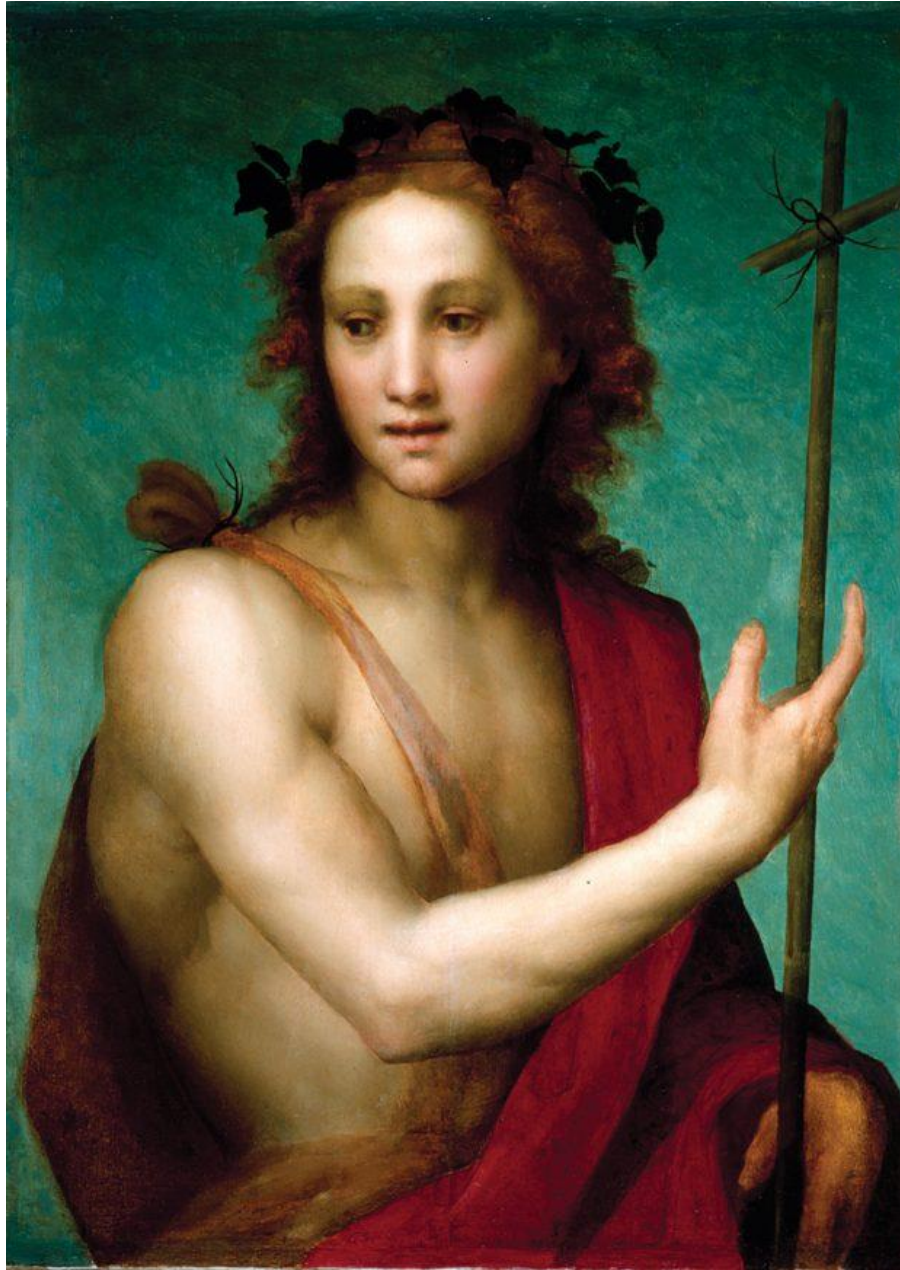


Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist



Saint John the Baptist
Andrea del Sarto Italian, 1486–1530. Worcester Art Museum

June 20 and 21, 2026

Feast Day is transferred from June 24th



Episcopal Church

159 Main St.
Sandwich, MA

The Prelude *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr BWV675.*

J.S. Bach

The Processional Hymn *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

The Hymnal 1982, 76

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

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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 *said at 5pm, 9:30am sung*

The Hymnal 1982, S-280

**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.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Savior by preaching repentance: Make us so to follow his teaching and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching; and, following his example, constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
 and all people shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
 A voice says, “Cry out!”
 And I said, “What shall I cry?”
 All people are grass,
 their constancy is like the flower of the field.
 The grass withers, the flower fades,
 when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
 surely the people are grass.
 The grass withers, the flower fades;
 but the word of our God will stand for ever.
 Get you up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good tidings;
 lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
 lift it up, do not fear;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 “Here is your God!”
 See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms,
 and carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead the mother sheep.
 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response Psalm 85:7-13

Benedixisti, Domine

We will read the Psalm responsively by half-verse.

- 7 Show us your mercy, O LORD, *
and grant us your salvation.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Second Lesson

Acts 13:14b-26

A reading from The Acts of The Apostles

On the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.”

So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: “You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. After he had destroyed seven

nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance for about four hundred fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.' Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his work, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.'

"My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn *By all your Saints still striving*

The Hymnal 1982, 232

1 By all your saints still striving,
for all your saints at rest,
your holy Name, O Jesus,
for evermore be blessed.
You rose, our King victorious,
that they might wear the crown
and ever shine in splendor
reflected from your throne.

2 All praise for John the Baptist,
forerunner of the Word,
our true Elijah, making
a highway for the Lord.
The last and greatest prophet,
he saw the dawning ray
of light that grows in splendor
until the perfect day.

3 Then let us praise the Father and
Worship the Son
And sing to God the Spirit,
Eternal Three in One,
Till all the ransomed number
who stand before the throne
Ascribe power and glory and praise to God alone.

The Gospel *all standing, as able*

Luke 1:57-80

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

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

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty saviour for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.”

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Alan R. Hesse

The Nicene Creed

Scottish Liturgy 1982 (revised 2022)

**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 substance 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 was made 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
worshipped 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

Lay Leader Let us offer prayers for the world and its people, for those who suffer and those in need, for the Church and its members. O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom you chose us, before the foundation of the world, and destined us in love to be your own: help us to pray for all your children. For the life of the world; that your peace may be known and may prevail.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We remember those on our prayer list: We pray for healing and wholeness for Amy, Mary, MaryAnn, Judy, Marilyn, Dave,

George, Kim, Tom, Alan, Charlie, Ed, Jim, Alden, Lily, Catherine, Deb, Herb, and Regina. Have compassion for those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who exercise rule and authority; that they may acknowledge your power:

For Donald our President, for Maura our Governor, for our Senators Edward and Elizabeth, for our Representative Bill, for all our elected officials,

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the Church which is Christ's body; that it may live for the praise of your glory:

In our prayers, we hold our Presiding Bishop- Sean, our Diocesan Bishop-Julia and our Rector Alan.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We remember all those who have died in the hope of resurrection, especially Joe Calvert.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The altar flowers have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Robert Newton, by Sue Nee.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer. We give thanks for the churches of the Merrimack Valley Deanery: **St. Andrew's Church** (Methuen), **St. Paul's Church** (Newburyport), **St. Paul's Church** (North Andover), **the Merrimack Valley Project**, and **Deacons**.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. I invite you to lift up your personal thanksgivings and petitions.

Celebrant O God, you exerted your strength and power when you raised Christ from the dead, putting everything in subjection beneath his feet: accept the prayers which we offer in Christ's name for the world you have created and redeemed; through Christ in whom you have set forth the mystery of your will, to unite all things in heaven and on earth, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant God is love and we are God's children. There is no room for fear in love. We love because God loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

God our Father, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do.

We are truly sorry.

Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil.

For the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Celebrant God, who is both power and love, forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace *Then, all standing in body or spirit.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory *Ave Verum*

W.A. Mozart

The Offertory Prayer *5pm, then, all standing in body or spirit.*

All things come of Thee O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

The Doxology *9:30am, then, all standing in body or spirit.*

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

Scottish Liturgy 2022, adapted, Eucharistic Prayer VII

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Worship and praise belong to you, Father, in every place and at all times. You made us, all the people of the world, and everything that is. You give us the daylight. Your Word lights up our minds. Jesus was born among us to be light in our darkness. Your Spirit lives in us so that we can look at the world with your eyes.

One day we will be with you in heaven, but now we join with the saints and angels, and sing their joyful song:

The Sanctus *said at 5pm; sung at 9:30am*

The Hymnal 1982, S-127

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, — hea - ven 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. —

Music: Calvin Hampton (1938-1984). Copyright © Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

Father, you never forget us or turn away from us, even when we fail you.

You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us. He healed those who were sick, cared for those who were poor, and cried with those who were sad.

He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive. For all your love we give you thanks in the way that Jesus showed us.

On the night before he died, while he was having supper with his friends, he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you.

This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

So, as we do what he told us, we open our hearts to him; we remember how he died and rose again to live now in us. Together with him we offer you these gifts: in them we give you ourselves. Send your Holy Spirit on us and

on this bread and this wine, that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ, and that, sharing your life, we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

With all your people we give you thanks and praise through the Son and in the Spirit, 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

Celebrant The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

People Lord, unite us in this sign.

The Fraction Anthem 9:30am

***Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother:
Feed us now, give us life,
Lead us to one another.***

As we proclaim your death,
as we recall your life,
we remember your promise
to return again. **Refrain**

5 You are the bread of peace,
you are the wine of joy,
broken now for your people,
poured in endless love. **Refrain**

Bread of life, #80 from *Voices Found*—Copyright © Oregon Catholic Press, Portland, OR 97218. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

Hold out your hand to receive the host. You may receive the wine by the chalice or in the small cups in the tray.

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

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

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

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

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

Welcome, Announcements, and Celebrations

The Closing Hymn *There's a voice in the wilderness crying*

The Hymnal 1982, 75

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude *Andante*

F.J. Haydn

Celebrant: The Reverend Alan R. Hesse

Director of Music: Misao Koyama

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Ames and Greg Roche

Lectors: Analise Luippold and Celia Ochoa

Altar Guild: Melissa Abbott, Judy Cohen, Jann Czarnetzki, Dee McLaughlin, and Sharon Therriault

Ushers: Mary Howe and Rusty Page

Liturgical Note: Introduction to the readings come from Fredrick Borsch's "Introducing the Lessons of the Church Year, 3rd Edition" Morehouse 2009.

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

Office Hours, Tues-Fri 9am-2pm **Parish Office** 508-888-2828

Susan Sharpe, Parish Administrator parishadmin@StJohnsSandwich.org

Misao Koyama, Music Director music@StJohnsSandwich.org

The Rev. Dr. Philip H. Towner, Priest Associate (retired)

The Rev. Barbara Peterson, Priest Associate (retired)

The Rev. Alan R. Hesse, Rector 508-888-2828 extension 2, text 508-505-5668, Rector@StJohnsSandwich.org

Announcements

Mark your calendars for the next presentation on Tuesday evening, June 23rd at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Our parishioner, Claire Desilets, will present “The Buzz on Bees”. Please plan to join us! Admission is free and light refreshments will be served. **Caring for Creation Committee:** Meeting Fridays at 11:00 AM Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>.

St. John’s Annual Pancake Breakfast: Saturday, July 4th in advance of the town parade. We will need many volunteers to help with set up on Friday, cooking, serving and clean-up on Saturday, for this event. Sign-up sheets can be found in the Narthex. Thank you to those who have already offered to help. For questions, please contact Deb Roberts.

The “Kick Off to Summer Raffle” is a benefit for the church with numerous prizes including a gas grille, picnic supplies, gift cards and certificates and more. Tickets are \$5 each, 3 for \$10 and can be obtained from the office, Thrift Shop, and after weekend services. For questions, contact Diana or Jim Stanley or the Parish Office.

St. John’s Summer Concert Series: begins Saturday, July 11th under the tent behind the 161 building. Admission is free, food is available for purchase, bring a comfy beach chair and your friends and family, and enjoy an evening of great music! Additional dates, July 25, August 15, and August 29. We will need extra hands to help with set-up and clean-up, greeting, cooking, raffle sales, and kitchen staff. Sign-up sheets will be available shortly.

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

Caring for Creation announces that Faith Communities Environmental Network will present Bill McKibben, a leading climate activist, introducing his two recently published books at the Church of the Holy Spirit Parish Hall, Orleans, on June 24 at 6pm. All are invited. For questions, please contact Steve Tom.

June 20-28, 2026

Saturday, June 20

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

1pm Lasit Theater Group Recital (Hall and Church)

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, June 21

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

10:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Monday, June 22

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall

Tuesday, June 23

11:30am Invite Welcome Connect, Godly Play Room

12noon AA, Parish Hall

7pm Caring for Creation Presentation “It’s All About the Bees”, Parish Hall

Wednesday, June 24

12pm-1pm Open Prayer, Church

Thursday, June 25

12noon AA, Parish Hall

4-7 Lasit Theater Group (Hall and Church)

6-7pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, June 26

11am Caring for Creation Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>

Saturday, June 27

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, June 28

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

10:15am Lemonade on the Lawn