



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

St. John's Episcopal Church
Sandwich, MA

May 9 and 10, 2026

The Prelude *Now the Green Blade Rises*

Setting by Michael Larkin

The Opening Hymn *All things bright and beautiful*

The Hymnal 1982, 405

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen!

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Celebrant 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 *5pm said, 9:30 sung*

The Hymnal 1982, S-278

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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

Acts 17:22-31

This lesson is Paul's address in a public forum to the curious citizens of Athens. The apostle has arrived in the intellectual and cultural center of the Greek world. The author of Acts has his deliver a kind of sample sermon for a pagan audience. Troubled by their worship of many gods, Paul uses their altar dedicated to an unknown god as an opportunity to tell them of the one true Lord of heaven and earth, and of the time of judgment and the man he raised from the dead. A reading from Acts.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response Psalm 66:7-18

Jubilate Deo

This is a psalm of trust by one who looks to the Lord for mercy and protection.

We will read Psalm 66 responsively by half verse.

7 Bless our God, you peoples; *

make the voice of his praise to be heard;

8 Who holds our souls in life, *

and will not allow our feet to slip.

9 For you, O God, have proved us; *

you have tried us just as silver is tried.

10 You brought us into the snare; *

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

11 You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; *

but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows, *

which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; *

I will give you oxen and goats.

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *

and I will tell you what he has done for me.

15 I called out to him with my mouth, *

and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had found evil in my heart, *

the Lord would not have heard me;

17 But in truth God has heard me; *

he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *

nor withheld his love from me.

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 3:13-22

This reading offers guidance for all Christians, counseling a readiness to suffer patiently for doing what is right. The First Letter of Peter was written at a time when Christians in Asia Minor were experiencing persecution. The author has given advice to particular groups of people and now urges all disciples to live together in love and humility, always being willing to speak in defense of their Christian hope. They should keep their consciences clear, and if they do suffer, they are to remember how Christ, the just one, died for the unjust. A reading from Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

1. O bless - ed spring, where Word and sign em - brace us
 2. Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
 3. When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
 4. As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
 5. Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for

in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
 this blest mys - te - ry: that Word and wa - ter thus re -

be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Words: Susan Palo Cherwien (b. 1953). Music: *Berglund*, Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950).

The Gospel *all standing, as able, facing the Gospel*
 21

John 14:15-

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

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

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Barbara Peterson

The Nicene Creed

Enriching Our Worship I

**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 Book of Common Prayer, page 387

The Prayers of the People, Form III

Gracious God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for our bishop Julia, for our rector Alan, our retired clergy and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; We pray for healing and wholeness for Amy, Mary, MaryAnn, Judy, Marilyn, Dave, George, Kim, Tom, Alan, and Charlie.

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

The altar is adorned to the Glory of God in appreciation for all mothers, present and no longer with us, by Mary Ames.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we give thanks for the members of the Concord River Deanery: **Church of the Good Shepherd** (Acton), **St. Andrew's Church** (Ayer), **Trinity Church** (Concord), **St. Andrew's Church** (Framingham), and the **Margaret Coffin Prayer Book Society**.

I invite your own thanksgivings and petitions. Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *The people may add their own petitions silently.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect(s).

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory Anthem *Gift of Love*

American folk tune

The Offertory Sentence *5pm All things come of thee O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.*

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 image shows a three-system musical score for a hymn. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The lyrics are: '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.'

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. 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.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit 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 receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for 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/The Fraction

5pm *Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Breaking of the Bread / The Fraction Anthem *sung at 9:30am*

Wonder Love & Praise, 875

Cantor or Choir

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the
 The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

1. *Congregation* | 2. *Cantor or Choir*

break - ing of the bread. Be bread. The
 The dis -

bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, Is the com -
Congregation

mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ. Be
 The dis -

known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the
 ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

Cantor or Choir

bread. One bod - y are we, al - le - lu - ia, for though
Congregation

man - y we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord
 The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord

Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the bread.
 Je - sus }

The Communion

Celebrant 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.

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. 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. Gluten free wafers are available, ask at the altar railing.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

The Communion Hymn *Taste and see*

Wonder, Love and Praise, 764

The Postcommunion Prayer

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Blessing

The Welcome Birthdays & Anniversaries & Announcements

The Recessional Hymn *All creatures of our God and King verses 1, 4-5, and 7*

The Hymnal 1982, 400

The Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Postlude *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Setting by Michael D. Costello

Notes: The Confession may be omitted during The Easter Season.

The people are invited to remain standing, as able, for the entire Eucharistic Prayer during The Waster Season.

From the Easter Vigil through the Day of Pentecost "Alleluia, alleluia" may be added to any of the dismissals

Introduction to the readings come from Frederick Bosch's "Introducing the Lessons of the Church Year, 3rd Edition", Morehouse 2000.

Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the Sunday service.

Announcements

Hour of Prayer: The church is open for your quiet prayers weekly, on Wednesdays, from 12-1pm.

Caring for Creation Committee: Meeting Fridays at 11:00 AM Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>.

During this Easter season, you are invited to support the Bishop's Annual Appeal, which this year highlights key ways we support shepherds, lay and ordained alike, who are strengthening congregational vitality throughout our diocese. Bishop Julia says: "Your generosity helps strengthen congregations and ministries across our diocese. For example, congregations such as **St. John's in Sandwich** are growing through tools like Invite, Welcome, Connect. Diverse clergy mutual support groups are serving a wide variety of communities. All of these ministries bind us together as one church, as the collective body of Christ". Please consider supporting the Annual Appeal. Donation envelopes can be found in the Narthex and in the Parish Hall.

On May 24th we are celebrating Phyllis Helfrich who turns 90 years old this May. If you would like to shower her with cards, please call the office for her contact information.

St. John's blessing book (gold) is located in the Narthex if you wish to add your own thanks for God's blessings.

Thank you to Mary and Alan Carlson for filling the planters in front of the church with Spring flowers!

There are open spaces for altar arrangements on the Floral Calendar located in the Narthex. Suggested donation is \$50.00. Thank you to all who have provided lovely arrangements already.

Rev. Barbara Peterson is available for pastoral needs while Fr. Al is on vacation. He returns on May 16th.

Join us on May 26 at 7pm in the Parish Hall for "The Magic & Importance of Salt Marshes on Cape Cod."

Carol "Krill" Carson will be to present information about the majestic beauty and ecological importance of salt marshes on Cape Cod. Krill is the founder and president of the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance (NECWA), a volunteer non-profit that focuses on rescue, research, and educational outreach in the New England area. This is a free presentation by our Caring for Creation Committee; light refreshments will be served.

Today's Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Barbara Peterson
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Charles Diana and Jared Cohen
Lectors: Jann Carnetzki and Phyllis Helfrich
Altar Guild: Judy Cohen, Jann Czarnetzki, Dee McLaughlin, and Sharon Therriault
Hospitality: Debbie Mills
Ushers: Mary Howe and Judy Cohen

Calendar

Sunday, May 10

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist,
Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

Monday, May 11

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall
4-8pm Lasit Performing Arts Group (Hall &
Undercroft)

Tuesday, May 12

12noon AA, Parish Hall
6:30pm Vestry via Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/71140757470>

Wednesday, May 13

12pm-1pm Open Prayer, Church
1pm Common Threads, Parish Hall
7pm Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, May 14

12noon AA, Parish Hall
4-7 Lasit Performing Arts Group (Hall)
6-7pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, May 15

11am Caring for Creation Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>

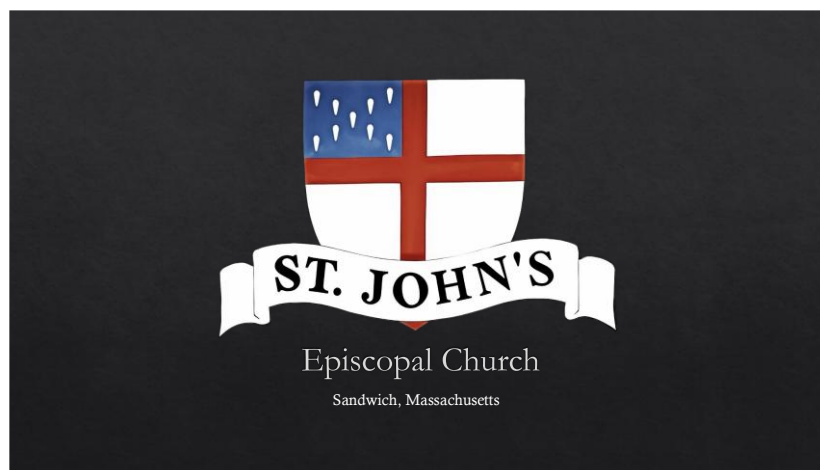
Saturday, May 16

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

Sunday, May 17

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist, Coffee
Hour, Parish Hal

Welcome to St. John's!



*Whether this is your first visit to St. John's
or you are a long-time member, 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**



Office Hours, Tues-Fri 9am-2pm

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