and Gospel reading.

SEQUENCE HYMN : *Just a Closer Walk with Thee-* **LEVAS 72**

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

Congregation: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Mark 9:2-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses,

and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Celebrant:: The Gospel of the Lord

Congregation: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

REFLECTION- Carol Nabeel

The Rite of Holy Baptism for Simeon Harold Shelton

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The Celebrant says

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented

Parents and Godparents: I present Simeon to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God’s help.

Celebrant: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God’s help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Celebrant Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Parents & Godparents I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Parents & Godparents I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Parents & Godparents I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Parents & I do.

Godparents

Celebrant Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Parents & Godparents I do.

Celebrant Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Parents & Godparents I do.

After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

Congregation We will.

Celebrant: Let us join with Simeon, who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant ; Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE

The Celebrant says to the congregation

Celebrant: Let us now pray for Simeon, *who is* to receive the Sacrament of new birth [and for those (this person) *who have renewed their* commitment to Christ.]

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Ruby Solomon

Leader Deliver Simeon, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill Simeon with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep Simeon in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.*

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Celebrant and baptismal party move to the baptismal font in the back of the church. The entire congregation is invited to move to where they can see.

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

THE BAPTISM and New Member Liturgy

Celebrant: Simeon I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* Simeon, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant- Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *these* your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *them* to the new life of grace. Sustain *them*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *them* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

All new members are invited to the crossing in front of the church for the new member liturgy after the Baptism is concluded.

PRAYERS WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Celebrant: We now welcome Ruby, Michael, Heiro, Kayden, Goddess, Grace, Corbett, Luca, Emma, Nanette, Nabeel, Austin, Gabi, Simeon, Evie, Emily and Steven, all who wish to join with this body of Christ, the people of St. John's Episcopal Church Episcopal Church. Dear Siblings-in-Christ, Is it your wish to make this community of faith, St. John's, your church family, and the people with whom you will share your journey of faith? Is this the place and are these the people with whom you will seek to make sense of the issues of your life; your dreams, your faith, who you are, what you are to do, who God calls you to be? Is it your wish to make this the place where you continue your journey into greater health and wholeness; where you listen to the story of God's salvation and the Good News of Jesus Christ, allowing Jesus to be an example and teacher to you, where you are called to a life of ministry and justice; and where you are fed at the table of new life?

New Members: Yes, that is my wish.

Celebrant to New Members: Will you commit yourself to seek and serve Christ in union with this community of faith?

New Members: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant to New Members: Will you pledge your spiritual, social, and financial support to this parish family?

New Members: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant to the congregation: Will you who are members of this faith community who are witnessing these promises, share the joys and sorrows, and do all in your power to support these people in their life in Christ:

Congregation: We will.

Celebrant to congregation: Will you welcome them into St. John's, embrace their gifts, their needs, and their dreams? Will you recognize that their presence and

participation will change the shape of the body and help it grow in new ways? Will you support her in their journeys and assist them in her ministries?

Congregation: Yes! Yes! Yes!

All: Loving God, send your Holy Spirit to be among us, knitting us one to another. Help us to grow with each other, to love each other, to support each other. That by our common life in this community we may come to know and serve you and all people, in Jesus name, we pray.

Celebrant: As Priest of this parish and speaking for the entire congregation, I welcome you as active members in the body of St. John's. May the Holy Spirit be with us all now and always. AMEN

WELCOME THE NEWLY BAPTIZED and NEW MEMBERS

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized and the newest members of our congregation, St. John's.

Celebrant and People : We receive you into this household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

THE PEACE

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

People: *And also with you.*

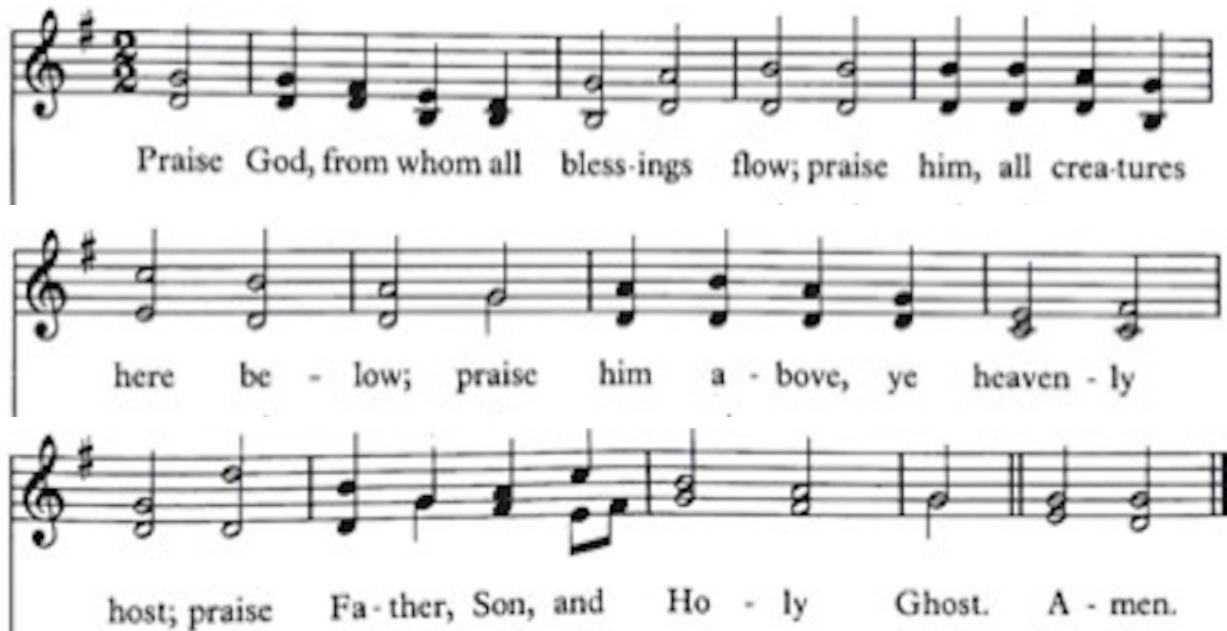
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Offertory Song *Corbett and Grace Lunsford*

The congregation stands as the offering is brought forward during the Doxology.

DOXOLOGY- *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow- Old 100th*



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen." The music consists of simple chords and single notes, typical of a hymn tune.

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

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

People: *It is right to give God 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 mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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:

We sing the starting pitch and then are accompanied by the shruti box.

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.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before Christ died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, Christ 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O God--

Celebrant and People: *We remember Christ's death, We proclaim Christ's resurrection, We await Christ's coming in glory;*

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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 pray,

The Lord's Prayer- Corbett and Grace Lunsford

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 INSTRUCTIONS: *We share communion in both kinds available by either intinction (dipping the host in wine) or drinking from the 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. For healing prayers, simply remain at the rail after receiving and we will pray for you. If you cannot come to the rail, a Eucharistic Minister will bring communion to you.*

COMMUNION HYMN *Great is Thy Faithfulness-* **LEVAS 189**

The people stand or kneel, as able.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: *Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we*

are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, God, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To Christ, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant blesses the people.

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: *Holy, Holy, Holy-* **Hymnal 362**

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 reception honoring the newly baptized and our newest members. To get to Bott Hall proceed down the stairs to the right at the front of the church. The lift is also available, or you can go outside, to the right, and down to the side entrance.

Ash Wednesday at St. John's
February 14



12 PM Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes
5:30 PM Community Meal
7:00 PM Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

3480 E Main St. College Park
stjohnscollegepark.org + instagram: sjcpatlanta

Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter. Psalm 74:15,16

**O Gracious Light:
Contemplative Evening Prayer**

5 PM on Sundays during Lent
Featuring acoustic & Taize music and poetry
Come sing, pray and be present to God's love .