



Henrico Parish

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: The Second Sunday in the Season of Creation

September 13, 2026

10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist

A Reading from the Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 23a

The Talmud is the textual record of generations of rabbinic debate about law, philosophy, and biblical interpretation, compiled between the 3rd and 8th centuries, and structured as commentary on the Mishnah with stories interwoven. Honi Honi HaMe'agel ("Honi the circle-drawer") was a tanna or Jewish scholar of the 1st century BCE, the scholars from whose teachings the Mishnah was derived.

While the sage, Honi, was walking along a road, he saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked him, "How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?"

"Seventy years," replied the man. Honi then asked, "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?"

The man answered, "I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise I am planting for my children."

For Reflection: How have you benefited from what others have planted? What is our responsibility to our children and future generations? How might Honi's wisdom clarify our purpose as the church? What steps might St. John's take for the future flourishing of our community?

Visiting today? Turn to page 1 for helpful information.

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church

We are glad you are here. If you are seeking a place to explore your faith, we invite you to make St. John's your spiritual home. Please complete a visitor card, found in your pew, and place it in the offering plate to receive our weekly email. You may also provide your information to our greeter as you exit the church. We hope that you will join us in the Parish Hall immediately following the service for coffee hour. We are eager to get to know you and to tell you about the life of our community.

If you are new to us today and have questions about our worship, please ask our ushers or one of our members in the pews. Here is some information to assist you:

of Common Prayer is red.

The Hymnal is blue. Numbers preceded by "S" are in the front of the hymnal.

Food and Beverage We thank you for not eating or drinking in the church.

Nursery care is available in the Parish Hall. Your infants and toddlers are welcome to stay in the nursery during the church service.

Children's Chapel is available in the Parish Hall for school-aged children during the first half of the service. Participants will join us during the announcements so that they can participate in the Eucharist.

Restrooms are located in the Parish Hall.

Prayers at the East Altar For individual prayers, meet Deacon Peggy Newman at the East Altar after the service. You may also submit your prayers in writing by filling out the prayer request form at the back of your bulletin and putting it in the offering plate. Peggy will offer these prayers before she leaves the church each Sunday.

Food and Fellowship Please join us for fellowship in the Parish Hall after the service. We especially welcome those of you who are visiting today. We are eager to get to know you and would love to tell you more about the St. John's community.

We livestream worship on YouTube for our online community. We hope that by offering an option for online worship, those who are not able to come to church will feel connected.

Please Remember to Wear a Name Tag

Name tags are available from an usher; please wear one so that we can warmly welcome visitors and newcomers.

Make a Gift to St. John's Church The Word of God



This is a holy time and place. Please prepare for worship before and during the prelude in silence so others may do the same.

Ring of Church Bell and Welcome

Prelude “Canon no. 1” from *The Goldberg Variations*

JS Bach

Processional “All creatures of our God and King”

1 All creatures, worship God most high!

Sound every voice in earth and sky:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright,

sing, sister moon and stars of night:

Chorus Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia!

2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear sister water, useful, clear,

make music for your Lord to hear: (*chorus*)

3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong;
drive far the shadows, join the throng:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, so rich in care,

praise God in colors bright and rare: (*chorus*)

4 All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ bears your burdens and your fears;

still make your song amid the tears: (*chorus*)

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,

fair is the night that leads us home. (*chorus*)

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, bless the Father, Son,

and Holy Spirit Three in One: (*chorus*)

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People ***The Holy One's love is new every morning.***

Collect for Purity *Said in unison*

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

Hymnal S 280

Salutation

Celebrant The Creator be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Creation Collect of the Day (Proper 19)

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The First Reading

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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.

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

The Response

We will read the passage responsively by whole verse.

Psalm 114

In exitu Israel

1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

***2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.***

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

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

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

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

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

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

The Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we

are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn "Lord, make us servants of your peace"

Hymnal 593

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Minister 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."

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Ven. Frederico Garza

The Prayers of the Peoplefrom *Honoring God in Creation*

Blessed God, whose love calls the whole Creation into covenant with you, and who puts in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying, “Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.”

For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the creatures of the earth who do us harm and those whose place in your Creation we do not understand or welcome, that we may see them as beloved creatures of God, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures, that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need, especially Samantha, Stuart and Noa, Brett, Ellen, Theresa, Jane, Louise, Sandi, Peggy, Claudia, Sherry, Bill, Eileen, Phinella, Amelie, and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources or their devastation by war, that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the gifts of science and technology and for those who practice these skills, that they may be wise, visionary, and compassionate in their work, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the creatures and the people of the earth whose lives and deaths have contributed to the fruitful abundance of this planet, especially for Frank Wood, whom we remember with the flowers at the altar.

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

The Celebrant concludes the Prayers with the following collect:

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and God's Creation.

***Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.***

***We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.***

Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.

***Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.***

Absolution

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

***People* Christ dwells among us and is one with us.**

Announcements

The Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem *Creator of the Stars at Night*

Arr. Sydnor

The Presentation Hymn “All creatures of our God and King” (*verse 7*)

Hymnal 400

The Eucharistic Prayer

The liturgy is adapted from Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes (Perennial Edition, 2025) and from Enriching Our Worship 1.

The Sursum Corda

Celebrant The Creator be with you.

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

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Creator.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to our loving God.

People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Celebrant

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the Creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,

you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

The Sanctus *All sing.*

Hymnal S 128

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven 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.'

Ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

heaven 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: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.
On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.

He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

“Take, eat:

This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.

Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you:

This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all Creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,
with St. John and all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever.

The Great Amen

Hymnal S 146



Music: McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943). Copyright © 1984 Theodore Presser Co. Used by permission.

The Lord's Prayer

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

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

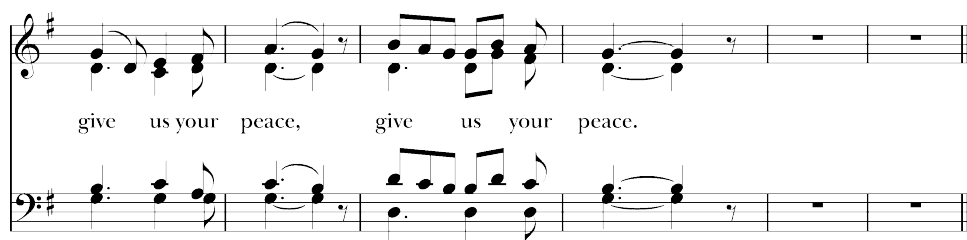
Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

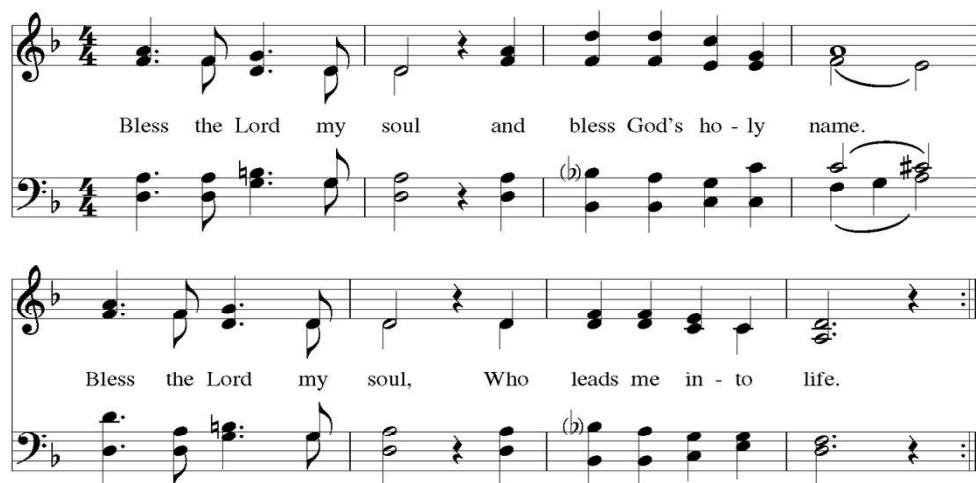
Celebrant This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.

People ***All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.***

Please sit or kneel. All are welcome at Christ's table. To receive wine from the chalice, please go to the right at the communion rail. To receive wine through intinction, go to the left; a member of the clergy will dip your wafer in the intinction cup and hand it to you. To take just the wafer or to receive only a blessing, please go to the right. To receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer communion be brought to you in your pew, let the usher know.

Communion Hymn "Bless the Lord, my soul"

WL&P 825



Section: Spiritual Songs Title: Bless the Lord my soul
Words: Psalm 103
Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Postcommunion Prayer

People and Celebrant

*Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

Blessing

Go forth now to care for God's world.
Use resources wisely. Share your knowledge. Sacrifice where necessary.
Live in harmony with all Creation.
Go out into all the world as prophets of a new way of living and preach the good news to all.
And the blessing of the Creator God, the Risen Son, and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you
that you might be a blessing to others today and always. Amen.

Recessional "Joyful, joyful, we adore thee"

Hymnal 376

Dismissal

<i>Minister</i>	Tend the earth, care for God's good Creation; as you have received freely, so give freely. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

Postlude

Our Mission

We are a caring, spiritual community, joyfully embracing and nurturing all;
serving God, each other, and the community.

Land Acknowledgment

Please join us in acknowledging and honoring the Indigenous peoples who are the original inhabitants of the land on which St. John's Church now stands: the Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Monacan, Nansemond, Nottoway, Pamunkey, Patawomeck, Powhatan, Upper Mattaponi, and Rappahannock tribes. We give thanks for them and express our gratitude for their witness on how to live a life that is honorable and humble. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong us: that we belong the Earth and that we are all relatives in life. Help us to learn from our past mistakes and to be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world, particularly the original Indigenous inhabitants.

Prayer for St. John's Church

O God, creator of life and giver of gladness, let us be your Beacon on the Hill, shining your light so brightly that others may come to know you, to love, and to be loved. Help us to reach out to those around us, bearing fruit through acts of kindness, welcome, and fellowship. Amen.

Serving this Morning

Celebrant	The Rev. Gregory Bezilla
Preacher	The Ven. Frederico Garza
Music Minister	Curt Sydnor
LEM	Priscilla Sublett
Acolyte	Laura Streat
Lectors	Maureen Matsen, Lisa Wood, and Jeffry Burden
Ushers	Cheryl DePodesta
Greeter	
Tellers	Priscilla Sublett and Eileen Grey
Videographer	Grace Downard
Sound Tech	John King
Altar Guild	Martha and Paul Broughton, Victoria Rennie, and Reeves McCune
Children's Minister	The Rev. Deacon Maureen-Elizabeth Hagen
Nursery Attendants	Quanta Barnes and Katy Miles

*Thank you for disposing of your bulletin and insert in the recycling receptacle
if you do not intend to take them with you.*

Staff

The Rev. Gregory Bezilla, Interim Rector, gbezilla@saintjohnsrichmond.org

The Rev. Anthony Gaboton, Jr., Associate Rector, agaboton@saintjohnsrichmond.org

The Rev. Deacon Peggy Newman, Deacon, pnewman@saintjohnsrichmond.org

The Rev. Deacon Maureen-Elizabeth Hagen, Children's Minister, mhagen@saintjohnsrichmond.org

Patty Duffy, Parish Administrator, pduffy@saintjohnsrichmond.org

Curt Sydnor, Minister of Music, csydnor@saintjohnsrichmond.org

St. John's Church Vestry

Patty Soileau, Senior Warden, psoil@aol.com

Jeffrey Burden, Junior Warden, richburd6165@yahoo.com

Cal Buchanan, calbuchanan@outlook.com

Chad Doebler, chad.doebler@gmail.com

Eileen Grey, egrey1@comcast.net

Michael Maloney, mmaloney@kw.com

Reeves McCune, reevesmccune@comcast.net

Priscilla Sublett, priscillasublett@yahoo.com

In the Diocese of Virginia

The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, Assistant Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas, Assistant Bishop

St. John's Episcopal Church

Office: 2319 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23223

804-649-7938

www.saintjohnsrichmond.org

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Parish founded 1611 Church built 1741