

*Welcome to*

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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



## Juneteenth ♥ Freedom Day

June 19, 2024 ☩ 7:00 pm

The Rev. Betsy McElroy, Rector

Worship: Sundays 9:30 a.m.

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

1055 S. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi, California 95242

stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net † www.stjohnsoflodi.org † 209.369.3381 (voice)

# 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.

St. John's wishes to acknowledge and honor the Yokut and Miwok people[s] upon whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the resilience and strength of all our indigenous siblings around the world.

## *Those Who Serve Today*

*Celebrant:* The Rev. Besty McElroy

*Preacher:* Pastor Curtis Smith, Executive Director, Faith in the Valley

*Deacon:* The Rev. Deacon Stephen Bentley

*Musicians:* Kevin and Joetta Smith

*Poet:* Rachel Salters

*Lectors:* Carol Foote & Charlene Martin

*Camera Acolyte:* Beth Elwood

*Ushers:* Andee Zetterbaum & Aleathea Langone

*Sound:* Stephanie Pilcher

*Altar Guild:* Peggy Moos

*Vestry Open/Close (Announcements):* Andee Zetterbaum/Charlene Martin

Copyright: All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-706573A

# Welcome


The Rev. Betsy McElroy

## Prelude

(All Rights Reserved. ASCAP Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-706573-A)


### Entrance Hymn *(Stand as able.)* Just a Closer Walk with Thee

LEVAS II 72



1. I am weak but thou art strong; \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Through this world of toil and snares, \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, \_\_\_\_\_

*Refrain:* Just a clos - er walk with thee, \_\_\_\_\_



1. Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; \_\_\_\_\_ I'll be sat - is - fied as  
 2. If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? \_\_\_\_\_ Who with me my bur - den  
 3. Time for me will be no more; \_\_\_\_\_ Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

*Refrain:* Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, \_\_\_\_\_ Dai - ly walk - ing close to



1. long \_\_\_\_\_ As I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
 2. shares? \_\_\_\_\_ None but thee, dear \_\_\_\_\_ Lord, none but thee.  
 3. o'er \_\_\_\_\_ To Thy king - dom \_\_\_\_\_ shore, to thy shore.

*Refrain:* there, \_\_\_\_\_ Let it be, dear \_\_\_\_\_ Lord, let it be.

*D.C. for Refrain*

## Opening Acclamation and Collect *(Celebrant continues)*

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, holy and living One

*People:* **You come to your people and set them free.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*People and Celebrant together:*

**Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before us, resist the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# Confession of Sin

*Deacon:* Let us confess our sins against God and one another. *(stand or kneel as able.)*

Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift: You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us. We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others.

We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are, while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience.

We have tried to love our neighbors individually while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression. Forgive us, Holy God.


Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people. Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love. Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in our diversity, even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit, Holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

*The Celebrant pronounces the Absolution:*


Now there is rejoicing in heaven; for you were lost, and are found; you were dead, and are now alive in Christ Jesus our Lord. Abide in peace. The Lord has put away all your sins. Amen.

## Song of Praise *(All stand, and say together)* Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

LEVAS 1



1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en  
2. Sto - ny the road we trod, Bit - ter the chast - 'ning  
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent



1. ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -  
2. rod, Felt in the days when\_\_\_ hope un - born\_\_\_ had  
3. tears, Thou who hast brought us\_\_\_ thus far on\_\_\_ the

1. ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the list - 'ning—  
 2. died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wear - y—  
 3. way; Thou who hast by thy might, Led us in - to the—

1. skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.\_\_\_\_\_  
 2. feet Come to the place for which our fa - thers sighed?\_\_\_\_\_  
 3. light, Keep us for - ev - er in the path,\_\_\_ we pray.\_\_\_\_\_

1. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 2. We have come o - ver a - way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 3. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we met thee;

1. Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has  
 2. We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the  
 3. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

1. brought— us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new  
 2. slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we  
 3. get— thee, Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for -

1. day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry— is won.  
 2. stand at— last Where the white gleam of our bright star— is cast.  
 3. ev - er— stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty and most loving God, through your Son Jesus, who came among us as a slave choosing rather to serve his disciples than to be served by them; help us in our weakness not to seek to oppress others, nor to make peace with any form of exploitation, but in all things earnestly and of our own free will to seek to serve each other following Christ's good example, this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos *All are seated.* Carol Foote

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (*Amos 5:18-24*)

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 137

Carol Foote

- 1 By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, \*  
when we remembered you, O Zion.
- 2 As for our harps, we hung them up \*  
on the trees in the midst of that land.
- 3 For those who led us away captive asked us for a song,  
and our oppressors called for mirth: \*  
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion.”
- 4 How shall we sing the Lord’s song \*  
upon an alien soil?
- 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, \*  
let my right hand forget its skill.
- 6 Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth  
if I do not remember you, \*  
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.
- 7 Remember the day of Jerusalem, O Lord,  
against the people of Edom, \*  
who said, “Down with it! down with it!  
even to the ground!”
- 8 O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, \*  
happy the one who pays you back  
for what you have done to us!
- 9 Happy shall he be who takes your little ones, \*  
and dashes them against the rock!

## A Reading from The Letter of Paul to the Galatians Charlene Martin

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise. (*Galatians 3:23-29*)

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

# Sequence Hymn

## Lead Me, Guide Me

WLP 756

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, <sup>3</sup>

For if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.

Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me. **Fine**

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power to  
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my  
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

help me o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me  
aid when sa - tan and sin op - press; I am  
blind with - out thy light to see; Lord, just

through the dark - ness thy face to see,  
put - ting all my trust in thee.  
al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me. <sup>2</sup>  
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.  
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me. **D.C.**



## A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke

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

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

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ *(Luke 4:14-21)*

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

Pastor Curtis Smith  
Executive Director  
Faith in the Valley

*Silence*

## Musical Interlude

## Poem

*Juneteenth*

Rachel Salters

## Prayers of the People and Litany for Healing

*Deacon:* As we celebrate the freedom associated with this Juneteenth holiday celebration, we offer prayers for ourselves and the world.

Carol Foote

*Lector:* Heavenly Creator, Redeemer Sustainer, as we come together to reflect upon our journey to follow Jesus let not our suffering be a stumbling block to loving one another and loving you. May we find Jesus in morning at noon, and at night

where we can celebrate that great gift of your comforting spirit that illumines our pathways towards peace, justice, compassion and love for everyone, we now pray:

*Lector:* Most Holy God, God of Love, Justice and Light, rain down an outpouring of compassion and love upon this planet, May it wash over this world like rainfall from the mountaintops refreshing each spirit it touches and instantaneously spread a sustained sense of compassion and unconditional love for all God's creations;

*People:* **"May we accept the call to be bearers of peace."**

*Lector:* Mothering God, may you keep our minds steadfast on learning to live with one another in peace, free of violence, malice and prejudice. May we work together to advocate for justice for everyone less there be justice for no one;

*People:* **"May we accept the call to be bearers of peace."**

*Lector:* Loving Savior, we pray for our bishops, priests, deacons and laity, we pray for our leaders, help them to discern light where many perceive darkness. May their leadership be inspired by your word and modeled by your grace;

*People:* **"May we accept the call to be bearers of peace."**

*Lector:* Great God, benevolent judge, we pray for all your people gathered here to seek your grace. By your mercy, prepare us for the Day of Judgment, that we may accept it as a rich and royal gift for the eternal pleasure of the faithful.

*People:* **"May we accept the call to be bearers of peace."**

*Lector:* O Christ, image of the invisible God, free us from holding you in images of our own making. Grant that in the Spirit we may see all power and all life transformed by the compassion of the cross.

*People:* **"May we accept the call to be bearers of peace."**

*Lector:* Holy Advocate, guide us in the ways of justice and truth and grant us courage to dismantle the myths of power and oppression knowing that in lifting up others, we all flourish.

*People:* **"May we accept the call to be bearers of peace."**

*Celebrant continues with a concluding collect,*

Precious and Holy One we ask that you fortify our hearts so that our collective suffering during times of trouble do not serve as stumbling blocks to love but as reminders that you are always with us urging us to be open and ready to be transformed with every encounter. We thank you for continuing to nurture us in our faith and reminding us that our capacity to love is made boundless through our faith in Christ.

*People:* **Amen.**

*Prayers adapted from Bishop Chester L. Talton's Life of Ministry Service*

## The Peace

*Celebrant:* "Peace is Power, Power is Peace, Peace is Possible" ~Quick the Poet  
May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*The Peace is exchanged.*

## Announcements

## Offertory

*Our offering will be equally divided between Faith in the Valley and the EDSJ Anti-Racism Commission.  
Please make checks payable to The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist or "St. John's"*

## Offertory Hymn

TBA

?

## The Blessing

*The Celebrant blesses the people.*

And now, may God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, exploitation of people, so that we may continue to work for justice, freedom and peace. **Amen.**

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. **Amen.**

May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this work, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done. **Amen.**

And the Blessing of God Almighty, the One who creates, Redeems and Sanctifies, be upon you and all you love, this day, and forever more. **Amen.**

*(A Four-Fold Franciscan Blessing by The Very Rev. Kim L. Coleman)*

## The Dismissal

*Deacon:* Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Show love to everyone. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

# Closing Hymn

## We are marching in the Light of God

WLP 787





We are march - ing in the light of God, we are  
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya -  
Mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios, Mar - cha -



march - ing in the light of God, We are march - ing in the  
hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -  
re - mos en la luz de Dios. Mar - cha - re - mos en la

we are march - ing in the light of God.\_\_\_\_\_  
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'\_\_\_\_\_  
mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios.\_\_\_\_\_  
light of God, we are march - ing in the light of, the  
nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha -  
luz de Dios mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de, la



we are march - ing in the light of God.\_\_\_\_\_  
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'\_\_\_\_\_  
mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios.\_\_\_\_\_  
we are march - ing in the light of God.\_\_\_\_\_  
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'\_\_\_\_\_  
mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios.\_\_\_\_\_

Oo\_\_\_\_\_ we are march - ing in the light of God\_\_\_\_  
 Oo\_\_\_\_\_ si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'\_\_\_\_  
 Oo\_\_\_\_\_ mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios.\_\_\_\_

march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of, the  
 ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha -  
 re - mos re - mos mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de la

march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of, God.\_\_\_\_  
 ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'\_\_\_\_  
 re - mos mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios.\_\_\_\_

— We are march - ing \_\_\_\_\_  
 — Si - ya - ham - ba \_\_\_\_\_  
 — Mar - cha - re - mos \_\_\_\_\_

light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing we are  
 nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -  
 luz de dios. Mar - cha - re - mos, re - mos mar - cha -

— Oo\_\_\_\_\_

march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God.\_\_\_\_  
 ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.\_\_\_\_  
 re - mos re - mos mar - cha - re - mos en la luz do Dios.\_\_\_\_

## Postlude

(Copyright 2016 Lorenz Publishing Co. All Rights Reserved. ASCAP Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-706573-A)

Juneteenth is more than just a date circled on a calendar.  
It's a day etched in the hearts and souls of people whose strength shined bright  
amongst darkness even in the face of unimaginable hardship.  
Black bodies toiled under a brutal sun, their humanity was ripped away by a system  
designed to break them.  
Yet, their spirits never faltered.  
Songs of freedom became their anthems, echoing through cotton fields  
and generations, a testament to their lifelong resolve.  
In the depths of oppressive darkness,  
they sang hymns of hope,  
their voices reaching towards the heavens.  
Prayer and song were their sole refuge, their means to cope.  
Our ancestors praying hands were calloused  
beat,  
bloody,  
damaged,  
but resilient.  
Their Hands forged this nation's foundation.  
They paved the roads,  
wielded the hammers,  
and bore the weight of a nation's destiny. Yet, for too long, their narrative has been  
marginalized,  
their true greatness obscured.  
They were the craftsmen,  
the builders,  
the visionaries  
whose toil propelled this nation forward. But within the pages of history,  
their vital contributions remain veiled, overshadowed by a narrative that fails to  
acknowledge their full impact.  
They were the poets,  
their words wielded a weapon no physical battle could fight.  
They fought with resistance and dreams of a brighter tomorrow.  
They were the preachers,

their voices outnumbered oppression with the righteous voices who sang of freedom, hope, and justice.

They were the backbone,

the rhythm that kept the heart of the community beating. They are our ancestors.

But for too long, their brilliance was hidden in the shadows, denied its rightful place in the grand narrative of this nation.

Imagine, then, Galveston, Texas, June 19th, 1865.

Two and a half years after a proclamation that promised freedom, a Union General arrives,

his ship a vessel carrying the most precious cargo  
the long-awaited message of liberation. Freedom.

A word that for many Black Americans had been a distant dream,  
a whispered hope, now taking on the weight of reality.

This, is Juneteenth.

A celebration of resilience,

a testament to the unwavering spirit of a people,

and a promise that the brilliance hidden in the shadows can finally be brought to light.

Let us stand in reverence for our ancestors, warriors of freedom,

whose fierce determination paved the way for the day we now embrace.

Today, we honor their struggles and sacrifices, cherishing the dreams they dared to envision and the prayers they passionately whispered.

As we honor Juneteenth's resounding decree,

Let's embrace its spirit, bold and free.

Liberation's song, in every way,

Echoes within us, day after day.

For Juneteenth isn't just a date to see,

But a timeless celebration of unity.

This is Juneteenth.

**You can also give through GIVELIFY app.** If you go to our website:  
[www.stjohnsoflodi.org](http://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:



2024 Vestry Members

Margaret Meyers, Senior Warden

Kelly Olds, Junior Warden

Fran Bott, Clerk

Stacey Bagnasco

Beth Elwood

Bob Gorczyca

Charlene Martin

Christina Soria

Debby Weberski

Andee Zetterbaum