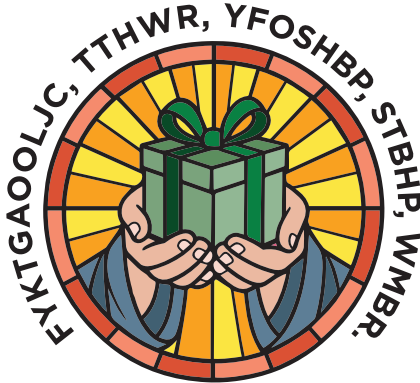




2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

St. John's Episcopal Church

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost | October 26, 2025

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in loving memory of
Ernst and Eleanor Erdmann and their daughter, Paula Erdmann.
The flowers are arranged by Rachel Hartman.*

ST. JOHN'S CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Ripp Hardaway, Rector
The Rev. Matthew Bloss, Associate Priest
Riva Heron, Seminarian
Jenny Montgomery, Executive Assistant to the Rector
Desiree Moultrie, Director of Finance and Operations
Grace Symmons, Director of Communications
Ben Sykora, AV Tech Lead

Valerie Thompson, Director of Music & Organist
Kelly Jackson, Director of Family Ministry & Parish Life
Marjorie Nolan, Director of Children's Ministry & Events
Lauren Koops, Assistant Youth Minister
Emily Lehmuth, Director of Nursery Care
Art Gonzalez, Sexton
James Bangert, Assistant Sexton

WORSHIP MINISTERS

	8:45 a.m.	11 a.m.
Acolytes	Collin and Ashley Rodriguez, Ainsley Englefield	Lark IV and Lyra Mason, Annabelle Kistler
Altar Guild	Ann Amororso, Laurianne Rodriguez, Noelle Rodgers	Denise Marshall, Rachel Brown
Greeters	Joanne Whitcomb, Kathy Simmons	Kathy Simmons, Libby Pender
Lay Readers	Bob Blagg, Becky Huff	Larry Shumway, Jeffrey Bloss
Ushers	Sarah Reeves, Pete and Mark Meaden	Randy Staats, Tom Robins
Children's Chapel	Maggy Lehmuth, Marjorie Nolan	Josephine Bloss, Marjorie Nolan

PRELUDE | Adagio in A Minor; Blessed Jesu, At Thy Word – Johann Sebastian Bach

OPENING HYMN | O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Hymn 680

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP p. 355

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

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP p. 355

Together 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.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL (Both services!)

Children, preschool through 3rd grade, are invited to follow the Child Crucifer to Children's Chapel during the Song of Praise.

SONG OF PRAISE | O Worship the King (v 4)

Hymn 388

COLLECT

BCP p. 234

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON | Sirach 35:12-17

Give to the Most High as he has given to you, and as generously as you can afford. For the Lord is the one who repays, and he will repay you sevenfold. Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice; for the Lord is the judge, and with him there is no partiality. He will not show partiality to the poor; but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged. He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan, or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

Reader Here ends the reading.

PSALM 84:1-6 | alternatively by whole verse

BCP p. 707

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

SECOND LESSON | 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN | Blest Are the Pure in Heart (v 1-2)

Hymn 656

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

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

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

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL HYMN | Blest Are the Pure in Heart (v 3-4)

Hymn 656

THE SERMON

Riva Heron

THE NICENE CREED

BCP p. 358

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from
the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

In peace, let us pray to Jesus our Lord, who ever lives to make intercession for us.

Saviour of the world,

be present in all places of suffering, violence and pain, and bring hope even in the darkest night. Inspire us to continue your work of reconciliation today. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of the Church,

empower by your Spirit all Christian people, especially David and Angela our bishops, Ripp and Matthew our priests, Riva our seminarian, and the work of your Church in every land. Give us grace to proclaim the gospel joyfully in word and deed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shepherd and Guardian of our souls,

guide and enable all who lead and serve this community and those on whom we depend for our daily needs. Grant that we may seek the peace and welfare of this place. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Provider of All,

fill our hearts with inspiration to bring before you, our offerings of time, talent, and treasure. Help us to remember that all good things come from you O Lord, and let our gratitude for those good things move us to return a portion of our blessings, extravagantly, to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Great Physician,

stretch out your hand to bring comfort, wholeness and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Fill us with compassion, that we may be channels of your healing love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Conqueror of death,

remember for good those whom we love but see no longer. Help us to live this day in the sure and certain hope of your eternal victory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.

The officiant will then read the collect after the prayers

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**

CONFESSION

Celebrant God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

People Most merciful God, **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

BLESSING OF THE COSTUMES

Celebrant Dear people of God: for centuries cultures across the globe have celebrated and honored this season as a time to reflect and pray for those whom we love but see no longer. Germanic and Celtic peoples *in particular* marked this season as way to remember their deceased ancestors, and so when the gospel of the Lord reached their lands, they were among the first to redeem and reconcile those ancient traditions with their newfound faith in Jesus Christ. Inspired by those Germanic and Celtic Christians, the church set aside three days, All Hollow's Eve, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day, where Christians would spend time praying and giving thanks for all those who have died, known and unknown. These holy days, which were officially established over 1200 years ago, are celebrated still today, starting with All Hollows Eve, which we now call Halloween!

I remind us all then, that Halloween is not a pagan or satanic celebration, as some believe. It is an authentic and faithful Christian Holiday and has been for well over a thousand years. Even our tradition of trick-or-treating can trace it origins to the 16th century where children and the poor would go door-to-door offering to pray for a household's departed loved ones in exchange for a small cake or cookie.

It is in that great and long tradition that we celebrate all of these wonderful and creative costumes prepared for the celebration of Halloween.

So my friends, let us pray:

Almighty God, **ruler of all things in heaven and on earth. You have made us to walk in light and celebrate in life. You have acted in great love, and in great power, to protect and preserve us for that very purpose. Help us to remember your beautiful victory over death as we celebrate this upcoming day of Halloween. Let our joy and laughter serve as reminders to us that death, and all those things we fear, have no power to separate us from you, or from those we love.**

In the name of God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I bless these wonderful costumes, and those even more wonderful souls who wear them. May all of you, and your costumes, be a reflection of God's beauty and creativity. And may your joy, point others to the that ultimate joy that comes only from God's never-failing love. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP p. 377

Celebrant O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

OFFERTORY MUSIC | Bound for the Kingdom – arr. Bill Ingram
(*Sacred Harp* tunes: *Warrenton*, *Promised Land*)

Handbell Choir

DOXOLOGY | Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn 380 v 3

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him above, ye heavenly hosts:
praise him, all creatures here below; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Common Worship, Order One, Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and *singing*:

SANCTUS | Holy, Holy, Holy Lord - William Matthias

Hymn S 128

**Hymn numbers beginning with an S indicate Service Music, found at the front of The Hymnal 1982*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

Hosanna in the highest.

God of pow'r and might,

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. AMEN.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father in heaven, **hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

FRACTION ANTHEM | Christ Our Passover – David Hurd

Hymn S 154

**Hymn numbers beginning with an S indicate Service Music, found at the front of The Hymnal 1982*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION MUSIC | When Morning Gilds the Skies – arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Fairest Lord Jesus – arr. John Carter

Handbell Choir

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH EUCHARISTIC VISITOR(S)

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that [N. and] all those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

All We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING

Modified Blessing, Black Rock Prayer Book

Our world is too broken and too beautiful for anything but love. May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone. Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor. May your hands, so that everything you touch is a sacrament. Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love. May your feet so that you run to those who need you. And may your heart be so opened, so full of Christ's love and grace, that it changes everything. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN | Put Forth, O God, Thy Spirit's Might

Hymn 521

THE DISMISSAL

BCP p. 366

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

POSTLUDE | A Mighty Fortress Is Our God – Johann Pachelbel

Valerie Thompson, Organist



Church Directory Update

We're moving our directory from Servant Keeper to Church Center. Please review and update your Church Center profile—especially birthdays, anniversaries, and medical notes—using the link at the QR code above. Important: If your spouse or children already have Church Center accounts but don't appear in your household, do not add them (this creates duplicates). Instead, email Kelly Jackson at kelly@stjohnsnb.com with the names to be linked.

New Christian Education offering: Life Stories | Beginning TODAY through November 23 in the Parish Hall

Speakers will share a short reflection on their faith journey and encourage other church members that we are not alone in our faith journeys. There will be a time for reflection with other attendees. Learn more and sign up on Church Center.

Acolyte Training | TODAY at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This is for new and existing acolytes who would like a refresher. Acolytes are welcome from 8 year olds through high school! Contact Alice Jewell (alicejewell27@gmail.com) or Fr. Matthew (matthew@stjohnsnb.com) with any questions.

Daughters of the King Organizational Meeting | TODAY from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room

The Daughters of the King is an international order of women and girls committed to prayer, service, and evangelism. St. John's is forming a chapter, and all women interested are invited to an organizational meeting to learn more.

Family Faith Night is back! Wednesdays from October 29-November 19 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Join us for dinner and a 4-week series learning about seasons of the liturgical calendar and how we can practice each of those seasons in our homes. Childcare and programming for K-12th will be provided. This is a great way to meet other St. John's members and deepen your spiritual practices. This event is open for ALL at St. John's, not just those with kids! Please RSVP in Church Center.

Church Office will be closed on Friday, October 31. Staff will be reachable via email, office@stjohnsnb.com

SOS Food Bank Work Day | Friday, October 31 from 1 - 4 p.m. | 256 W Merriweather Street

Reach out to Bob Wells with any questions at blabwells@gmail.com or 713-822-6151.

Submit Names for All Saints' Sunday | Observed on November 2

Cards outside the sanctuary are available to record names of departed loved ones; these will be displayed on All Saints' Sunday. If you've lost an immediate family member in the past 12 months, please notify us by Monday the 27th so they may be specially honored with a family processional and named candles on the retable. Send names to Jenny (jenny@stjohnsnb.com) or Stacey (stacey@jegriffin.com).

Ecumenical Social Justice Book Club | November 2 at Bosses Pizza (263 Tx 337 Loop) from 1 - 3 p.m.

Join with St. John's, Faith UCC, and Peace Lutheran to discuss The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times by Jane Goodall and Douglas Arava. 1-1:30 p.m. order food, discussion from 1:30-3 p.m. Bring a friend. All are welcome.

Altar Guild Training Sessions | Nov. 2 (3-5 p.m.), Nov. 3 (5-7 p.m.), and Nov. 4 (5-7 p.m.)

If you're newer to the Altar Guild, need a refresher, or would like to build confidence in preparing the altar, please plan to attend one of the sessions. Dinner will be provided. RSVP in Church Center.

Thanksgiving Growing Altar for SOS Food Bank | Collecting Donations November 9, 16, and 23

Help us create our traditional Growing Altar by bringing harvest produce and Thanksgiving staples! These gifts will first adorn our altar in gratitude and celebration, then be donated to the SOS Food Bank. Please bring pie pumpkins, squash, apples, yams, and other produce, along with pantry items like stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, and pie mix. A full list of items needed can be found in the eNews and on the sign in the narthex.

Capital Campaign Committee has begun their work on "Making More Room at the Table"

Dave Golson, Chairperson	Kelly Jackson, Affinity Groups
Cleve Rodriguez, Chairperson	Linda Lund, Lead Gifts
Jenny Montgomery, Coordinator	Alice & Jeff Jewell, Advance Commitments
Grace Symmons, Communications	Stacey & Eric Griffin, Gratitude/Ministry
Marjorie Nolan, Children	The Rev. Matthew Bloss, Students
John Howe, Reach/Follow Up/Fulfilment	Laurianne Rodriguez, Reach/Follow Up/Fulfilment
Vicky & Dan Geisler, Response Team	Rachel & Will Brown, Response Team