

Welcome to
**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

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



Second Sunday of the Season of Creation
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024 ☩ 9:30 am

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.

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

Blessing for Brad Huffman, Stephanie Pilcher, James Elwood and Beth Elwood today.

If you would like to donate flowers, please contact the church office at 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 (C)

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

Eucharistic Minister: Margaret Meyers (C)

Lectors: Bob Gorczyca & Rosemary Cress

Camera Acolyte: Fran Bott

Crucifer: Cheryl Nix (GF)

Ushers: Carol Foote & David Diekman

Sound: Eric Goossens

Altar Guild: Peggy Moos & Cheryl Nix

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Margaret Meyers/Christina Soria

Designer Guild: Janie Williams & Allison Dooley

Nursery Care: None until further notice

Sunday School: Ruth Diekman

Coffee Hour: Vestry

Counters: Eric Goossens & Sharon Farnsworth

The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

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

Entrance Hymn (*Stand as able.*) *Morning has broken* Hymnal 8

Opening Acclamation

Bishop: This is the day the Creator has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

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.**

Song of Praise (*All stand*) *All Creatures of our God & King* Hymnal 400
(Vs. 1, 3 & 7 only)

The Creation Collect of the Day

Bishop: The Creator be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Bishop:: Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the powerful who oppress and dominate Creation, so you never forsake your creatures who live in harmony with nature's order; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah *All are seated.*

Bob Gorczyca

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water; *(Isaiah 35:4-7)*

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146

Bob Gorczyca

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul! *

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
for there is no help in them.

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
and in that day their thoughts perish.

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

A Reading of “do not doubt what you see” from Ladder to the Light, Steven Charleston *All are seated.*

Rosemary Cress

Last night they came again, the spirits of the earth and sky, of wind and rain, of deep seas and tall mountains. In all Shapes and sizes they came, from every tribe and nation: the deer and the elk, the bear and the wolf, broad-winged eagles and crows as black as night. They all came and stood in a solemn circle beneath the one-eyed moon and spoke with a single voice this message from the sacred: “Do not doubt what you see: the world is warming, the waters are rising, and the winds are coming stronger than before. Do not turn away, do not pretend not to see, but speak the truth and set the spirits free to heal the world, before the ice has gone, before the last tiger falls, before only the desert remembers the ones who once walked this land.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God’s Creation.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

From all that dwell below the skies

Hymnal 380

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Mark

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

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

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." (Mark 7:24-37)

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rt. Rev. David C. Rice

Silence

Candidates for Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation

All stand as able.

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

Presenters: We present Bradly Huffman & Stephanie Pilcher for Confirmation

We present James Elwood to be received into this communion.

We Present Elizabeth Elwood who desires to reaffirm her baptismal vows.

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.**

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.*

Prayers for the Candidates

Bishop: Let us then offer our prayers to God for all his people, especially for our candidates for Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation 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.

Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation

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: Brad Huffman and Stephanie Pilcher, please come forward to be confirmed.

The bishop lays hands on each candidate and prays,

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

For Reception

Bishop: James Elwood, please come forward to be received.

James, 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.

For Reaffirmation

Bishop: Beth Elwood, please come forward to be received.

Beth Elwood, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. Amen.

The Bishop concludes with this prayer,

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Newly Confirmed, Received, and Reaffirmed return to seats.

Commissioning of 2024-2025 Church Ministries

Bishop: Do you commit yourselves to carry out the responsibilities of the ministries to which you are called?

Leaders: We do.

Bishop: Do you reaffirm your commitment to follow Christ and to serve this congregation in his name?

Leaders: We do.

Bishop: (to the congregation) Will you do all in your power to support these ministers with your prayers, your honest yet gracious communication with them, and your willingness to help them carry out Christ's ministry in this church?

Congregation: **We will.**

The Bishop continues,

In the name of the congregation of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist I commission you to carry out the work in your chosen ministry, to sing when the Spirit says sing, serve when the Spirit says serve, teach when the Spirit says teach, give when the Spirit says give, care when the Spirit says care, and above all, to love when the Spirit says love. We, your clergy here at St. John's and in the diocese, pledge you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of the kingdom of Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who have now reaffirmed their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: Peace with yourself.
Peace with Creation.
Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

The Peace is exchanged.

Announcements

Birthdays and Anniversaries Blessings *All together,*

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem

How Can I Keep From Singing

The Doxology

Praise to God (vs. 3 only)

Hymnal 380

The Great Thanksgiving *(Standing)*

SOC 1

Presider The Creator be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Creator.**
Presider Let us give thanks to our loving God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise**

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a

myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life. Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you – for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people. And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus *(Celebrant and People)*

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

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

All: **Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of the World!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

— A New Zealand Prayer Book

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.

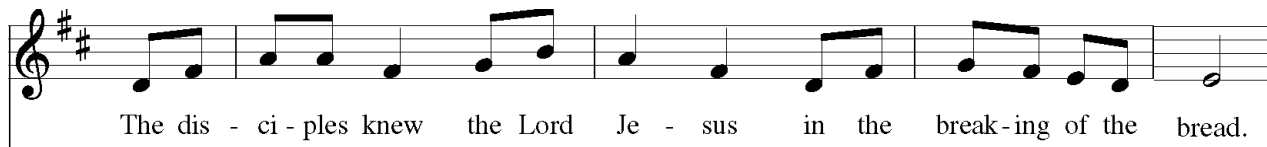
People: **All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body**

Fraction Hymn

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

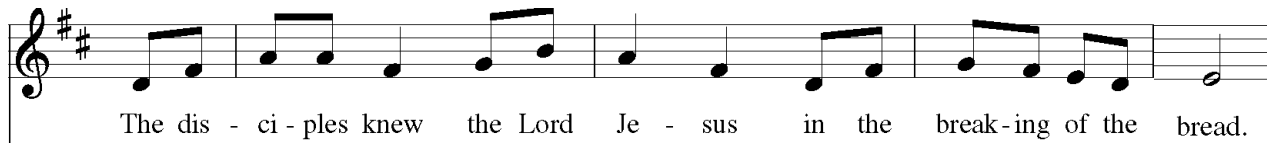
WLP 877

Choir/Cantor



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Refrain- All Sing



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Choir/Cantor

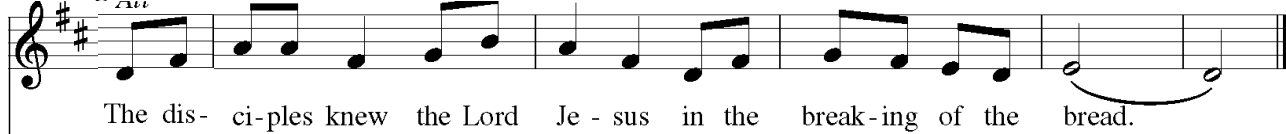
The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

Refrain - All Sing

Choir/Cantor

One body are we, alleluia, though many we share one bread.

All Sing



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Celebrant continues,

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.

The 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. We offer the chalice to drink from, but due to practical considerations, do not allow intinction (dipping) of the bread in the wine. Thank you for your understanding. Please place hands crossed over your heart if you wish to receive communion in one kind, or a blessing.

Communion Hymn *O wheat whose crushing was for bread*

WLP 760

1. O wheat, whose crush - ing was for bread, O
2. O fruit whose crush - ing was for wine, O
3. O life whose crush - ing was for love, O

bread whose break - ing is for life, O life, your seem - ing end is
wine whose flow - ing is for blood, O blood, your pour - ing out is
love whose spend - ing was to death, O death, your mourn - ing is our

seed, a seed for wheat, our bread and life.
life, our life in you, O fruit - ful vine.
joy, full joy and birth to last - ing life.

Sending Eucharistic Visitors *All together*

In the name of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Postcommunion Prayer *Standing*

SOC p. 43

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your Spirit may work
in us and renew the face of the earth.**

**May we be one with you
so that our work is yours
and your work is ours.**

**Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the people.

May God light in us a holy fire: Light a fire that is worthy of our ancestors. Light a fire that is worthy of our children. Light a fire that is worthy of our fathers. Light a fire that is worthy of our mothers. Light a fire that is worthy of God. Now let us go in peace, lighting a holy fire wherever we go. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Hymnal 376

The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve God's Creation.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Glorious Faith in God

by Rachel Sawyer

(Lorenz Publishing Co, 1998. All Rights Reserved. ASCAP Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-706573-A)

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:



Announcements

Season of Creation Message: Often when I meet someone new and engage in small talk, it is revealed that I am a retired Earth Science teacher. The question is asked how do I feel about climate change or global warming. I am careful to root out whether this person is genuine about my educated opinion or is just looking to argue with a “tree hugger.” I usually will admit that I believe the scientific data are very convincing but allow that it is a very complex issue which will affect all of our futures in many different ways.

I was teaching a lesson in the classroom once regarding ocean currents and how they can be affected by ocean temperatures and in effect changing our climate patterns. A student commented that he found it interesting how changing one thing can affect so many other things. Finally, a fourteen-year-old that found something other than his cell phone to pique his interest! My goal usually is to make the other person think about the complexities of these issues rather than preach to them.

A useful resource for tips on how to have meaningful conversations about climate change without being confrontational can be found at www.nature.org. If you write “Let’s Talk About Climate” in your search bar, the website will appear. This article encourages one to focus on discussion and accept that people have different opinions and experiences. The goal is conversation not conquest.

Steve Augusto, Creation Care Team Member.

Calendar

Monday, September 9

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

Tuesday, September 10

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

12:30 pm, Stewardship Meeting, Church Narthex

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

6:00 pm, Vestry Monthly Meeting, Hospitality Room

Wednesday, September 11

12:00 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Historical Chapel

6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

Thursday, September 12

8:00 pm, Compline Prayer via Zoom

Saturday, September 14

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

Sunday, September 15 -

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

5:00 pm, Men's BBQ, Church Narthex

Compline Prayer Thursday's @ 8:00 pm: You are all very familiar with Morning and Noon Day Prayer, which have been offered at St. John's for quite some time. We will also add in Compline, which is a short service that comes at the very end of the day. If you are interested in leading one of these, please let me know. Keep an eye out for the schedule.

Men's BBQ - Sunday, September 15 - 5:00 pm Join the men of St. John's for the Greg Wilson Men's BBQ. Always good food, good fellowship and good wine! Sign up at the ministry table so we have a good count for dinner. See you there!

In Quest of Questions - If Jesus walked into St. John's next Sunday, what would you like to ask him? We are inviting folks with questions to join in a conversation, sharing their questions and tentative answers. What have you been wondering about? New members and veterans are all welcome. Sessions will be facilitated by Rev. Betsy and Deacon Tom, but the questions will be provided by the participants. Interested? Sign up at the Ministry Table. We'll be in contact to schedule the first session. Join us!

Calling all gardeners: If you would like to tend a plot behind the church, contact our head of Buildings and Grounds, Aleathea Langone at 209-366-3410. Weather permitting, she plans to be at the church on Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00 and would love to have company.

Volunteers Needed! For coffee hour, sound persons, ushers, and acolytes. Please see Penny if you would like to be trained or help us out in any way.

St. John's booth at SJ Pride Festival Oct. 5 - The biggest Pride festival in San Joaquin County will be held in Stockton on Saturday, Oct. 5. Because there's no pride festival in Lodi this year, St. John's will have a booth at this one, to continue to spread the word that God loves everyone. Sign up to help staff the booth at the Ministry Table, or talk to Brad Huffman or Andee Zetterbaum.

Bishop Search Update - Mark your calendars for your local Listening Session. We will meet on September 14 at 10:30 am at St. Anne's Stockton.

Women's Retreat Registration is Open - Hangin' with Mary (the BVM) will take place October 4-6 at ECCO. Register at <https://eccoyosemite.org/womens-retreat-registration/> See the flyer at the ministry table for more information.



From Ephesians 5:2: ... “Walk in love, as Christ loved us.”

A pivotal moment in our liturgy as we move from the reading of and response to the Word, into the sacrament of Holy Communion. It is poignant to observe that we mark this moment of transition with an invitation to walk in love.

When we walk in love, there is clarity and purpose. We move in alignment with each other and with our values. Walking in love is also something we cannot do alone – by definition, it implies connection, community. Our journey is one made by millions, over thousands of years. *A cycle of invitation and of sharing.*

When we gather in love, bless, break, and share our gifts and ourselves with the world, we bring healing and transformation to our world.

St. John’s invites you to join in the timeless call to “Walk in Love,” as you share your wealth, works, and wisdom with a world in need. Our 2025 Fall Pledge Campaign kicks-off in October.

This is a journey we make together; won’t you join us?

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