

Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

*Committed to living a faith journey that is
sacred, intentional, compassionate and inclusive*



*One more powerful than I is
to come after me →*

**The First Sunday after the Epiphany:
The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

January 7, 2024 ☩ 9:30 a.m.

Welcome to the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist!

This bulletin will guide you through the liturgy (worship service). The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and The Hymnal 1982 are used throughout this service.

We are a school for transformation, as we seek to become a more diverse community of people, a kaleidoscope of different lifestyles, ages, ethnic and religious backgrounds, sexual orientations, financial circumstances and more. We invite all who seek God and wish to explore being part of a Christian congregation to our table and into our fellowship. We welcome those seeking a safe place for the expression of personal spiritual practices, ideas, politics, questions, doubts -- and faith. We also confess that as a community we are not perfected in love. However, we seek to become more fully loving and to accept all who wish to join this journey.

Today's Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by:

Mary Ellen Beckman in loving memory of her husband, Kenneth, for his birthday, January 9

If you would like to donate flowers, please contact the church office at 209-369-3381.

Those Who Serve Today

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rt. Rev. David C. Rice (B)

Rector: The Rev. Betsy McElroy (B)

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Kristy Wells

MC (Minister of Ceremonies), Thurifer & Intercessor: Margaret Meyers (C1)

Lectors: Charlene Martin & Rosemary Cress

Presenters of Gifts: Hennie Van Konynenburg, Andee Zetterbaum, Carol Foote, Mikey Hothi & Nancy Gonzalez St. Clair, Anne & Jim Reeve, Edyth & John Ledbetter

Camera Acolyte: Fran Bott (GF)

Acolytes: Holly Wilson & Carlo Bagnasco

Crucifer: Stacey Bagnasco (C2)

Ushers: Debby Weberski & Paula James

Sound: Corky Kuykendall

Altar Guild: Peggy Moos & Bunmi Olowoyeye

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Debby Weberski/Stacey Bagnasco

Designer Guild: All Designer Guild

Nursery Care: None

Sunday School: Ruth Diekman

Counter: Corky Kuykendall & Tom Gundershaug

Coffee Hour: Vestry

Welcome

Prelude

Entrance Hymn:

God of grace and God of glory

Hymnal 594

(Please stand)

Bishop Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever**

Bishop There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God, Creator of all.**

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Presentation

The people are seated. The Wardens and Vestry stand before the Bishop.

Rector

Wardens: Bishop David, we have come together today to welcome The Rev. Elizabeth McElroy who we have chosen and called to serve as Rector of The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist. We believe that she is well qualified and has been prayerfully and lawfully selected. On behalf of the people of St. John's, we present ourselves to you and the gathered church to receive God's blessing as we begin a new ministry together.

Bishop: People of St. Johns, you have reflected on your ministry and discerned your choice for a new Rector. I commend your choice and affirm this call.

The Letter of Institution is read.

Bishop: Betsy and people of St. John's, do you commit yourselves to lively proclamation of the gospel, working together in love and harmony and in mutual respect for the ministries of all the baptized?

All: **We do.**

Candidates for Confirmation and Reception

Bishop: The Candidates for Confirmation and Reception will now be presented.

Presenter: I present David Lujan, Jr., Ethan Cole Bronson and Austin Drake Bronson for Confirmation.

Presenter: I present Catherine Marion Howard, Bradley Salters, Tiffany Salters, John Richardson, Johnathan Salters, Benjamin Salters, Rachel Salters, Noah Salters, Lydia Salters & Naomi Salters to be received into this communion.

Bishop: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates: **I do.**

Bishop: Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates: **I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.**

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

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

People: **We will.**

Intercessions

Bishop: Let us then offer our prayers to God for all his people, especially for Betsy, our candidates for Confirmation and Reception into the Episcopal Church, and the people of St. John's.

Intercessor: O God, we pray for these candidates, that they may grow in knowledge and love of you, and that they will join us in works of justice and mercy.

People: **Hear us, O Christ**

Intercessor: O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and place.

People: **Hear us, O Christ**

Intercessor: Open our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.

People: **Hear us, O Christ**

Intercessor: Open our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Intercessor: Open our lips, that we may tell in every tongue the wonderful works of God.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Intercessor: Open our hearts, that we may discern the work to which you call us.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Intercessor: Send us with your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Intercessor: Strengthen us, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Intercessor: Sustain and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely, dangerous, and unresponsive places.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Intercessor: Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Bishop: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Bishop: Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocations and ministries they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Word of God

Hennie Van Konynenburg presents the Bible and says,

Betsy, accept this Bible and join us in proclaiming and hearing God's living Word and in the ministry of sharing the Good News with World.

Rector: Let us hear again the Good News of Salvation.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis *All are seated*

Charlene Martin

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (*Genesis 1:1-5*)

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 29

Charlene Martin

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

A Reading from the Book of Acts

Rosemary Cress

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them. (*Acts 19:1-7*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *We know that Christ is raised and dies no more*

Hymnal 296

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (*Mark 1:4-11*)

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. David C. Rice

The Baptismal Covenant

Bishop Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Bishop 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.**

Bishop 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.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop 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.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop 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.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

Bishop The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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.

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 for ever 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 for ever. *Amen.*

The candidates for Confirmation and Reception come forward.

Confirmation

Bishop: Let us pray for these persons, who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Bishop: Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bishop: Our help is in the name of the eternal God
People: **who is making the heavens and the earth.**

Bishop: Come Holy Spirit
People: **bearing your gifts of grace.**

For Confirmation

Bishop: David Lujan, Jr., Ethan Cole Bronson and Austin Drake Bronson come forward to be confirmed.

The bishop lays hands on each candidate and prays,

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.*, with your Holy Spirit; empower him for your service; and sustain him all the days of her life. Amen.

For Reception

Bishop: Catherine Howard, Bradley Salters, Tiffany Salters, John Richardson, Jonathan Salters, Benjamin Salters, Rachel Salters, Noah Salters, Lydia Salters and Naomi Salters come forward to be received.

Catherine, Bradley Tiffany John, Johnathan, Benjamin, Rachel, Noah, Lydia and Naomi, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. Amen.

At the conclusion of the laying on of hands and reception, the congregation prays,

God of mercy and love, new birth by water and the Spirit is your gift, a gift that none can take away; grant that your servants may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ. Fill them with the joy of your presence. Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of love, patience and gentleness, the spirit of wonder and true holiness. Amen.

Newly Confirmed and Received return to seats.

Hymn

Baptized in water

Hymnal 294

Induction and Covenant Of Mutual Ministry *(Stand as able)*

Members of St. John's stand as the Rector, Wardens and Vestry gather facing the Bishop, who reads a charge to the members of the parish.

Bishop: Good people of St. John's, through Baptism you have been adopted into the community of faith, God's holy fellowship, the Body of Christ, the Church. Together with your rector, you have been called to share in the Church's mission to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

I remind you that in Baptism, you are fully empowered and authorized to exercise ministry in Christ's name: to persevere in resisting evil wherever you recognize it, to

proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being.

Bound together with Christ in Baptism to do this work, remember that each of you has resources and gifts for ministry and you are called together to be the Body of Christ in this community and the world. Join your rector in prayer and regular worship, in discerning a mission for this parish, and in calling forth the leadership, resources, and talents to carry out that mission. As you love and serve God's people, remember to love, support, and nourish your rector and her family in your ministry together.

Bishop: Do you commit yourselves to this task?

People: **We do, by the grace of God.**

Bishop: May the One who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.

The Wardens, Vestry members, and parishioners are seated.

Bishop: Betsy, Presbyter of the Church of God, you have been called to work together with your diocesan leaders and fellow Presbyters as a pastor, priest, and teacher, and to take your share in the councils of the Church.

Now, in accordance with the Canons, you have been called to serve God in The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, in the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin.

This charge is a sign that you are fully empowered and authorized to exercise this ministry, accepting its privileges and responsibilities as a priest of this Diocese, in communion with your Bishop.

Having committed yourself to this work, do not forget the trust of those who have chosen you. Care alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. By your words and actions, and in your life, proclaim the Gospel. Love and serve Christ's people. Nourish them, empower them for ministry, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.

May the One who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.

Bishop: Do you commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

Rector: I do, by the grace of God.

Bishop: Will you who enter into this covenant and you who witness it, support and uphold Betsy and St. John's in their mission and ministry?

People: **We will, by the grace of God**

Bishop: Holy Scripture records that when God and God's people enter into a covenant with each other, God establishes a sign to mark the new relationship. When a priest and people enter into a new covenant with one another, the exchange of symbolic gifts is an appropriate way to mark the occasion.

Representatives of the congregation, the priest, the diocese and community exchange appropriate symbols which reflect specific aspects of the ministry of the congregation in the world at large and within the life of the church itself

The Bishop presents the new Rector with a vessel of water saying:

Betsy, as John baptized in the River Jordan, accept this water from the River Jordan and help me baptize in obedience to our Lord.

People: Amen.

Andee Zetterbaum and Carol Foote present an Icon of St. John the Baptist to the Rector with these words:

Betsy, accept this Icon of St. John the Baptist and be among us as a healer and reconciler.

People: Amen.

Councilman Mikey Hothi and Nancy Gonzalez St. Clair, Poet Laureate for the City of Lodi present a candle and a poem on as representatives of the community.

Mikey: Betsy, on behalf of the community of Lodi, accept this candle. May you be a beacon of light and understanding in our diverse community.

Nancy reads the poem "Into the Light" (see page 18 for poem)

Nancy: Betsy, accept this poem, as an expression of welcome, and an invitation to help build a community that celebrates its differences.

People: Amen.

John & Edyth Ledbetter and Jim & Anne Reeve present the bread and wine to be used at Eucharist to the Rector with these words:

Betsy, accept this bread and wine and be among us to break the bread and bless the cup.

People: Amen.

All stand.

Rector: Bishop David, I present to you the community of St. John's to be recognized as ministers to the world through their daily life and work.

Bishop: Almighty God, look with favor upon this community: Be present with all who go forth in the name of Christ. Let your love shine through their witness, so that the blind may see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the dead be raised up, and the poor have the good news preached to them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Rector: St. John's, in the name of God and this congregation, I recognize the call to ministry in our daily life and work as members of the community of Lodi. I give you these bookmarks as a symbol of our shared ministry.

Bishop: Betsy and People of St. John's, let all these be signs of the ministry we share in this place, in our diocese and in the church throughout the world.

People: **Amen.**

Rector: O Lord my God, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; yet you have called your servant to stand in your house, and to serve at your altar. To you and to your service I devote myself, body, soul, and spirit.

Fill my memory with the record of your mighty works; enlighten my understanding with the light of your Holy Spirit; and may all the desires of my heart and will center in what you would have me do.

Make me an instrument of your salvation for the people entrusted to my care, and grant that I may faithfully administer your holy Sacraments, and by my life and teaching set forth your true and living Word. Be always with me in carrying out the duties of my ministry. In prayer, quicken my devotion; in praises, heighten my love and gratitude; in preaching, give me readiness of thought and expression; and grant that, by the clearness and brightness of your holy Word, all the world may be drawn into your blessed kingdom. All this I ask for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The members of the congregation remain standing and say together,

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in us the covenant you made with us at our Baptism. Send us forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Bishop then presents the new minister to the congregation saying:

Greet your new Rector and her family.

Rector: Acknowledging the one mission of Jesus our Lord, which we share in unity, let us greet one another in the name of Christ. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you**

Then the Presider, Clergy, and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Offertory Sentence

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Anthem

Alleluia

Dave and Jean Perry

The Doxology

Hymnal 380 vs. 3 only

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A (*Standing*)

BCP p. 361

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, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Proper Preface of the Season/Chosen by Celebrant

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:

(Celebrant and People)

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord

WLP 858

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed 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. Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all.

He 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 he 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 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 Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: As our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP p. 364

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.

Communion of the People

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please form two lines in the center aisle. There are two standing stations. Please come forward immediately to receive communion. Gluten free hosts are available. You may receive just the bread or the wine or both. Please place hands crossed over your heart if you wish to receive communion in one kind, or a blessing.

Communion Hymn

*What wondrous love is this
Take my life and let it be*

Hymnal 439
Hymnal 707

Postcommunion Prayer

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Bishop : We have celebrated this new pastoral relationship in the great prayer of the Church. Rev. Betsy McElroy, I commend to your love and care the people of St. John the Baptist. My brothers and sisters in Christ, I commend to your love and care your new Rector, colleague and friend, Betsy.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn (*Standing*) *Alleluia! sing to Jesus* Hymnal 460

The Dismissal

Deacon: Go forth into the world sharing the light of Christ.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

After Postlude, be prepared for photo opportunities.

“Into the Light”

By Nancy Gonzalez St. Clair

Though the days grow shorter, darker and darker
during this season
may we find hope for the brightness of the light.

Let us have the wisdom to seek common ground,
Let us have grace in our world full of conflict and division,
May we have the courage to bridge divides,
and the compassion to truly listen and
understand one another,
let there be forgiveness to others and to ourselves.

Let us find peace in the small things,
May we embrace the freedom to speak
the truth boldly with kindness;
May we find wisdom to discern what is good and just.

In the new year may we find confidence and insight to discover
and explore new possibilities,
May our vision of the future
unfold into a colorful tapestry of opportunities,
May we build upon on the wisdom of the past
and learn from it,
May our intentions and actions have a positive impact,
Let us all be inspired to be better than we were yesterday.

Let there be light and love
in our hearts and souls,
in our families, in our friendships,
in the city of Lodi and our world.

Bishop Discretionary Donation Information – In the back of the pews, you will find white envelopes that can be used for the Bishop Discretionary Fund. Please make your check payable to: The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin.

You can also give through GIVELIFY app. If you go to our website:

www.stjohnsoflodi.org On the right side of the page you can click on GIVELIFY. Put in Episcopal church of St. John the Baptist and indicate the amount of your gift and what is for, i.e. pledge, rector/deacon discretionary, other, etc.). Givelify App is available at: [the “App Store”](#) or [“Google Play”](#) Or scan this code:



Financial Gifts to St. John's Are Always Welcome

- **2024 Pledges** continue to be gratefully accepted and may be mailed to or dropped off in the office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday.
- **Monetary "gifts" to St. John's, including stock donations** are also greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate stock to St. John's, please contact Nichole Pardo in our Diocesan office, 209-576-0104, Mon - Thurs, 9am - 4pm. Any questions, please contact a Vestry member.

Announcements

"Meet the Pastor Meals" – There are still a couple dates in January where you can sign up for a meal to “Meet the Pastor”. See the easel at the Usher Table.

Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 21 – Following the church service on Sunday, January 21st, we will have our Annual Meeting. We welcome anyone who feels called to be on the Vestry and/or a delegate to Annual Convention to please let us know.

Upcoming Calendar

Tuesday, January 9

4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor

Wednesday, January 10

10:45 am, People of Faith, Hospitality Room

12:00 noon, Noon Day Prayer, Historical Chapel

6:00 pm, Monthly Vestry Meeting, Nursery

6:30pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

Saturday, January 13

4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor

Sunday, January 14

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

5:00 pm, Men’s BBQ

Men's BBQ Announcement- Men of St. John's... Please join us at 5:00 pm on Sunday, January 14th for food and fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet on the Ministry table at the back of the church. Please let us know if you are coming! Bring a friend!

Is Grant Writing one of your gifts? We are looking to pursue funding for some improvements here at St. John's through grants. If this is in your wheelhouse, please contact Margaret or Rev. Betsy.

****Attention Ministry Leaders! Ministry Reports due January 8, 2024**

It is that time again to start preparing for the Annual Meeting in January. Please have your Ministry reports to Penny in the office by January 8, 2024. Thank you.

Celebration of Unity - Monday January 15, 2024 - Please join the City of Lodi Arts Commission and the Breakthrough Project in supporting and honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Lodi from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. Speaker: Elder Toni McNeil. Busic by: Cissandra Durkin & Shirley Washington.

St. John's Lodi Presents... BINGO! - Saturday, February 3- Tickets are only \$20.00 per person and includes a luncheon from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm, 10 Bingo games and 2 Bingo cards, games start at 1:00 pm. Sign up at the ministry table. You can pay at the door!

2023 Vestry Members

Margaret Meyers, Senior Warden

Kelly Olds, Junior Warden

Fran Bott, Clerk

Stacey Bagnasco

Beth Elwood

Paula James

Charlene Martin

Debby Weberski

Janie Williams

Andee Zetterbaum

The Rev. Betsy McElroy, Rector

Worship: Sundays 9:30 a.m.

Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday

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