

*Welcome to*

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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



## **Fifth Sunday of the Season of Creation**

The Feast of St. Francis

September 29, 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:

Linda Harkins & Lisa Ayers in loving memory of husband & Father, Jack on his birthday, 9/29.

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

---

### Those Who Serve Today

*Celebrant/Preacher:* The Rev. Betsy McElroy (B)

*Deacon:* The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (B)

*Choir Director:* Steven Weikle

*Pianist/Organist:* Michael Tompkins

*Eucharistic Minister:* Anne Reeve (C)

*Lectors:* Carol Foote & Jim Reeve

*Camera Acolyte:* Carlo Bagnasco (GF)

*Crucifer:* Stacey Bagnasco (C)

*Ushers:* Debby Weberski & Tom Gundershaug

*Sound:* Steve Augusto

*Altar Guild:* Anne Reeve & Margaret Meyers

*Vestry Open/Close (Announcements):* Debby Weberski /TBA

*Designer Guild:* Kathy Girard & Barbara Warburton

*Nursery Care:* None until further notice

*Sunday School:* Peggy Moos

*Coffee Hour:* Phyllis Duarte

*Counters:* Sharon Farnsworth & Tom Gundershaug

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Prelude

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

by William Bradbury

(Lorenz Publishing Co., 2008. All Rights Reserved. ASCAP Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-706573-A)

**Entrance Hymn** (*Stand as able.*) *God, who stretched the spangled heavens* Hymnal 580

## 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*  
(Vs. 1, 6 & 7 only)

Hymnal 400

## The Creation Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Creator be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

O God, you show your glory throughout your Creation, calling it very good: Grant us the fullness of your blessing, that we, stewarding your garden, may become partakers in your joy; 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 Numbers** *All are seated.* Carol Bower Foote

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,' to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once – if I have found favor in your sight – and do not let me see my misery."

So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!"

*(Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29)*

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

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

## **Psalm 19:7-14**

Carol Bower Foote

7 The law of the LORD is perfect  
and revives the soul; \*  
the testimony of the LORD is sure  
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the LORD are just  
and rejoice the heart; \*

the commandment of the LORD is clear  
and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean  
and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold, \*  
sweeter far than honey,  
than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me; \*  
then shall I be whole and sound,  
and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my  
heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

## A Reading attributed to Meister Eckhart

Jim Reeve

*Johannes Eckhart (c.1260 – c.1328) was a German Catholic theologian, philosopher and mystic well known for his work with pious lay groups such as the Friends of God. He has acquired a status as a great mystic within contemporary popular spirituality, as well as considerable interest from scholars situating him within the medieval scholastic and philosophical tradition.*

Apprehend God in all things,  
for God is in all things.  
Every single creature is full of God,  
and is a book about God.  
Every creature is a word of God.  
If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature –  
even a caterpillar –  
I would never have to prepare a sermon,  
so full of God  
is every creature.

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

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

## Sequence Hymn

*Praise to God*

Singing our Faith 155



1. Praise to God,      praise to God,      For the green - ness  
2. Thanks to God,      thanks to God,      For the gift of  
3. Sing to God,      sing to God,      For the grace of



of the trees,      For the beau - ty      of the flow'rs,      For the  
friends in Christ,      For the church, our      house of faith,      For the  
Je - sus Christ,      For the love of      par - ent God,      For the



blue-ness of the sky,      For the great-ness of the sea.  
gift of won - drous love,      For the gift of end - less grace.  
com-fort and the strength      Of the Spir - it, ho - ly God.



Praise to God,      praise to God,      Now and for - ev - er-more.  
Thanks to God,      thanks to God,      Now and for - ev - er-more.  
Sing to God,      sing to God,      Now and for - ev - er-more.

## 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.**

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:22-32)

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.  
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## Sermon

The Rev. Betsy McElroy

*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*

Anne Reeve

*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 Barb and Ken Warburton, Kelly and Karen Olds, Ida Mae Lobb and family, Kevin and Jeannie Canwell, Richard and Rosemary Cress, the Aceves and Augusto families, the Wilson family

*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, Sarah Aceves & Michael Lobb.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God, Giver of life,

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We know invite you to come forward to share photos of your pets.

*Presider:* Good and gracious Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy. O God, you have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than that you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**      *From The Collect for St. Francis*

## **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

*Prayer of St. Francis*

Allen Pote

#### 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.

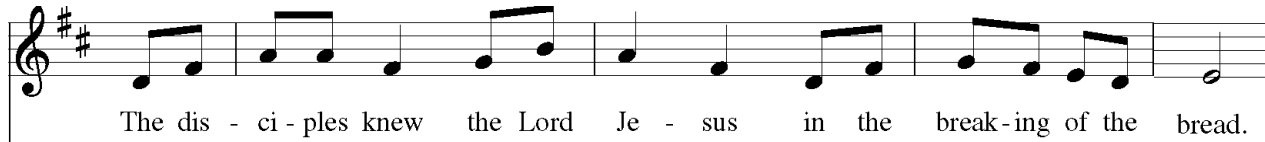
**People:**   **All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body**

# Fraction Hymn

*The disciples knew the Lord Jesus*

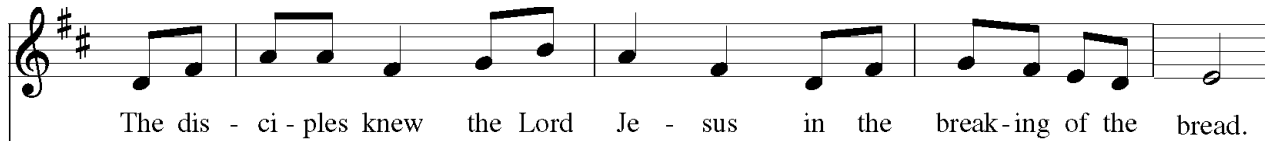
WLP 877

*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*

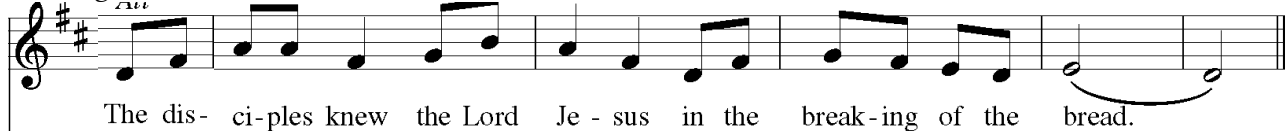
The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

*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

*Creating God, your fingers trace*

Hymnal 394

## 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

*All things bright and beautiful*

Hymnal 405

## The Dismissal

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

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

## Postlude

*Celebration*

by David Paxton

(Lorenz Publishing Co, 1996 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](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:



## **Announcements**

### **Season of Creation Message: Words of Creation – gathered by Barbara Kregel**

Through the ages, saints and theologians have expressed our oneness with God and his creation. Here are words, from this legacy, to contemplate and enjoy.

For no part of creation is left void of God: God has filled all things everywhere.

**St. Arthanasius (296-373) *On the Incarnation***

In the created world around us we see the Eternal Artist, Eternal Love at work.

**Evelyn Underwood (1875-1941) *Anglican Mystic***

The first law of our being is that we are set in a delicate network of interdependence with our fellow human beings and with the rest of God's creation.

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1931-2022) *God Has A Dream***

**Meet us today at 1:00 pm for the Blessing of the Animals.**

### **Calendar**

**October 1 – 21: Deacon Tom is on vacation**

#### **October 1**

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

5:30 pm, Finance Meeting

#### **Wednesday, October 2**

10:45 am, People of Faith, Nursery

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

6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

#### **Thursday, October 3**

8:00 pm, Compline Prayer via Zoom

#### **Sunday, October 6**

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church



**Compline Prayer Thursdays @ 8:00 pm:** Here's the link for the **Thursday, 8:00 PM, Compline service.**

Topic: Compline

Time: 8:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473384767?pwd=7xJY6MbaOLFjrnINWm41nZPDJIT87T.1>

Meeting ID: 824 7338 4767

Passcode: 168908

**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.

**Reflections from South Africa: Sunday, October 27** - In August, Rev. Betsy spent two weeks traveling in South Africa learning from the life and legacy of Archbishop Desmond Tutu through the Tutu Travel Seminar. Join Besty after Church on Sunday, October 27 to hear about her experiences and takeaways from her journey.



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?**

2024 Vestry Members

Margaret Meyers, Senior Warden

Kelly Olds, Junior Warden

Fran Bott, Clerk

Stacey Bagnasco

Beth Elwood

Bob Gorczyca

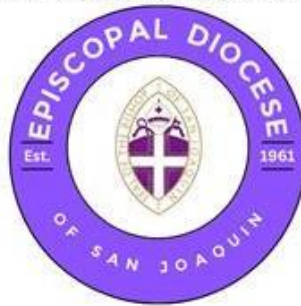
Charlene Martin

Christina Soria

Debby Weberski

Andee Zetterbaum

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](http://www.diosanjoaquin.org/bishop-search)**

**"The Murder at the Speakeasy" - Saturday, October 26 - Tickets are \$85.00**

Join us for a fundraiser at St. John's. Enjoy a savory dinner of Honey Garlic Chicken with Rosemary, Roasted Vegetable with Garlic Butter Sauce, Salad of Mixed Greens, pears, cranberries, Feta cheese with Pear Vinaigrette... Death by Chocolate Trifles. This is a Dinner and a Show. Dress up in the 1920's Speakeasy costume encouraged, but is completely optional. If you want to purchase a ticket, please use QR Code below or contact Penny in the office.

## MYSTERY AND DINNER



**OCTOBER 26TH, 5:30PM**

**\$85 PER PERSON**

**PURCHASE TICKETS**

<http://tiny.cc/StJohnSpeakeasy>



**DRESS IN THE 1920'S SPEAKEASY ENCOURAGED  
(COMPLETELY OPTIONAL)**