

Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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



Fourth Sunday of the Season of Creation An Ecumenical Morning Prayer Service

September 22, 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:

Beth Elwood in celebration of her husband, Jim on his birthday, Sept 13.

Beth & Jim Elwood in loving memory of Jim's mother Mary Elwood & Beth's father Darwin Lindsley & her brother in law, David Ferry.

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

Those Who Serve Today

Presider/Deacon/Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

Eucharistic Minister: Andee Zetterbaum

Lectors: Rosemary Cress & Debby Weberski

Camera Acolyte: Holly Wilson

Crucifer: Stacey Bagnasco

Ushers: Corky Kuykendall & Beth Elwood

Sound: Dick Williams

Altar Guild: Bunmi Olowoyeye & Stuart Krengel

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

Designer Guild: Janie Williams & Allison Dooley

Nursery Care: None until further notice

Sunday School: Janie Williams

Coffee Hour: Fran Bott & Stacey Bagnasco

Counters: Sharon Farnsworth & TBA

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Welcome

The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson

Prelude

His Eye is on the Sparrow

by Charles H. Gabriel

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Entrance Hymn (*Stand as able.*) *I sing the almighty power of God* Hymnal 398

Opening Sentence:

Deacon: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. (*Psalm 19.1*)

Confession of Sin

SOC p. 50

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 Invitatory and Psalter (*All Stand*)

SOC p. 52

Deacon: This is the day the Creator has made..

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Presider and people,

Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation* as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Deacon: Creation is speaking: Come let us listen.

Psalm 8

Please be seated

Rosemary Cress

- 1 O LORD our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children *
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? *
the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; *
you adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under his feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O LORD our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

People: Creation is speaking: Come let us listen

A Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

Rosemary Cress

The ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death; considering him a friend, they pined away and made a covenant with him, because they are fit to belong to his company. For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, "Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him,

and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected." Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 12 A Song of Creation

Invocation

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

I The Cosmic Order

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, *

O heavens and all waters above the heavens.

Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, *

all winds and fire and heat.

Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, *

drops of dew and flakes of snow.

Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, *

O shining light and enfolding dark.

Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

II The Earth and its Creatures

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,

and all that grows upon the earth, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Doxology

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

A Reading from Prayers of the Social Awakening, Walter Rauschenbusch *All are seated.*

Debby Weberski

(The Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch [1861-1918] was an American theologian and Baptist pastor who taught at the Rochester Theological Seminary. Rauschenbusch was a key figure in the Social Gospel and single tax movements that flourished in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.)

O God, we thank thee for this universe, our great home; for its vastness and its riches, and for the manifoldness of the life which teems upon it and of which we are part. We praise thee for the arching sky and the blessed winds, for the driving clouds and the constellations on high. We praise thee for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills, for the trees and for the grass under our feet. We thank thee for our senses by which we can see the splendor of the morning, and hear the jubilant songs of love, and smell the breath of the springtime. Grant us, we pray thee, a heart wide open to all this joy and beauty, and save our souls from being so steeped in care or so darkened by passion that we pass heedless and unseeing when even the thorn-bush by the wayside is aflame with the glory of God.

Enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all the living things, our little brothers, to whom thou has given this earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty, so that the voice of the Earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realize that they live not for us alone, but for themselves and for thee, and that they love the sweetness of life even as we, and service thee in their place better we in ours.

When our use of this world is over and we make room for others, may we not leave anything ravished by our greed or spoiled by our ignorance, but may we hand on our common heritage fairer and sweeter through our use of it, undiminished in fertility and joy, that so our bodies may return in peace to the great mother who nourished them and our spirits may round the circle of a perfect life in thee.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A Greeting for Creation *All Stand and say together*

**Greetings in the name of our God who is good:
whose love endures forever.**

**Greetings to you, sun and moon, you stars of the northern
sky: give to our God your thanks and praise.**

**Sunrise and sunset, night and day:
give to our god your thanks and praise.**

**Greetings to you, hills and valleys, rivers and ponds, sea
and rain: give to our god your thanks and praise.**

**Greetings to you, oak and pine, hemlock and birch,
Tamarack and maple: give to our God your thanks and praise.**

**Greeting to you, hawks and sparrows, cardinals and
Robins, bats and blue jays, ravens and crows: give to our God your thanks and
praise.**

**Greetings to you, bears and deer, chipmunks and squirrels,
And beaver and bobcats: give to our God your thanks and praise.**

**Greetings to you, people of all genders, elders and children,
Indigenous and colonists, diverse cultures of this rainbow land:**

**Nurses and teachers, scientists and artists, cleaners and
Clerks, students and job-seekers,**

All who care, who love, and who pray,

**Who laugh and learn, who rest and who play: give to our
God your thanks and praise. Amen.**

A Reading from The Gospel According to Mark

Debby Weberski

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." (*Mark 9:30-37*)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson

Silence

The Apostles Creed (*All together*)

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

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.

**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. Amen.**

The Prayers

Presider: May God be with all Creation.

People: **And restore us to harmony.**

Presider: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Deacon: 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

Suffrages B

Deacon Tom

V. Heal your Creation, O God, and bless your offspring;

R. **Guide and sustain your creatures, now and always.**

V. Day by day your Creation blesses you;

R. **We join our voices to praise your Name for ever.**

V. O God, unite us with all Creation in harmony;

R. **Have compassion on our failings, O God.**

V. O God, show us your love and sustaining power;

R. **For your creatures live and move only in you.**

V. In you, O God, is our hope;

R. **And your Creation shall never hope in vain.**

A Collect for Sundays

BCP p. 98

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Creation Collect of the Day

Grand us, Lord, your vision of a renewed earth in which heaven comes to rest; and even now, while we too often despair of healing and wholeness, to hold fast to your promise and commit again to hope; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Mission

BCP p. 100

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect For Election

BCP p. 822

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

BCP p. 376

Anthem

God of the Sparrow

Presbyterian Hymnal 272

Collection will be taken during Anthem

The Prayers of the People Form 2 from Season of Creation Andee Zetterbaum

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 Barb and Ken Warburton, Kelly and Karen Olds, Ida Mae Lobb and family, Sarah Aceves (Sylvia Augusto's Mom), Beth Alves (Reeve daughter), Kevin and Jeanne Canwell, Richard and Rosemerry Cress, the Wilson family & Katie Long.

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.

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.*

The General Thanksgiving *Deacon and People*

BCP p. 101

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP p. 102

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two are three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Concluding Sentence *Presider*

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. **Amen.** (*Colossians 1:15-16*)

Closing Hymn

Immortal, invisible God only wise

Hymnal 423

The Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Come, Let Us Sing

by David Paxton

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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: Dirty Laundry - By Elaine Sager

When I used to think of micro plastic particles in the ocean, I thought of single use plastics, especially bags. It turns out that I was wrong. The single largest source of micro-plastic particles (about one third) in the ocean and in our farmland comes from our laundry water. This comes mainly from our plastic fabrics including polyester, orlon, acrylic, fake fur. Cellulose, wood pulp-based fabrics, such as rayon are better, but their manufacturing process is very polluting. Plant based fibers such as linen, ramie, hemp are good. Cotton, if organic is okay. Cotton is a very water-thirsty plant and regular cotton is heavily treated with pesticides. Animal fibers such as wool, alpaca, angora, cashmere are good for cool weather. Best is to buy less, use them longer, don't throw polyester type clothes away, send them thrift stores so others can use them. Currently there is no way to break down polyester fibers. Also buy new-to-you clothes from thrift stores. My one cashmere sweater came from a thrift store, I don't think it had been worn very much before I got it.

When washing clothes, it is suggested that you wash them less often, use cooler water, use less soap/detergent, and hang to dry. Actions that most of don't like to do. Hopefully when it comes time to replace our washing machines there will be machines with built in micro-plastic filters. Meanwhile there are some add on micro-plastic filters. One that was reviewed to work well is about \$200 up front cost. It appears to be sort of like ink jet printer cartridges; you send the used filter cartridge back to the manufacturer to get a replacement cartridge. I didn't see any information as to how much replacement filters would cost.

I find this issue to be of great concern, especially the micro-fibers that are in our food chain. There is no easy solution. The best we can do is to learn more and do what we can of the suggestions above. And be prepared for more and safer procedures to become available.

Calendar

Tuesday, September 24

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

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

Wednesday, September 25

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

6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

Thursday, September 26

8:00 pm, Compline Prayer via Zoom

Friday, September 27

5:30 pm, Soul Kitchen Dinner, Church

Sunday, September 29

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

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.

"The Murder at the Speakeasy" - Saturday, October 26 - SAVE THE DATE: Saturday evening, October 26, Mystery and a Dinner -- Join us for a fundraiser at St. John's. Enjoy a savory dinner and a spicey mystery. Costumes encouraged. More information to follow. Can you solve the mystery of "The Murder at the Speakeasy"? See Margaret Meyers for details.



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.

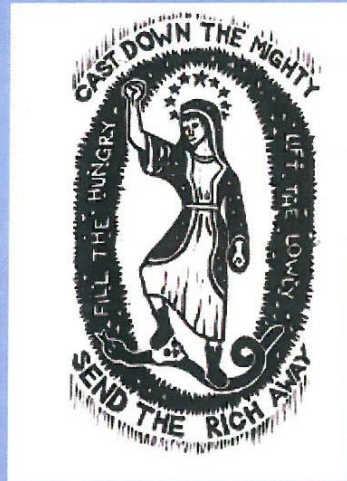
This is a journey we make together; won't you join us?

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.

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

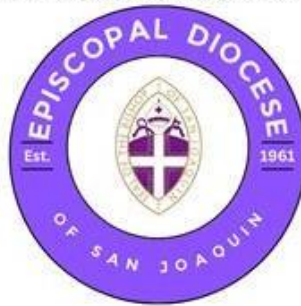


Registration closes September 20th

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

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

Bishop Search Update



We want to hear from You!

**Bishop Search Listening Sessions
are now underway
throughout the Diocese and by Zoom
in September & October
Plan to Attend!**

More information available here:



**EDSJ Bishop Search Webpage
Sitio Web de Búsqueda de Obispos de la EDSJ**

www.diosanjoaquin.org/bishop-search

St. Francis of Assisi and Blessing of the Animals -

On Sunday, September 29 we will have the traditional Sunday for celebrating St. Francis of Assisi (Feast Day: October 4). Following this service at 1:00 pm we will follow our own tradition of the "Blessing of the Animals".

Here is what this means. During the regular 9:30 am service our readings and songs will be geared towards St. Francis of Assisi. We welcome you to bring pictures of your beloved pets with you to this service.

At 1:00 pm we will gather again. At that time you are welcome to bring your actual pets (all creatures welcome) and/or picture of pets to a special service for them. All are welcome!

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