

Saint John's Episcopal Church

The Feast of Saint Francis

SATURDAY and SUNDAY

October 5 and 6, 2024

The Prelude *All things bright and beautiful / David Gale*

The Opening Hymn *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*

The Hymnal 1982, 376

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant may say

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.**

The Gloria *said at 5pm, sung at 9:30*

The Hymnal 1982, S 280

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the
Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

Most high, omnipotent, good 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Genesis 1:20-2:2

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So, God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree

with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus, the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response, Psalm 96

We will read the Psalm breaking at the half-verse.

Sing to the LORD a new song; *

sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations *

and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *

he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *

but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *

Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *

ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *

bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *

let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *

he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;

he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy

before the LORD when he comes, *

when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness *

and the peoples with his truth.

A Reading from "Meditations of the Heart," by Howard Thurman

The Rev. Howard Washington Thurman (1899-1981) was an American author, philosopher, theologian, Christian mystic, educator, and civil rights leader. As a prominent religious figure, a senior leading professor at Boston University, he played a leading role in many social justice movements and organizations of the twentieth century.

I seek new levels of awareness of the meaning of the commonplace.

It is easy for me to take things for granted and to deal with them without sensitiveness.

When have you noticed the color in the sky?

When have you looked at the shape and place of a tree?

What about the light in the eyes of your friend when he smiles?

The gracious manner that your child has in meeting people at the door?

The moving insight and the power of the words of a hymn, the music of which you enjoy?
The renewal of mind and body after a night of restful sleep?
The way the cut in your finger healed, leaving scarcely a trace of the opening?
The spontaneous response which overcomes you when you are face to face with some poignant human need?
The times when deep within your heart you whisper a thank-you to Life, to God, or, as you may say, to the Fates!
I seek new levels of awareness of the meaning of the commonplace.

Here ends the reading

The Gradual Hymn *Lord make us servants of your peace*

The Hymnal 1982, 593

The Gospel *all standing, as able*

Matthew 11:25-30

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, God of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, God, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Creator; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal God. 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Alan R. Hesse

The Nicene Creed

Enriching our Worship 1

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us and for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

We thank you, Lord God.

For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;

We thank you, Lord God.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women;

We thank you, Lord God.

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

We thank you, Lord God.

For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;

We thank you, Lord God.

For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets;

We thank you, Lord God.

That each pet here may be treasured with care;

We pray to you, Lord God.

That we may love and honor all your works, O God;

We pray to you, Lord God.

We remember those on our prayer list: Mary, Christy, Brian, Steve, Charlie, Bruce, Luke, Dave, John, Joe, Leo, Sunny, Kim, Alannah, MaryAnn, and Debra.

We give thanks for the churches in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer; Churches of the South Shore Deanery: Emmanuel Church (Braintree), Grace Chapel (Brockton), St. Stephen's Church (Cohasset), Daughters of the King and Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;

We pray to you, Lord God.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *The people may add their own petitions silently or aloud.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Lord God, help us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Help us as we welcome strangers. Help us see Christ in each other. Help us, O God, to open our lips, our minds and hearts. Help us, O God, to be faithful heralds for humanity, creation and Christ our Savior; through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Merciful and sustaining God,

we have sinned against you.

We confess our lack of gratitude

for the beauty and bounty of your creation:

teach us to see that your earth sustains us

and all that lives.

We confess that we have misused your earth:

grant us amendment of life.

We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:

strengthen us in self-control.

We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted:

make us urgent now for its protection.

Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another and for all creatures, according to your will

and in the fullness of your love; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

The Priest 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

All stand, as able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory Anthem *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

setting by Jane Holstein

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!*



The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of all. We praise you here where marsh grass meets the sea. We praise you for the natural world you have created in all of its wonder and complexity.

We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our forebearers journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They knew you in tents and cities, on fertile lands and by the abundant waters. Above all you remained faithful to all of your creation.

Together with angels and archangels, we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honor song:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The Hymnal 1982, S 130

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you for Jesus, your son, He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told parables of farmers and seeds, labor and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the people, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me.

Again, after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you these gifts you have given us from your creation.

Creator, send your Holy Spirit on these gifts to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully serve you. Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation.

Bring us with St. John the Baptizer, Saint Francis, The Blessed Virgin Mary, and all your saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and all of creation and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bring all of us, from every clan, tribe, and nation together, to feast upon your abundant banquet, prepared from the fruits of your earth and made possible by the redemption of your Christ. Through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the all of creation, all glory and honor to God and Creator, for ever and ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread/Fraction Anthem

The Hymnal 1982, S 164

Celebrant These are the gifts of God, for you the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Christ in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ, are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Please hold out your hand to receive the host. The diocese forbids us from intinction (dipping) in the chalice.

You may ask for the chalice or receive the wine in the small cups offered to you in a tray.

If you prefer not to receive the wine, please cross your arms and wait for the minister to say "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

As you return to your seats, deposit your cup in the place provided in a white pedestal table.

If you prefer to receive a blessing you may cross your arms across your chest.

If you would like to remain in your seat and receive communion, please let an usher know.

The Communion Hymn *O blessed spring*

Wonder Love and Praise, 765

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| <p>1 O blessed spring, where Word and sign
embrace us into Christ the Vine:
here Christ enjoins each one to be
a branch of this life-giving Tree.</p> <p>2 Through summer heat of youthful years,
uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
sustained by Christ's infusing rain,
the boughs will shout for joy again.</p> <p>3 When autumn cools and youth is cold,
when limbs their heavy harvest hold,
then through us, warm, the Christ will move
with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.</p> | <p>4 As winter comes, as winters must,
we breathe our last, return to dust;
still held in Christ, our souls take wing
and trust the promise of the spring.</p> <p>5 Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,
be praised for this blest mystery:
that Word and water thus revive
and join us to your Tree of Life.</p> |
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The Postcommunion Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we and all of your creation are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your kingdom in your creation and in the heavenly world to come.

And now, Father, send us out into the world you created.

Help us to do the work you have given us to do, to heal creation and to mend our relationships with one another.

Help us to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Go out into the world rejoicing, and encounter the Creator who waits to meet you there; Rejoice in its richness and

diversity and live as those who praise God for its bounty; and the blessing of the Creator God, the Eternal Father, the Risen Son and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you that you might be a blessing to others today and always.
Amen.

Welcome, Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries and Celebrations

The Closing Hymn *Earth and all stars*

The Hymnal 1982, 412

The Dismissal

Eucharistic Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude *Ash Grove setting*

by Charles Callaban

Serving This Weekend

Celebrant: **The Rev. Alan R. Hesse**

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: **Lillian Woo**(5pm); **Jared Cohen**(9:30am)

Lectors: **Mary Ames**(5pm); **Phyllis Helfrich**(9:30am)

Musicians: **Misao Koyama** and **Choir**

Altar Guild: **Melissa Abbott**, **Jann Czarnetzki** and **Judy Cohen**

Ushers: **Judy Cohen** and **Bill Mills**

Hospitality: **Jeannie Johnson**

Announcements

Team "Mary's Memories Matter" are walking again this year at Heritage Gardens on Oct. 6th. Visit act.alz.org, search **"Find a Team"** and type in Team Mary's Memories Matter to support us. We are so very grateful.

All are invited to bring pets, pictures of pets, even stuffed animals, along with friends, neighbors and family members for a "joyful noise" **Blessing of the Animals** service, at 5pm Saturday, or 9:30am Sunday.

Children's Choir Rehearsals are scheduled to follow coffee hour on 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, and at 9am 10/27 prior to our Youth Service.

St. John's Vestry meets on Tuesday, October 8 via Zoom. All parishioners are invited to join the meeting via this link. We look forward to welcoming you! **To Join the Zoom Meeting, go to this website:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85273926055> Meeting ID: 852 7392 6055

A webinar for wardens and vestry members to review diocesan policies will be offered twice: Saturday, Oct. 5, 9 a.m. to noon and Saturday, Oct. 26, 1-4 p.m. The hope is that at least two members of the elected lay leadership from each congregation will attend one of the webinars—to include short presentations on the policies, break-out group time for discussion and time for questions and answers. FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

In response to the devastation left in the wake of Hurricane Helene, prayers for recovery, and donations to Episcopal Relief & Development's Hurricane Relief Fund are invited. Please visit: <https://support.episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief>. Please pray for our friends and former parishioners who are devastated by this disaster.

Members of the inaugural Reparations Fund Committee have been appointed by Bishop Alan Gates and confirmed by the Diocesan Council at its meeting on Sept. 14. The committee's role will be to carry out the convention's stated mission for the fund, "to help repair the breach of systemic racism in the life of our diocese, region and nation, by resourcing Black communities to flourish in myriad ways." The committee will discern, oversee, direct and report on all reparations payments, disbursements and investments. Fr. Al has been appointed to this committee.

The Healthy Congregations Task Force—formed in response to the 2023 Diocesan Convention resolution calling for such—has partnered with **Holy Cow! Consulting** to launch a "Landscape Assessment" to "provide valuable information concerning how we are living into our mission and vision as a diocesan community, where we shine, where we'd like to focus our energy and where we can, in collective ministry, find new ways to lift each other up." **The task force asks everyone—clergy and lay people to fill out the assessment** which is available in English and Spanish. The assessment will take about 15 minutes to complete and must be done at one time. Confidentiality is central to this work; all responses are anonymous and go directly to **Holy Cow! Consulting**. Visit: www.diomass.org/healthy-congregations for additional information. Questions are welcome to the Healthy Congregations Task Force at HCTF@diomass.org

All are invited to attend a presentation by **Kim John Payne**, of Simplicity Parenting, here in the Church on Friday, October 11 from 5-7pm, entitled Soothing Anxiety, Over Controlling Behavior and Resistance in Early, Tween, and Teen years. The presentation is for adults only please. There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 at the door.

We could use some donations of candy for our Youth Service on October 27, after which there will be Sue Nee's Halloween Extravaganza in the Undercroft. You can leave them in the Narthex, or bring them to the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity!

This Week at St. John's - October 5-October 13, 2024

Saturday, Oct. 5

9-4 Craft Group, Parish Hall
9:30am AA, Undercroft
1-4pm Porchfest
5pm Worship with Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, Oct. 6

9:30am Worship with Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Animals
No Sunday School; Children's Choir Rehearsal after coffee hour; Hospitality following worship, Parish Hall

Monday, Oct. 7

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall

Tuesday, Oct. 8

12noon AA, Parish Hall
6:30pm Vestry via Zoom, all are welcome

Wednesday, Oct 9

1pm Quilters, Parish Hall (weekly until Christmas Market)
1pm Prayer Shawl, Parish House
2pm Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall

Thursday, Oct. 10

12noon AA, Parish Hall
4:30 Lasit Performing Arts, Parish Hall
6pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, Oct. 11

5-7pm Kim John Payne presentation, Church

Saturday, Oct. 12

9:30am AA, Parish Hall
5pm Worship with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, Oct. 13

9:30am Worship with Holy Eucharist
No Sunday School

Welcome to St. John's!

Whether this is your first visit to St. John's or you are a long-time member, please know that there is a warm welcome for you here!

Please feel free to participate fully in our service today and in the life of the parish. We are glad you have come and hope you leave feeling closer to God! At several points in the service, you may notice that some people are kneeling, some are standing and some are sitting. We are given this choice and you should feel free to do whichever is most appropriate for you. Please know that you are invited to fully participate in the Holy Eucharist as a Baptized Christian.

If you would like to know more about St. John's and may be interested in membership or interested in being placed on our email mailing list, please contact the church office.

Saint John's Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church of Sandwich Est. 1854
159 Main St, Sandwich, MA



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The Rev. Alan R. Hesse, Rector; 508-505-5668 cell, Rector@StJohnsSandwich.org