ST. JOHN'S
Episcopal Church
Sandwich, MA

The 24th Sunday After Pentecost; Proper 27

November 7 and 8, 2026

The Prelude *Meditation on "Wondrous Love"* *setting by David Gale*

The Processional Hymn *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah* *The Hymnal 1982,* **690**

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *The Book of Common Prayer,* page 355
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. 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; sung at 9:30.* *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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson **Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25**

In our Hebrew scripture lesson, Joshua, like Moses before him, acts as a mediator between the people of Israel and God at Shechem. He calls them to reaffirm their covenant with the Lord. It was at Shechem that God first spoke to Abraham in Canaan, and at Shechem that Jacob abjured his family to "put away the foreign gods among you." Joshua recalls the Lord's faithfulness through history and his consistent benevolence toward Israel. The choice is stark, for the Lord demands entire devotion; all other deities must be shunned and put away. In language reminiscent of treaty documents of the period, the people swear their loyalty to God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response, Psalm 78:1-7 *Attendite, populе*

This psalm recalls Israel's trials and the Lord's sustaining grace in the wilderness after the escape from Egypt.
We will read the psalm responsively by half-verse.

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments;

The Second Lesson **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

In this reading Paul offers a vision of how the dead in Christ will rise and then, together with those who are alive, be caught up to meet the Lord in the sky. Apparently some members of the Thessalonian church had died, and there was this concern: would they miss the Lord's coming? First, Paul reminds them that the Christian hope is rooted in the God who raised Jesus. He then describes the day of the Lord's appearing and the raising up of the dead and the living, using highly poetic imagery conditioned by the worldview of his time. The essential meaning is clear: we shall be with the Lord.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* *The Hymnal 1982,* **324**

The Gospel *Please stand, as able.* **Matthew 25:1-13**

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

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon **The Rev. Barbara A. 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,
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.
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 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 O Lord our God, help us call upon You with one heart and soul, according to Your will. We offer you our prayers. We remember the victims of gun violence and natural disaster. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We remember those on our prayer list: We pray for healing and wholeness for Amy, Mary, MaryAnn, Cheryl, Marilyn, John, Alan, Mia, Jimmy, Jim, Lily, Catherine, Ann, Regina, Gerry, Herb, Al, Olivia, Jessica, Shaun, Bailey, Ellie, Michael, Harper, and Hugh. Have compassion for those who suffer from any grief or trouble. I invite your prayers and petitions either silently or aloud. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who exercise rule and authority; that they may acknowledge your power and strive to do your will:
For Donald our President, for Maura our Governor, for our Senators Edward and Elizabeth, for our Representative Bill, and for all our elected official. 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. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The altar flowers have been given to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Marilyn and Marion Regan by Jeannie Johnson.

We pray for those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer. We give thanks for the churches of the Taunton River Deanery**: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church** (the Attleboros), **St. Mark's Church** (Foxborough), **St. John's Church** (Franklin), **The Diocesan Convention**, and the **Congregational Chapters of the Episcopal Church Women**. 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 offers a concluding collect.

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

Minister and People

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory Anthem *Glory and Praise* *Patrick M. Liebergen*

The Offertory Prayer, *at 5pm and 9:30am then, all standing in body or spirit.*

Celebrant Receive, O God, these fruits of the earth and of our hands: bring to completion in them the work of your creation, so that, transformed by the Holy Spirit, they may be for us the food and drink of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C *The Book of Common Prayer*, page **369**

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People ***And also with you***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People ***Glory to you for ever and ever.***

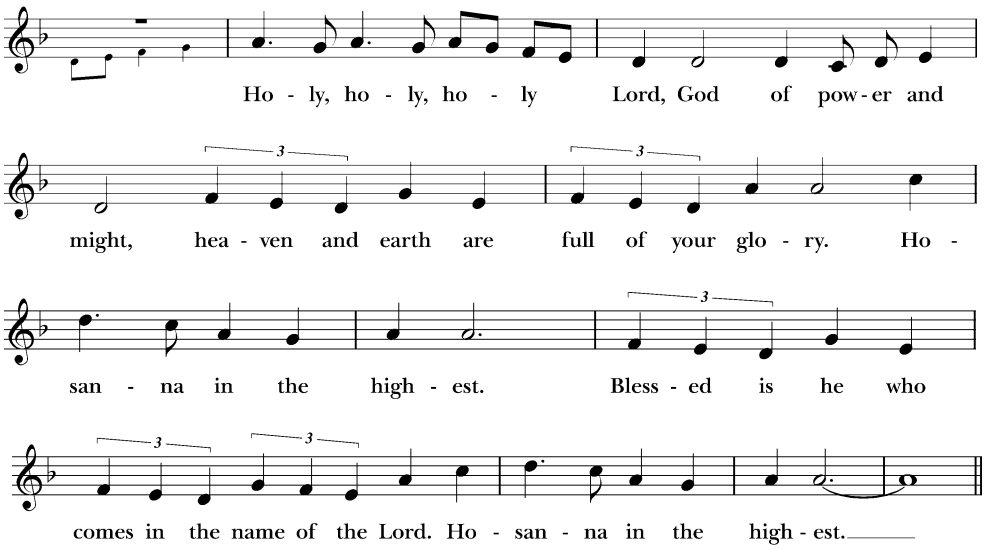
Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
People ***By your will they were created and have their being.***

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
People ***Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, Mary, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
People ***By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.***

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus *said at 5pm, sung at 9:30am.* *The Hymnal 1982,* **S-129**



And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring Before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Celebrant Remembering now Jesus' work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People ***We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

Celebrant Lord God of our Forebears: God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Leah and Rachel. God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People ***Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.***

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *The Book of Common Prayer*, page **364**

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

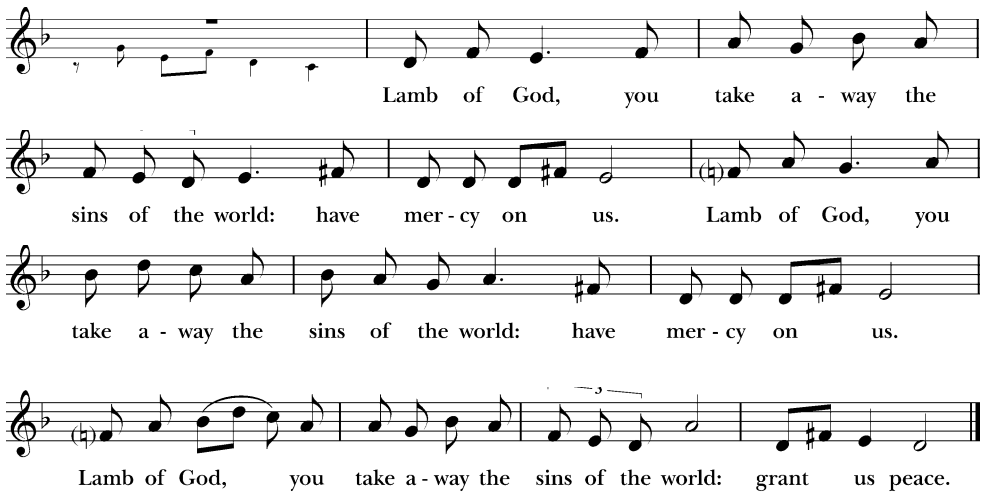
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

The Fraction *said at 5pm*

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Fraction Anthem *sung at 9:30am.* *The Hymnal 1982,* **S-163**



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.

If you would rather receive a blessing rather than receiving Holy Communion, simply cross your arms. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please cross your arms when the minister comes to you following the bread and wait for the words "The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

If you are not able to join us at the communion rail, please indicate to an usher you would like to receive and we will bring communion to you.

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please dispose of your communion cup as you exit, near the first pews on the piano side or in the chapel.

The Communion Hymn I *am the bread of life* *The Hymnal 1982,* **335**

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, Birthdays, and Anniversaries

The Recessional *Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates* *The Hymnal 1982*, **436**

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude *The Fifers* *Jean Francois Dandrieu*

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

Serving This Weekend

Celebrants: The Reverend Barbara A. Peterson (Saturday)
The Reverend Alan R. Hesse (Sunday)
Director of Music: Misao Koyama
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Lillian Woo and Charlie Diana
Lectors: Analise Luippold and Helen Miller
Acolyte: Will Hibbard, Jr.
Altar Guild: Jann Czarnetzki, Judy Cohen, Dee McLaughlin, Sharon Therriault, Wendy Nevins, and Teddy Hibbard
Ushers: Alan Carlson and Mary Howe
Hospitality: Volunteers needed for serving coffee after worship. Sign up in Parish Hall



Announcements

Mark your calendars:

Vestry – November 10, 6:30pm via Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/71140757470
Common Threads – November 10, 1pm, Parish Hall
Christmas on the Run – November 14-December 12
Thanksgiving – November 26 (Office closed Friday Nov. 27)
Christmas Fair – December 4 and 5

THANK YOU: to everyone who donated candy for Halloween and the many volunteers who helped pass it out. It was a rousing success! St. John's went above and beyond welcoming our neighbors.

ALL SAINTS DAY: In our prayers last week, we inadvertently forgot to include our parishioner Cynthia Henrich in the remembrance list of those who had died and been buried through St. John's since the last All Saints Day.

CHRISTMAS ON THE RUN: You are invited to the home of Deb and Herb Roberts on Saturdays and Sundays, between November 14th and December 12th for this year's "Christmas on the Run" Open House, a benefit for the American Legion, and St. John's Church. The address is 14 Yearling Run Road, Bourne. Hours are 12pm-5pm. Suggested donation is $10.

FOOD DRIVE: Please consider making a donation to the Massachusetts Military Foundation's food drive. The donation box is located in the Narthex. If you have questions about this program, please see Ashton Bradford.

OUTREACH QUESTIONNAIRE: This weekend is your last chance to fill out the Outreach questionnaire which is on the table in the Narthex. You can leave it in the basket on the table. **Thank you** to everyone who has already turned in a questionnaire. We have received over 30 so far.

OPEN PRAYER RESUMES: Wednesdays from 12-1pm in the church.

CHRISTMAS FAIR RAFFLE BASKETS: Check the display in the Narthex for needed raffle basket items. Or you might like to suggest items for a themed basket. In either case, for questions call Mary Ames, 508-367-3658. The Christmas Fair is 4 weeks away! Deadline for donations is November 29th.

CHRISTMAS FAIR BAKE SALE: Bakers needed! Melissa Abbott reminds you that baked goods can be frozen ahead of time for the Fair. Let's get a head start on stocking up for the bake sale. Donations can be delivered to the office during business hours.

GENTLY USED CHRISTMAS: Now is the time to bring in your gently used Christmas items for the Christmas Fair. It's only a month away! Leave them in the Narthex (clearly marked) or deliver them to the office during business hours. The Christmas Fair committee thanks you.

CARING FOR CREATION COMMITTEE: **https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293**. Join us on Fridays at 10am via Zoom. Ask Steve Tom or Fr. Al for details.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Rehearsals take place in the Church or Parish Hall on Wednesdays from 2-4pm. Please join us in this joyful ministry. You do not need to be able to read music to join us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE AS LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: St. John's needs additional LEM's to serve at both Saturday 5 PM and Sunday 9:30 AM services. We have only two sharing the Saturday service, and currently 3 sharing Sunday, which will decrease to 2 after January 1. This is not sufficient, when one includes vacations and unexpected absences for illness, accidents, etc. We need to double this number. If you feel called to volunteer for this ministry, email Charlie Diana at **charles77d@comcast.net**. Welcome and thank you Steve Haines for joining our LEM ministry!

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS CREW: Currently there are 3 steadfast volunteers who maintain our buildings and grounds. This ministry could use a few additional volunteers to help share the weekly cleaning and maintenance of our facilities. No experience is necessary and we appreciate whatever time you can offer. Please prayerfully consider how you might offer your time and talents to this ministry. Contact Fr. Al, Alan Carlson, or call the office during business hours.

COFFEE MUGS: St. John's Coffee mugs are now available for purchase at $9.50. See the office if you are interested



November 7 - 14, 2026

Saturday, November 7
9:30am AA, Parish Hall
5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, November 8
9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist with Sunday School
10:15am Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

Monday, November 9
10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall
4:30-5:30pm, Lasit Theater Group, Parish Hall

Tuesday, November 10
12noon AA, Parish Hall
6:30pm Vestry Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/71140757470

Wednesday, November 11
12noon Open Prayer
1pm Common Threads, Parish Hall
2pm Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, November 12
12noon AA, Parish Hall
4:30-7pm Lasit Theatre Group, Church
6pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, November 13
10am Caring for Creation Zoom link https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293

Saturday, November 14
Diocesan Convention
9:30am AA, Parish Hall
5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist and Second Saturday Social

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.

ST. 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. Barbara Peterson, Priest Associate (retired) **The Rev. Dr. Philip H. Towner**, Priest Associate (retired)
The Rev. Alan R. Hesse, Rector 508-888-2828 extension 2, text 508-505-5668, Rector@StJohnsSandwich.org