



Henrico Parish

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost:

October 11, 2026

10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist

**A Reading of “Nothing is Lost” from *Ladder to the Light*,
Steven Charleston**

The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston (b. 1949) is a Native American elder, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation, an author, and a retired bishop in the Episcopal Church. He is widely recognized as a leading proponent for justice issues and for spiritual renewal in the church in both the United States and Canada. Among other roles, he has served as the denominational staff officer for Native American ministries, the Bishop of Alaska, and the Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School.

In the days of conquest, when darkness covered the land, the hoop of many nations was broken, the story of many people lost—and lost forever. The number who perished will never be counted, but their graves are still here. Their testimony is written into the earth. The wisdom of the ancestors is a mist over the valley, a cloud passing before the moon. The teachings of the elders can be heard in the rain, the message of the poets seen in the first stars that put the sun to bed. Nothing is finally lost. The ancient visions are within us. The old dreams are part of us. The steady rhythm of hope was never silenced. It beats today for all who would hear it. It beats within me. It beats within you. Life is still growing beneath the concrete. The sound of the earth is breathing beneath the glass and steel.

For reflection: How does Creation speak to you? What does it say? What signs of life can you see in the city, pushing up through sidewalk cracks? What stories give you hope? What is your prayer today?

Visiting today? Turn to page 2 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:

The Book 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, proceed to the East Altar after receiving communion. 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.

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

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.

Ringling of Church Bell and Welcome

Introit

Prelude *James River Midwaters* Curt Sydnor

Processional “Christ, whose glory fills the skies.” **Hymnal 7**

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People *Glory to God for ever and ever.*

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 God be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Creation Collect of the Day (Proper 23)

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading **Exodus 32:1-14**

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomor-

row shall be a festival to the LORD.” They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.” But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth?’ Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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 106:1-6, 19-23**

Confitemini Domino, Et fecerunt vitulum

1 Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

***2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD *
or show forth all his praise?***

3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

***4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;***

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

***6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.***

19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *

4 and worshiped a molten image;

***20 And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.***

21 They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,

***22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.***

23 So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

The Second Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 “Holy Ghost, dispel our sadness”

Hymnal 515

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

The Nicene Creed *Please stand.* **BCP 358**

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

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.***

*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

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 *All stand.*
Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People *And also with you.*

Announcements

The Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem *Fairest Lord Jesus* Apgar

Click the QR code to make your gift online.



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

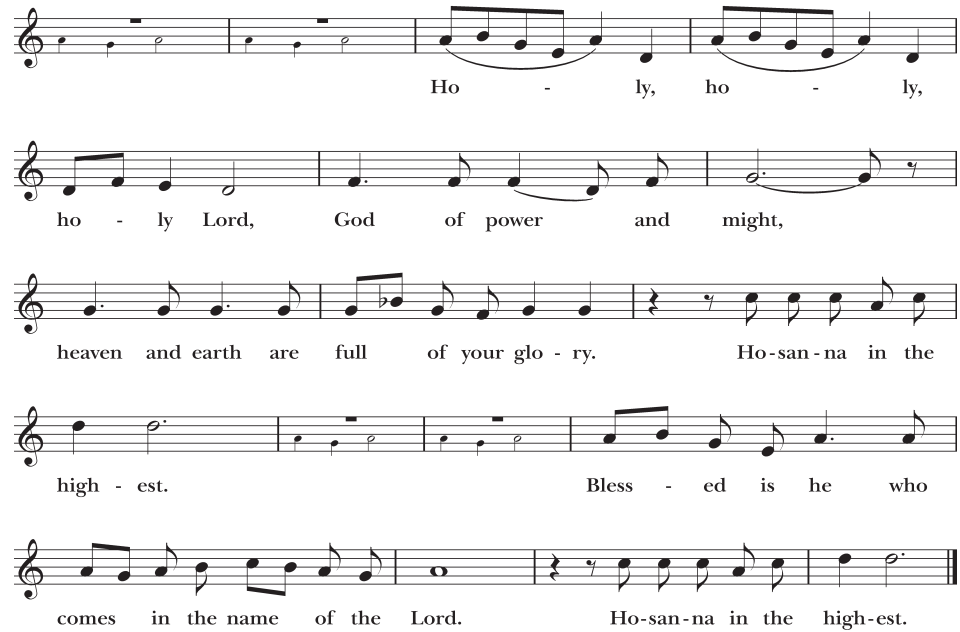
Celebrant God be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People *We lift them to the Lord.*
Celebrant Let us give thanks to our loving God.
People *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

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**



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.

10 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:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

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

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 “Come my way, my truth, my life” Hymnal 487

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

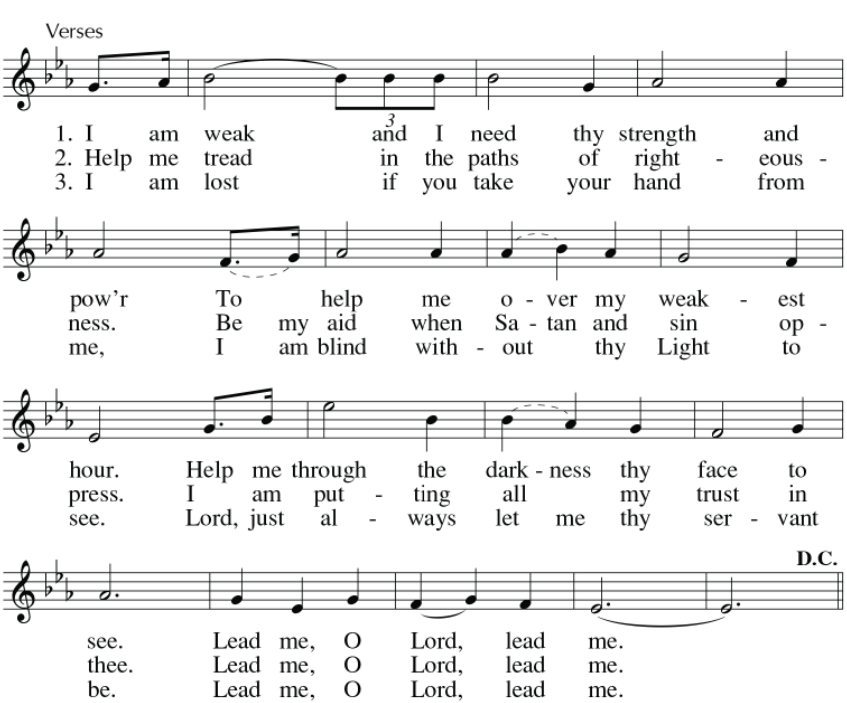
Recessional “Lead me, guide me”

Refrain



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,
For if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Verses



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous -
3. I am lost if you take your hand from
pow'r To help me o - ver my weak - est
ness. Be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op -
me, I am blind with - out thy Light to
hour. Help me through the dark - ness thy face to
press. I am put - ting all my trust in
see. Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant

D.C.

see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

WL&P 756

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People *Thanks be to God.*

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.

Text: Doris M. Akers, 1922–1995
Tune: LEAD ME, GUIDE ME, Irregular with refrain; Doris M. Akers, 1922–1995; harm. by Richard Smallwood, b.1948
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Serving this Morning

Celebrant	The Rev. Anthony Gaboton, Jr.
Preacher	The Rev. Gregory Bezilla
Deacon	The Rev. Deacon Peggy Newman
Music Minister	Curt Sydnor
LEMs	Patty Soileau and Kitty Foster
Acolyte	Bert Hillier
Lectors	Patty Soileau, Maureen Matsen, and Raymond Elmore
Ushers	Cheryl DePodesta and Candace McGuire
Greeter	Candace McGuire
Tellers	Patty Soileau and Michael Maloney
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	Quante 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.*

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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

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Parish founded 1611 Church built 1741