

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 13, 2020



St. John's Episcopal Church  
159 Main Street, Sandwich, MA 02563  
<http://www.sjchurchsandwich.org/>

**Our Mission:** St. John's is a community called by Christ to grow spiritually and make known God's love through word and deed in our congregation and in the broader world.

**Our Vision:** We do this through

**Worship:** We give thanks and praise to God, who is known to us in Word and Sacrament.

**Formation:** We are a community committed to lifelong Christian development, offering opportunities for formation and fellowship for persons of all ages.

**Service:** We care for one another in this congregation, and commit to outreach to the broader community.

**Services:**

Sunday @ 10:00 AM and online at [www.sjchurchsandwich.org](http://www.sjchurchsandwich.org)

## Holy Eucharist, Rite II, for 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Prelude:** "Andante con moto" in D Major from *Six little preludes* / J.S.Bach

*Presider:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

*Presider:* Lord, have mercy.

**People:** **Christ, have mercy.**

*People and Presider:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

### A Reading from the Book of Exodus

**Exodus 14:19-31**

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

The word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 114**

*read responsively by half verse*

Alleluia! When Israel came out of Egypt, \* **the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,**  
Judah became God's sanctuary \* **and Israel God's dominion.**

The sea beheld it and fled; \* **Jordan turned and went back.**

The mountains skipped like rams, \* **and the little hills like young sheep.**

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled; \* **O Jordan, that you turned back?**

You mountains, that you skipped like rams; \* **you little hills, like young sheep?**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God, \* **at the presence of the God of Jacob,**

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water \* **and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

**Anthem:** **Nun danket alle Gott /J.S.Bach** **Hymnal 1982 #397**

**The Gospel** *Please stand as you are able.* **Matthew 18: 21-35**

*Priest/Deacon:* The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

*Priest/Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. Thomas Ferguson

## Nicene Creed

*Please stand as you are able*

**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 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.**

## Prayers of the People

*Leader:* Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Ascension Memorial Church, Ipswich; St. Stephen's Memorial Church, Lynn; Emmanuel Chapel, Manchester-by-the-Sea; and for Ministries to the Homeless. We also pray for Alan and Gayle, our bishops; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; and all for bishops, priests, and deacons. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global pandemic of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for all those on our Prayer List, and those for whom our prayers have been asked. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

*Presider:* 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.**

*Presider/Deacon:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Presider and People:* **Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.  
Amen.**

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

## **The Peace**

*Presider:* The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

*People:* **And also with you.**

## **Announcements**

## The Holy Eucharist

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth: For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Presider and People:* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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:

*Presider 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,

*People and Presider:*        **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.**

*Presider:*                    Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

*Presider:*                    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.

**The Communion** (*Everyone is welcome at God's table in this church.*)

*Please come forward when directed by an usher. Come forward in single file, down the center aisle, with 6-foot distancing. Only the bread will be offered, in individually-sealed packets. Please return to your seats by the side aisles, not the center aisle, and consume the bread in our seat.*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

*Presider:*                    Let us pray.

*People and Presider:*        **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 and Dismissal**

*Presider:*        The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Presider/Deacon:*        Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

*People:*                    **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**                    **"Allegro" in C Major from Six little preludes / J.S.Bach**

### **Serving Today:**

*Presider:*                    The Rev. Thomas Ferguson

*Worship Assistants:*        Mary Ames, Mib Kelly

*Musician:*                    Misao Koyama

*Ushers:*                    Mary Howe

## Announcements:

**Outdoor Worship:** We will continue with outdoor worship at 10 AM on Sundays, with Holy Communion, as long as permitted by the Diocese of Massachusetts. We continue to monitor the public health situation, so please stay tuned to our email updates and the website in case we need to suspend outdoor worship.

**Home Communion:** We are also permitted to bring Holy Communion to people's homes using a **contact-free, drop-off system**. We can drop off pre-consecrated elements, but are unable to interact or come inside your home. There is a devotional card with an outline of a service for receiving communion at home. Please contact the office at 508-888-2828 or email the Rector at [rector@sjchurchsandwich.org](mailto:rector@sjchurchsandwich.org) if you would like to be placed on the Home Communion list.

**Holy Baptism:** We are also permitted to celebrate Holy Baptism, within guidelines and restrictions issued by the Diocese of Massachusetts. Please be in touch with the Rector to schedule a baptism.

**Thrift Shop:** The Thrift Shop has reopened as of September 1, with certain restrictions. Hours will be limited, masks must be worn when inside the Thrift Shop, and no more than 8 people are permitted at any time.

**Congratulations** to our very own Mary Howe on being named **West Barnstable's Citizen of the Year for 2020!** Mary says "It's a great honor, and thanks all who consider me an asset to the village..." We feel the same way here at St. John's. Thank you, Mary, for all you do for our parish community!

**Birthday Commemorations:** In lieu of published lists of birthdays (for security purposes we don't want to post or broadcast these on our web page or in our livestreamed services!), Jos Schmerhorn has begun sending birthday wishes to parishioners by mail. It is her way of letting our congregation know that they are in our thoughts and prayers on their special day!

**Sunday School and Youth Group:** We are not permitted to hold in-person Sunday School at this time. Please stay tuned for the website for our plans for Sunday School for Fall, 2020. **We are permitted to hold Youth Group**, socially distanced and with masks. Our volunteers will be in touch with our Youth Group members to gauge interest for Youth Group for Fall, 2020.

St. John's Church works closely in outreach to our broader community with Cape Council of Churches. **They are in particular need of donations to A Baby Center, which provides assistance to families with small children, and Hands of Hope Food Pantry, which provides free meals Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.** There are links to their donation requests on the church web page.