

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Georgetown Parish  
[www.stjohnsgeorgetown.org](http://www.stjohnsgeorgetown.org)



Be You. Be here. Belong.  
Holy Eucharist

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
February 8, 2026  
10:00 AM



# Welcome to St. John's Church, Georgetown Parish



Please know how glad we are to share this day with you! We hope you will fill out the “Welcome card that you’ll find in the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate so we can send you more information about our vibrant community. Or just scan the QR code to add your name directly to our email list.

## Name Badges

Please pick up or make your own name badge as you enter the church. You may leave your badge in the bins in Blake Hall after coffee hour. Childcare is available from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in the atrium. Ushers are here to assist you. We are very glad you are here!

**Sunday Service at 10am with Kids “Holy Moly” program 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays**  
**Contemplative Prayer on Tuesdays at 5:30pm in the Chapel of the Carpenter**

## Service Participants

### Clergy

The Rev. Gini Gerbasi, Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Laura Natta, Rector

### Director of Music

Aaron Goen

### Reader

Tyler Van Andel

### Intercessor

Jim Johnson

### Verger

John Wise

### Ushers

John & Judy Ryan

### Altar Guild

Tyler Van Andel

### Acolyte

Greg Page

### Flowers

Virginia Elgin

### Technology

Andy Fiske

### Host Minister

Tyler Metteer

**Prelude**

*Aria*

Flor Peters

## Liturgy of the Word

**Processional Hymn 371**

*“Thou, whose almighty word”*

*Moscow*

**Opening Acclamation**

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

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

**Song of Praise Benedictus es S236 "Glory to you"**

John Rutter

### **The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **The Lesson**

**Isaiah 58:1-9a**

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,

they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,

and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,

a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,

and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Reader: The word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 112:1-9**

*Beatus vir*

David Hurd

Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
and have great delight in his commandments!

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

For they will never be shaken; \*  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
their heart is right;  
they put their trust in the Lord.

Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

They have given freely to the poor, \*  
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

**The Holy Gospel****Matthew 5:13-20**

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

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

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Rev. Dr. Laura Natta, Rector

*Please stand in body or spirit.***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

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Creator God, Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your generosity, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings. Move in us and make us see how to be instruments of love and peace in your Church and throughout the world. Let us pray together as the People of God, saying

God in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, lead us to reject the dark bitterness of othering all those whom we do not understand. Enlighten all leaders of our nation and world with the wisdom of your diverse creation that together we may build a more just and inclusive society.

God in your loving mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, be present with all those in any kind of need or trouble: For those whom we know and cherish, and for our human family in this city and everywhere. Let us pray together for: **Amy, Carol, Charles, Craig, Dal, David, Ethan, Jan, Jennifer, Jennifer D., John, Juan Carlos, Karen, Katie, Nick, Paula, Reuben, Stephanie, Terry, and Tom.** We pray that addiction, depression, or illness will lift from those afflicted. And we pray for all people affected by violence, war, accidents, or natural disasters.

God in your infinite mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Joy of human hearts, heal our communities, where neglect, violence, greed, and warfare increase the suffering and need of people and other creatures. We remember especially those who serve the common good, and those who serve our country at home and abroad. We pray also for those who have died. In your infinite mercy, wrap your arms around all those whose grief will not let go. Bless all who know loss with your strength and peace.

God in your healing mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray to you, Comforter of all the earth, for the intentions of the individuals in this community—stated now either silently or aloud, *(A moment of silence is kept)*

God, in your perfect mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a closing collect*

## The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## Offertory Sentence



We appreciate your support! Please consider making an offering using the QR Code to support St. John's ministries.

## Offertory Anthem

*"If ye love me"*

Thomas Tallis

## Doxology

*Old Hundredth*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures  
 here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host:  
 praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## HOLY COMMUNION

### The Great Thanksgiving

**Celebrant** The Lord 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 the Lord our God.

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

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

James MacMillan



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. Bles - sed is  
he, O bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: *St. Anne's Mass*, ©1997 Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers, Ltd.; James MacMillan (b. 1959)

*The people stand or kneel. Then 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 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 S147

McNeil Robinson



S 147 | Setting: McNeil Robinson II (1943-2015)

And now as our savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

## The Lord's Prayer S119

*Celebrant and People*

## Fraction Anthem S154

David Hurd

*Antiphon*

Two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' with lyrics written below. The second staff contains the melody for 'Christ our Pas-sov-er is sac-ri-ficed for us; there-fore let us keep the feast.' with lyrics written below. The word 'Antiphon' is written above the first staff and below the second staff.

*The Celebrant says:*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and all are welcome at God's table.

## Communion of the People

*All those who seek a closer relationship with God in Christ are welcome to receive communion at St. John's. Communion bread will be distributed at the chancel steps. If you would like to receive wine, please sip from the cup. Please do not dip the bread in the cup. The communion minister will wipe the cup and turn it for the next person. If you would prefer a blessing in lieu of communion, please cross your hands over your chest.*

## Communion Anthem

*"Let all mortal flesh keep silence"*

Edward Bairstow

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence and stand with fear and trembling. And lift itself above all earthly thought. For the King of kings and Lord of lord's, Christ our God, cometh forth to be our oblation, and to be given for Food to the faithful. Before him come the choirs of angels, with every principality and power; the Cherubim with many eyes, and winged Seraphim, who veil their faces as they shout exultingly the hymn: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Let all mortal flesh keep silence and stand with fear and trembling.*

## Post Communion Prayer

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.

## Welcome & Announcements

### Blessing

*Celebrant:*

Be careful as you go out into God's creation, for it does not belong to you. Be gentle with yourself and with one another, for you are the dwelling place of the Most High God. Be alert and hesitant, for sometimes God is but a whisper. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn 665**      *"All my hope on God is founded"*      *Michael*

### Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**      *"Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major"*      Ludwig or Tobias Krebs

***Pastoral care available.** If you or a loved one needs prayer or assistance, our clergy and Stephen Ministry are ready to help. If you are feeling worried or hopeless, or are sick, and you would like to receive communion, a visit by a clergy member or Stephen Minister can be scheduled. To arrange an in-house or virtual visit, please contact the parish office at 202-338-1796.*

S 278, *Gloria in excelsis*, Music: William Mathias © 1976, Oxford University Press, Inc.; S 125, Sanctus, Music: Richard Proulx © 1971, 1977, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.; S 135, Memorial Acclamation: Music: McNeil Robinson © 1984, Theodore Presser Co.; WLP 877, Fraction Anthem: "The disciples knew the Lord, Jesus" © 1996 Mark Sedio. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-7221

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### UPCOMING SERVICES

**ASH WEDNESDAY, February 18, 2026, at 7pm.** Come "get your ash on!" with us in a special service celebrating Justice and our part as followers of Christ Jesus in creating a more just society. Far more than a somber day, this is our chance to hold this day and the next 40 days of Lent with intention to heal, to love, and to minister to the world as Jesus did.

**PARISH ANNUAL MEETING is on March 1<sup>st</sup>** and will be directly after a 10am JAZZ Service! Be hip, be cool, and be ready to get jazzed up about hearing where we're at and where we're headed as a Parish.

**COMPLINE – Every THURSDAY during Lent at 7pm. February 26<sup>th</sup> through March 26<sup>th</sup>.** The final service in the Book of Hours, Compline, is also known as Night Prayer. This ancient

practice first came about in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century in the Rule of St. Benedict. Come immerse yourself in this brief but poignant moment of candlelit peace, chant and reflection.

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

### GRATE PATROL is Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup>/Monday February 9<sup>th</sup>



Grate Patrol needs to make 180 sandwiches after Sunday's service and then pack them into meal bags on Monday afternoon at 4pm. We also need two people to bring fresh fruit This easy and fun ministry is a joy, and we're always looking for new volunteers to join in! This is another opportunity for you to literally change the world and be Christ's very hands. Sign up by QR or link. THANK YOU!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F44A9A92AAFA7-62037669-grate>



### WE NEED YOU!

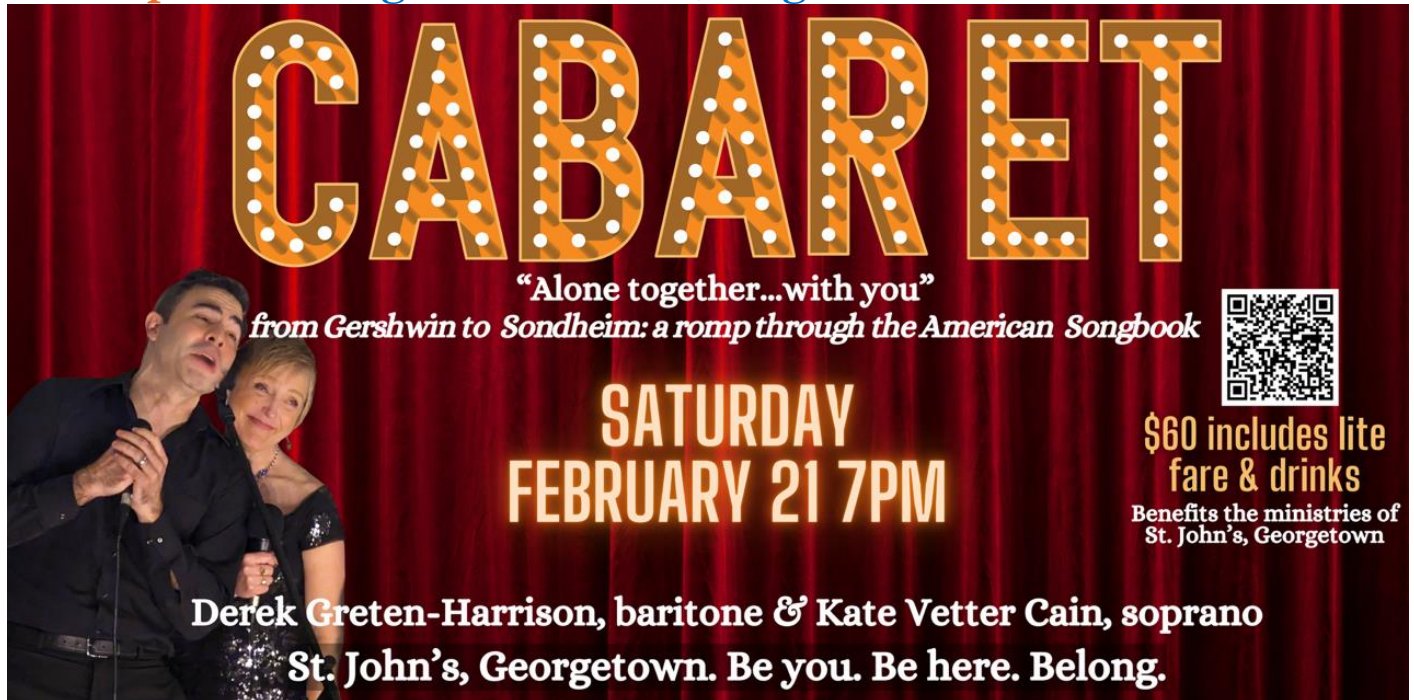
**Want to get more involved in Sunday worship? It's easy—just sign up!**

We need volunteers each week for:

- Flower Guild
- Lesson and prayer readers
- Ushers
- Acolytes
- Altar Guild (assist clergy before services)
- Host Minister/Greeter (make announcements, invite all to coffee hour)

Training is available, but if you've attended before, you'll likely already know what to do. Tech-savvy? Rev. Laura needs help with the Sunday broadcast. Training provided; most controls are preset. Questions? Contact Patti Thorp (verger) at 919-491-4481 or [thorppatti@gmail.com](mailto:thorppatti@gmail.com), or sign up at our Sign-up Genius page: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044EABAC28A6F94-54060798-11am#/>

**Heat up an evening with libations, laughs and love!**



**CABARET**

*"Alone together...with you"*  
*from Gershwin to Sondheim: a romp through the American Songbook*

**SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 21 7PM**

**\$60 includes lite fare & drinks**  
Benefits the ministries of St. John's, Georgetown

**Derek Greten-Harrison, baritone & Kate Vetter Cain, soprano**  
**St. John's, Georgetown. Be you. Be here. Belong.**

**GET YOUR TIX NOW – OUR CABARET SELLS OUT EVERY TIME!**

The stars will come out again on **Saturday, 2/21/2026 at 7pm (doors open at 6)**, when our very own Kate Vetter Cain and Derek Greten-Harrison will bring us their new show, *"Alone Together with You"* accompanied again by Director of Music, Aaron Goen. Delightful sips will be paired with a tasty feast of appetizers from Georgetown Restaurants! <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/alonetogetherwithyou/event/alonetogetherwithyou/>

**SAVE THE DATE! Georgetown House Tour 2026 is April 18<sup>th</sup>!**

This year's *Patron's Party* is on **4/15 at 6:30pm**. New this year: a cocktail *Forum* here in Blake Hall with renowned designer Barry Dixon on **4/16, 5:30–7:30pm**.



The *House Tour* runs **4/18, 11am–5pm**. Mark your calendar and consider volunteering—we need baked goods, Docents, House Captains, and more to support North America's longest-running house tour since 1931! Questions? Contact Judy Ryan, [judy.ryan2@verizon.net](mailto:judy.ryan2@verizon.net) or Rev. Natta.

## Sowing Seeds of Love: A Lenten Project from St. John's, Georgetown

**Joy holds. Hope energizes. Love heals.** For a while now, St. John's, Georgetown has been exploring what it means to love. What does love in action look like? What are the skills of loving? What conditions make loving our neighbors easier? How does love spread? These aren't abstract questions meant to distract us from hard times. They're the kinds of questions that help us become a source of healing in a world that desperately needs it.

Over the last two years, we've learned a few things. Love in action shows up as justice, kindness, humility, and compassion. Joy and hope – whether in a community or a single human heart – create the conditions where love can flourish. Turning our attention to joy, we learned that joy holds: it holds space, holds people close, holds meaning, promise, and power. And we learned something about hope: it energizes, and it's contagious, resilient, and powerful, often terrifying those whose power is built on fear.



So this Lent, rooted in joy and hope, St. John's Georgetown will sow seeds of love – seeds we believe can help heal our hearts, our communities, and our country. Each day we'll share stories (on Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky, and our website) of good things breaking out in the world around us. And because joy and hope are contagious and build resilience, these tangible examples of justice, kindness, and compassion can inspire *more* acts of love and help others hold on through difficult times.

We are inviting **you** to contribute to this important project. We'll start posting on February 18 and post each day until Palm Sunday (March 29). Send in a video (2 minutes max), captioned photo, audio file, poem, a short paragraph, or whatever helps us see or hear the goodness that you have found in the world. Send your files to [SowingSeeds@stjohnsgeorgetown.org](mailto:SowingSeeds@stjohnsgeorgetown.org). Feel free to send more than one! If you need help, email Gini (@stjohnsgeorgetown.org).

Together we can sow seeds of love that can grow and spread, and foster genuine healing – in our own hearts, our community, and the world.





# St John's Episcopal Church

## Georgetown Parish

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