

Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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



Third Sunday of the Season of Creation An Ecumenical Celebration

September 15, 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:

NEED

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

Those Who Serve Today

Celebrant: The Rev. Betsy McElroy (B)

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (B)

Preacher: Charlene Martin

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

Eucharistic Minister: Beth Elwood (C)

Lectors: Rosemary Cress & Christina Soria

Camera Acolyte: Fran Bott (GF)

Crucifer: Margaret Meyers (C)

Ushers: Brad Huffman & Debby Weberski

Sound: Jim Bassett

Altar Guild: Aleathea Langone & Paula Saubolle

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Debby Weberski / Andee Zetterbaum

Designer Guild: Ejae Perry & Mandi Sager

Nursery Care: None until further notice

Sunday School: Peggy Moos

Coffee Hour: Margaret Meyers

Counters: Sharon Farnsworth &

The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Woodland Peace

Edvard Grieg Arr. by David Paxton

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Entrance Hymn (*Stand as able.*) *Christ, whose glory fills the skies* Hymnal 7

Opening Acclamation SOC p. 32

Presider: This is the day the Creator has made.

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

Collect for Purity (*Celebrant continues*)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise (*All stand*) *All Creatures of our God & King* Hymnal 400
(Vs. 1, 4 & 7 only)

The Creation Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Creator be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; 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.* Rosemary Cress

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens--
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty? (*Isaiah 50:4-9a*)

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16 1-8

Rosemary Cress

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

- 2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."
- 4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The Lord watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the Lord has treated you well.
- 7 For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
- 8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord *
in the land of the living.

A Reading from "The End of Hope and the Beginning of Miracle," Jay O'Hara

Christina Soria

Jay is a Quaker climate activist who in 2013 used a small lobster boat to blockade a 40,000-ton shipment of coal to the Brayton power plant in Somerset, MA.

Jesus manifested the paradoxical power of vulnerability. The paradox is that vulnerability is our strength. As Jesus taught, in order to have our life, we must lose it. In order to be a leader, we must be a servant. When we turn the other cheek, we upend a power structure that is based on domination and fear. And we discover that death on the cross is not defeat. This power flows not from following abstract values found in the dead letter, even those in Scripture, imploring us to be good stewards of Creation, but from a lived reality of the Living Christ, the Holy Spirit that we experience within and that moves through us into the world. This holy vulnerability is what opens the possibility for miracles.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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 went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (*Mark 8:27-38*)

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Charlene Martin

Silence

Nicene Creed *All stand as able.*

BCP p. 358

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People *Form 2 from Season of Creation*

Beth Elwood

The Leader and People pray responsively. During the silence after each bidding, the people may offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Presider: This season we pray with and for God's whole Creation. We pray that humanity might learn to love and honor the rest of the natural world, to grieve and turn away from our selfish and destructive acts, and to work together to

transform human hearts and human civilizations so that all living beings might flourish.

Leader: Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.
In the beginning,

People: **God was.**

Leader: Here and now,

People: **God is.**

Leader: In the future,

People: **God will be.**

Leader: Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help [especially _____].

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died [especially _____].

Silence

Leader: God, Giver of life,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Presider: O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

SOC p. 35

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation. (*stand or kneel as able.*)

Holy and merciful God,

We confess that we have failed to honor you

By rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.

We have walked heavily on your earth,

Overused and wasted its resources,

Taken for granted its beauty and abundance,

And treated its inhabitants unjustly,

Holding future generations hostage to our greed.

Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.

Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as

You desire and intend,

With grateful and compassionate hearts,

Through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces the Absolution:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **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 *For the Beauty of the Earth* John Rutter

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.

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

Creator of the earth and sky

Hymnal 148

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

Sing praise to God who reigns above

Hymnal 408

The Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

The Power of the Word

by David Paxton

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Announcements

Season of Creation Message: The dire predictions of continued global warming have taken a psychological toll on many young people, who fear what they may face in coming decades. According to a recent issue of UC Santa Barbara Magazine, "these days, according to polling data, a majority of young people from countries around the world feel 'very or extremely worried' about the climate crisis, and more than half reported sadness, anger, powerlessness and guilt, and that those feelings negatively impacted their daily lives.

"The new challenge is addressing these anxieties ... 'Honestly, that's now job number one. Since the climate crisis may well be the greatest existential threat that our species has ever collectively faced, we need this new generation to be mobilized -- not petrified into inaction.'"

To help students deal with these fears, eight University of California campuses have launched a course on Climate Resilience to "build a durable mindset against the often debilitating anxieties tied to climate change." The course was designed by scholars and psychiatrists to help prepare students for the challenges to come. In the meantime, we must do all we can, here and now, to slow the warming of our planet, for the sake of generations to come.

Quotations from "Fostering climate activism, and building resilience to climate anxiety" by Keith Hamm, as appeared in UC Santa Barbara Magazine, Spring/Summer 2024.

Calendar

Today, Sunday, September 15

5:00 pm, Greg Wilson Memorial Men's BBQ

Tuesday, September 17

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

Wednesday, September 18

10:30 am, People of Faith Meeting, Nursery

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

6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

Thursday, September 19 – Sunday, September 22 Rev. Betsy out of town

Thursday, September 19

8:00 pm, Compline Prayer via Zoom

Sunday, September 22

9:30 am, Morning Prayer

Compline Prayer Thursdays @ 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.

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. Our first session will be held via Zoom on September 24 at 6:00pm. Watch your email for the Zoom link. If you haven't signed up yet, please add your name and email to the signup on the ministry table.

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.

Town Hall on Homelessness- October 7 at 4:00pm, Hutchins Street Square, Kirst Hall. Please join us and other community members to learn more about the state of homelessness in Lodi.



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 October 13 and runs through November 17, when we will have an ingathering Blessing of the Pledges and Pancake Celebration.

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

You're invited to the 3rd Annual Women's Retreat!!

Hangin' with Mary

(the BVM)



October 4-6 @ ECCO

Register at: <https://eccoyosemite.org/womens-retreat-registration/>

You must be at least 21 years old and woman-identified to attend

Activities include: yoga, rosary making, Marian spiritual practices, arts & crafts, paint & sip, wine tasting, time for reflection, relationship building



Registration closes September 20th

Single: \$300.40 * Double \$258.40 * Quad \$234.40 * RV rate: \$143.20

(prices include all supplies and activities related to the retreat)

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

