Welcome to St. John’s Church. We are glad you have joined us for our online worship service this morning.

The service can be accessed through the YouTube link on our newsletter; our YouTube Channel, “St. John’s Episcopal Church, Richmond, Va;” or through our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/historicstjohnschurch. Search for the post entitled “Worship for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost” and click on the arrow to begin the video premiere. The service will also be available on our website, www.saintjohnsrichmond.org; click on the link to the video as indicated. The premiere has a “live chat” feature, and we welcome your participation; we will save the video for future viewing at your convenience.

If you are new to us today and have any questions about our worship or the life of our parish, do not hesitate to contact our rector, the Rev. Amelie Wilmer, at awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org. Be sure to visit our website, saintjohnsrichmond.org, and sign up for our newsletter.

As we prepare our hearts for worship during this unusual and uncertain time, here is a prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book that has comforted the hearts of many over the ages.

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to us
as we wait in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead.
Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you. Amen.

Our Mission
We are a caring, spiritual community, joyfully embracing and nurturing all;
serving God, each other, and the community.
Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn “The God of Abraham praise”

Prelude

O Waly Waly

Scottish folk melody

Opening Acclamation

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

People  And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.
The Collect for Purity
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

1. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
2. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
3. 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.
4. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
5. 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.
The Collect of the Day

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

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  Amen.

The First Reading  Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Reader  The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.

The Response  Said in unison  Psalm 138

Confitebor tibi

1  I will give thanks to you, O  LORD, with my whole heart; *
   before the gods I will sing your praise.
2  I will bow down toward your holy temple
   and praise your Name, *
   because of your love and faithfulness;
3  For you have glorified your Name *
   and your word above all things.
4  When I called, you answered me; *
   you increased my strength within me.
5  All the kings of the earth will praise you, O  LORD, *
   when they have heard the words of your mouth.
6  They will sing of the ways of the  LORD, *
   that great is the glory of the  LORD.
7  Though the  LORD  be high, he cares for the lowly; *
   he perceives the haughty from afar.
8  Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
   you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
   your right hand shall save me.
9  The  LORD  will make good his purpose for me; *
   O  LORD, your love endures for ever;
   do not abandon the works of your hands.
The Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn “Like the murmur of the dove’s song”

Hymnal 513

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.
Music for Meditation  
*Take my life and let it be*  
Louis J. F. Hérold

The Nicene Creed

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.

The Prayers of the People

During the season after Pentecost, we proclaim the life of Jesus that lives on in us through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and we pray that the Spirtir will lead us and guide us along the way.  
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.  
In your goodness, Holy Spirit: **lead us and guide us.**  
Bring reconciliation among your children. Let those who have not experienced systemic bigotry and racism listen deeply to the pain and the anguish of those who have. And, having heard their voices, equip us to be repairers of the breach and the dismantlers of systems.  
With your creative energy, Holy Spirit: **lead us and guide us.**
Let your mercy and justice roll down like waters, on all of your creation, especially on care facilities and communities of poverty and color hit hardest by this pandemic. Give us courage to respond in love.

In your mercy, Holy Spirit: lead us and guide us.

Bring inspiration to researchers working on a COVID-19 vaccine. Bring healing through the hands of doctors, nurses, CNA's, medical technicians, and first responders. Bring comfort with the ministry of last responders.

With your power working through them, Holy Spirit: lead us and guide us.

As you moved among the chaos at the beginning of creation, move through Susan, Jennifer, and Porter, our bishops; and move with all ministers of word, sacrament, and service, and all the holy people of God. Let us be the living church to a world that needs your word and our service, now more than ever.

As you move through us, Holy Spirit: lead us and guide us.

Sanctify and nurture all houses of worship as they gather remotely and in person so that they may be sanctuaries of peace and places of safety. Give grace and knowledge to the leaders of your houses of worship to keep your children safe.

Through your presence, Holy Spirit: lead us and guide us.

Guide President Trump, Governor Northam, and all in authority, to make hard, holy, and good decisions to keep all they serve safe. As the disciples held all things in common after Pentecost, let them and us hold all things and all people in common.

With the community of the Holy Trinity, Holy Spirit: lead us and guide us.

Open our ears to hear cries of the hungry and the oppressed, the incarcerated and the victimized, the addicted and the sober, and those experiencing poverty and economic insecurity, and bless our feet to run to them.

As you drove Jesus into the wilderness, Holy Spirit: lead us and guide us.

Embrace your children who are sick or suffering, broken or hurting, lonely or isolated, especially Cheyenne, Lydia, Paul, Eric, Herb, Leslie, Ellen, Missy and her family, Freda, Godfrey, Faye, Paul, Bruce, Ned, Ford, Bill, Alexis, Cindy, the Walley family, and Olivia.

With your healing presence, Holy Spirit: lead us and guide us.

Visit the dying and welcome home the departed; hold gently the families and friends that mourn.

In your comforting embrace, Holy Spirit: lead us and guide us.

For our own prayers of intercession and thanksgiving, offered silently or aloud.

Silence

Having offered these prayers to you, Gracious God, empower us so that we may bring about the Reign of God.

With your holy fire and rushing wind, Holy Spirit: lead us and guide us.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

The Lord's Prayer

Leader And now, as Jesus taught us, let us pray.

All 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 Confession and Absolution

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.

The Peace

Announcements
Blessing

Closing Hymn “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

African American spiritual

I’m gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna pray so…
I’m gonna sing so…

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace, to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Bridegroom

Welcome to St. John’s Church

If you are seeking a place to explore your faith, we invite you to make St. John’s Church your spiritual home.

Please visit our website at saintjohnsrichmond.org and sign up for our newsletter.

To inquire about membership, please contact our rector, the Rev. Amelie Wilmer at awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org

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. Amelie Wilmer
Preacher The Rev. Dr. Dorothy White
Deacon The Ven. David Curtis
Minister of Music Jim Bennett
Choristers Elisabeth Gruner, Susan Bagot, Lisa Wood, John King, III, and Ron Johnson
Readers Jane Hunnicutt, Victoria Hauser, Lisa Wood, and Sarah Elizabeth Pole
Video Editor Andy Russell

In our prayers this week:

Our city: for the workplaces and businesses of Metropolitan Richmond: for owners and managers; for servant leadership, civic responsibility and ethical decision-making.


The diocesan cycle of prayer: for Sunday School teachers and youth leaders

If you have a prayer request, please notify Patty Duffy, our Parish Administrator. We will pray for those who are sick or in need for one month, unless you specifically request us to do otherwise.
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In the Diocese of Virginia
The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Suffragan Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor, Assisting Bishop

Associated Clergy
The Ven. J. David Curtis, Deacon dcurtis@saintjohnsrichmond.org
The Rev. Anne Lane Witt, Children’s Chaplain annelanewitt@me.com

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