The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 25, 2024



Artist: Bible Art

The **9:30am** Service begins on **page 6**

Parish Notes begins on **page 16**

CHRIST CHURCH

5 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
732.545-6262 • ChristChurchNewBrunswick.org

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH, an Episcopal parish of the worldwide Anglican Communion. We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship this morning, and to receive Holy Communion or a blessing at the communion rail. We invite you to ask questions, explore, and to make yourself known to those around you. Please pick up any other information about the parish located on the table in the back of the church. Tell us more about yourself by filling out one of the cards located in each pew. Help us to make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by all.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES. Changing stations are available in both rest rooms at the Paterson Street entrance; you can get there through the side door of the church.

WE REJOICE that you have chosen to worship here this Pentecost season. If you would like to learn more about our Parish, please phone the Parish Office at 732.545.6262. Many of our upcoming events are listed on our web site, christchurchnewbrunswick.org; we hope that you decide to join us.

ABOUT THE LITURGY

Inclusive Language in Worship: Because language has the power to shape our thinking about God and one another, Christ Church makes every effort to bring the language of worship in line with biblical theology that affirms that the personhood of God embraces all that is truly female and male, and that men and women are equals. In our liturgy some historical texts that are widely known and loved are left unchanged.

YOU ARE INVITED to worship with us any Sunday.

Our Summer service time begins at 9:30 AM.

FREE PARKING VOUCHERS

Are available for the Lower Church Street parking deck next to the church grounds. Please see an usher for a voucher and instructions.

Intercessions

At every celebration of the Holy Eucharist prayer is offered with intercession for the Universal Church, the nation, the welfare of the world, the concerns of this community, those who suffer and those in any trouble, and the departed. Please feel free to add your own petitions during the prayers, either silently or aloud. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, you may also fill out the form in the Prayers of the People book in the back of the Church.

Weekly Intercessions

We remember in today's prayers:

The Sick and Others in Need— *Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Andre, Arnold, Barb, Barbara, Bettye, Christine, Danielle, Doreen, Dorothy, Edith, Eleanor, Isobel, Jacqueline, Jeannine, Jim, Jim, Jonathan, Joy, Joyce, Karl, Lenora, Linda, Mark F., Mary, Matthew, Matthew S., Sarah, Shawn, Sheila, Tabby, Timothy, and Vivian.*

Anglican Cycle *– The Anglican Church of Mexico*

Diocesan Cycle *– Members and Ministry of the Women's Commission*

Christ Church Ministry *– Finance Committee*

Birthdays this week *– Christian Fergusson, Dawn Johnson, Jaxon Phills, Thalia Sirjue, Sandra Smithson, Kevin Stansbury, Alexa Stott, Elaine Sullivan*

Memorial Flowers— *are given by Barbara and the late Robert Rick in memory of Harold R. and Elise D. Fick, Elaine H. Sullivan in memory of Eleanor M. Schaefer, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wargo in memory of Meta Lefferts, Bill Leonard, and Caroline Leonard.*

Pastoral Care

If you are in crisis, having surgery, are in the hospital and are in need of pastoral counseling from a clergy person, please do not hesitate to contact The Rev. Joanna Hollis—732.354.1450

If you would like to schedule home communion, please contact Rev. Joanna and she will arrange for either herself, or a Lay Eucharistic Visitor to bring communion to you. Please do not hesitate to contact either Rev. Hollis or Rev. Roberts if you know of someone who is in need of care or counseling.

THE VESTRY

The Rev. Joanna P. Hollis, Rector
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PARISH STAFF

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Carlos Garcia, *Sexton*


Worshipping God
Serving God's People
Christ Church New Brunswick

August 25, 2024
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

PRELUDE *Berceuse* L.Vierne

Please stand and sing at the Procession

ENTRANCE HYMN "Blessed Jesus at Thy Word" **The Blue *Hymnal* 1982 #440**

The Presider welcomes the people and says
Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

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;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

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
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.**

First Lesson: *1 Kings 8:[1, 6, 10-11], 22-30, 41-43*

[Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.]

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

"Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name —for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people

Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

THE EPISTLE *Ephesians 6:10-20*

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN "How Lovely is Your Place" **The Blue *Hymnal* 1982 #517**

THE GOSPEL *John 6:56-69*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to

where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.

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

SERMON Rev. Joanna Hollis

THE NICENE CREED
All who are able please stand

ALL **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

Leader Responding, "Hear our prayer," let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others.

The Leader requests the prayers of the People of God for the world, the mission of the Church, and for those individuals who have asked for or need our prayers. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please fill out the form in the Prayers of the People book in the back of the Church.
After the last petition, the Presider adds a concluding Collect

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

ALL **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 Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please find a QR code for giving on the back of the bulletin.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN "Stand Up Stand Up for Jesus " **The Blue *Hymnal* 1982 #561**

All who are able please stand

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP, page 361*

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 him thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The Presider continues with the Proper Preface of the Day.

Presider 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:

SANCTUS

ALL **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people continue to stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Presider 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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.**

Presider As our brother Christ taught us, we now pray,

ALL **Our Father in heaven,**
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the bread.

Presider Alleluia! Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

ALL **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

INVITATION

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

The congregation may kneel or sit following the Invitation. All are most welcome to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive communion this morning, you are cordially invited to come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available; please speak to the member of the clergy who is serving the bread.

The Bread and Cup are given to the Communicants with these words

Minister The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
Recipient **Amen.**
Minister The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.
Recipient **Amen.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer For Those Joining Us Online:

Gracious God, our sustainer and source of all good things in the universe. As we gather in community this day, we are mindful of those who through circumstance or conscience are unable to partake of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation at this time. You are the source of the food and water which nourishes and sustains us. As we are the product of all we have partaken, we know that we are infused with your life-giving food and drink and that are never separated from you. Though we are many, we are joined in Christ. We are one Body, one Cup in the name of the One God. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN "Jesus Bread of Life" **RED *LEVAS* HYMNAL #150**

POST-COMMUNION

All who are able please stand

Presider Let us pray.

ALL **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.

FINAL HYMN "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus" **The Blue *Hymnal* 1982 #460**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL *From* Feasting on the Word

The Presider will give the blessing.
People **Amen.**

The Deacon will give the dismissal.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Andante* S. Whitney

PARISH NOTES

PENTECOST 2024

PARISH SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 25– AUGUST 31, 2024

Parish Summer Office Hours This Week:
Tuesday – 9:00am to 2:30pm
Friday – 9:00am to 12:30pm

Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Choir Warm Up, Music Director's 1st Floor Office
	9:30 a.m.	**Holy Eucharist, Sanctuary**
Wednesday	**12:00p.m.**	**Noonday Prayer, Zoom**
	7:30 p.m.	WomenSpirit, Zoom
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	St. Alban's Bible Study, Zoom

*JOIN US AFTER THE 9:30 AM SERVICE FOR COFFEE HOUR IN THE NICHOLAS ROOM

RaiseRight™
Formerly ShopWithScrip

It is time for the Christ Church September RaiseRight Order!

Paul Ambos, will be placing a new card order on the morning of **Tuesday, September 3** because of Labor Day**.** Please place your orders accordingly. If you plan to mail him an order with a check, mail it by **Wednesday, August 28.** Please advise him by email when you mail it of what your order is so he can place it on time despite possible Post Office delays. If you place your own order directly on the RaiseRight website or app, he will be able to see it there when he orders the monthly batch.

Don't want to write a check? No problem! Use the RaiseRight payment options through your checking account or credit card (checking costs a 29 cent charge per order; credit cards charge a percentage that is usually more). If you want physical cards delivered directly to your home, you can arrange delivery through the app. There is a charge for delivery. If you order for delivery through Paul, the church covers the delivery charge. RaiseRight website is **https://www.raiseright.com/shop.**

Thank you for your support of this parish program

SERVICE TIMES

Come and worship with us!



Beginning Sunday, September 8 we will resume two services. Rite I will be held at 8:00am. Rite II/EOW will be at 10:30am.



Join Us on Sunday, September 8, 2024 for Rally Sunday!

We will have our annual **Blessing of the Backpacks**

After service you are invited to attend our
Music Ministry Meetup:
Children, Youth, Parents, and Caregivers

Come Grab Your Coffee and Join Us in the Ross Room to Discuss Musical Opportunities for Our Children and Youth Are you interested in helping the young people in our church community develop strong musical skills and learn more about our liturgical traditions? Join us in the Ross Room following the service on September 8th for a special meeting to explore musical ministry opportunities. We'll discuss options for your children and youth to get involved, whether through singing in the choir, or playing an instrument, or other ways to share their talents in service to the church and community. This is a chance for parents, caregivers, and music-loving congregation members to come together, brainstorm ideas, and work collaboratively to nurture the musical gifts of our young people. Music has the power to uplift, inspire, and connect us in profound ways. Let's harness that power and create meaningful musical opportunities that allow our children and youth to grow, explore their faith, and share their gifts.

Vestry Key Topics

1. The Vestry is excited to be holding our Garden Party on Aug.24 as a way to illustrate our place in the community, Please come with a friend to enjoy time together!

2. A property update and thank you-Jonathan Clark worked multiple days to make a bench in the garden sturdy. Come sit for a spell and enjoy the garden.

3. Discussions between a few Vestry members and Trinity Wall Street were had as a possible avenue for a future vision for5 Paterson. While no decisions have been made, the possibility of collaboration is exciting!



Bring your pet for a special blessing for the year!

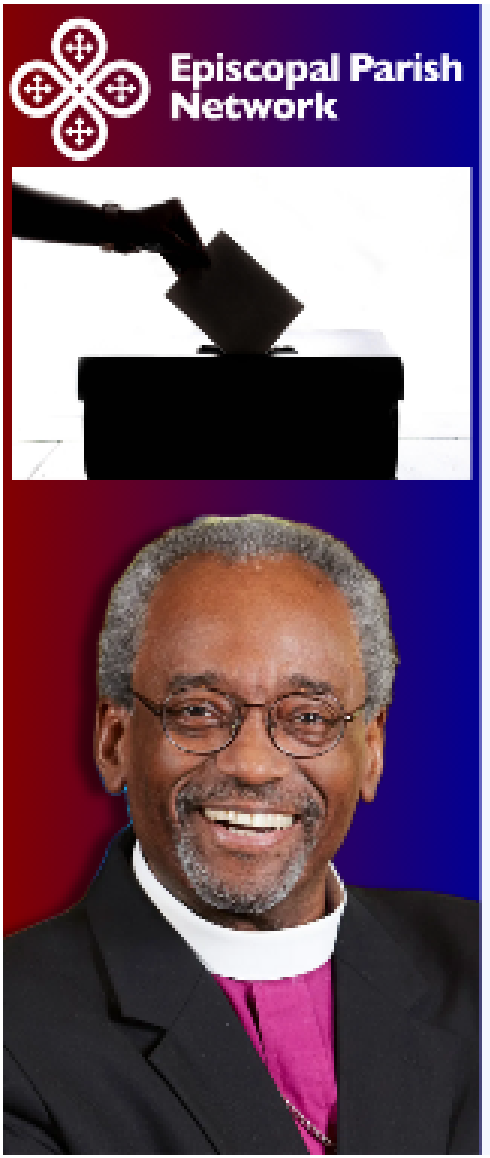
Saturday, October 12, 2024 @ 1pm.

Franklin Animal Shelter
475 DeMott Lane
Somerset, NJ 08873



Join the 20th Bishop George E Councell Memorial Golf Outing with Pickleball Challenge on Monday, October 14, 2024 at Mercer Oaks Golf Course West Windsor, NJ. Use the link below to register.
https://app.eventcaddy.com/events/george-e-councell-memorial-golf-outing

Vote Faithfully: Episcopalians Engaging the U.S. Election
will be on
Thursday, *September 18th* | 1:00pm EDT
Note: This event occurs **earlier than our traditional 3:00pm time.*



Vote Faithfully

Episcopalians Engaging the U.S. Election

Wed., Sept. 18 at 1PM EDT

Join **Presiding Bishop Michael Curry** and church guests to explore voting through a theological lens, highlighting it as an expression of care for each other and God's creation. Panelists will discuss faith-based civic engagement and the importance of Episcopal churches using their resources to support community voting.

Join Presiding Bishop Michael Curry with guests from across the church exploring the meaning behind voting from a theological perspective that centers this civic action as one expression of caring for one another and God's creation. Our panelists will offer framing for healthy, faith-based civic engagement from the theoretical to the tangible, including addressing why it is important for Episcopal churches to leverage our resources to help our broader communities vote.

In an election full of increasing pressures—disinformation, the risk of political violence, disenfranchisement, environmental concerns, and more—come learn how to navigate challenges while remaining focused in our preparations to cast our votes in this fall's election. Our panelists will provide an engaging discussion and direct attendees to resources that can help you encourage your parishioners and community to vote faithfully.

Panelists include:

- **Michael Curry** - Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church; New York, New York
- **Willie Bennett -** Senior Congregational Engagement Officer, Episcopal Health Foundation; Houston, Texas
- **Joyce Statz** - Health and Justice Advocacy Network (HJAN), St. Matthew's Episcopal Church; Austin, Texas
- **Amy Coultas** - Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Kentucky; Louisville, Kentucky

Alan Yarborough - Church Relations Officer, Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations; Washington, District of Columbia (moderator)

Register Today! https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xEe8BIyGTlueaMbbrKUDfg?mc_cid=79671f621a&mc_eid=f825461135#/registration

AUGUST 25, 2024
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

The gospel message gives us a courageous heart.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**John 6:56-69**	**Many disciples desert Jesus**
Monday	**Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**	**Many tribes renew the covenant**
Tuesday	**Ephesians 6:10-20**	**The whole armor of God**
Wednesday	**1 Corinthians 2:1-13**	**The true wisdom of God**
Thursday	**1 Chronicles 28:20-21**	**Solomon and the temple plans**
Friday	**2 Timothy 1:3-7**	**Rekindle the gift of God**
Saturday	**Psalm 34:15-22**	**The Lord is with you**
Sunday	**Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**	**Authentic faith**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. **Ephesians 6:19-20a (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Almighty God, give us courage to speak and live the faith with boldness and to encourage others with your love and mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, we thank you for this meal that strengthens our body and encourages us in a life of faith through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May you be made strong and courageous through Jesus Christ.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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AUGUST 25, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lord of All Hopefulness

taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When something bad happens, where do you turn for comfort?
- Do you feel comforted by God's power when you have experienced difficult times? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 6:10-20.

The language that fills this passage can be uncomfortable. It may seem to convey acts of violence against those who oppose God. However, the focus is on a defensive posture for Christians. These are not tools to attack people but to protect people from evil that assaults the community that follows Jesus. This passage acknowledges that evil power is real, and we do need protection, including the sword of the Spirit. Ephesians 1 begins by announcing God's victory in Christ. The battle is won, but the powers dedicated to oppose God have not gone away. In verses 19 and 20 the author describes being imprisoned in chains but not defeated. The boldness of the author is grounded not in arrogance or one's own power, but in the *"mystery of the gospel"* (v. 19) that continues to do battle with the present evil age. When it reads *"be strong"* (v. 10), the Greek means to be made strong through the power of God, not one's own strength to defeat others.

Discuss: How does the Christian faith give you strength during difficult times?

Pray: **God of power and might, help us to face the hurts and pains of this life with hope and faith that reaches out to others with your love through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who is going through a tough time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Joshua 24:15b, Joshua speaks for his entire household and says to the people, *"[A]s for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."* Many Christians display this verse somewhere in their homes. It is a testimony to faith in God. Think or talk about what it means for your household to *"serve the LORD."* Write and complete this sentence, "In my household, I will serve the Lord by...."

Pray: **Lord God, help us to be reminded daily of your unending faithfulness to us and serve you always. Amen.**

MILESTONES MINISTRY

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **www.milestonesministry.org**

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

	August 25	September 1
Presider	Rev. Joanna Hollis	Rev. Scott Russell
Preacher	Rev. Joanna Hollis	Rev. Daphne Roberts
Deacon		Rev. Daphne Roberts
Organist	Suzanne McDonald	Suzanne McDonald
9:30 AM	**9:30 AM**	**9:30 AM**
Lector & Intercessor	Jonathan Clark	Jonathan Gloster
LEM	Debra Lowe	Artie Phills
Vestry Announcements *LEM will read the Epistle*	Jim Nichols	Wendy Benjamin
Acolytes (3)		
Ushers		
Production Minister	Jason Kaelber	Jason Kaelber
Altar Guild	Mervis Johnson/ Sheila Cooper	
Coffee Hour		

CHRIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
WORSHIPPING GOD, SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

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PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Historic Christ Church is a mutually supportive Christian community worshiping in the living Anglican tradition of beauty in liturgy and music. Christ Church bears witness to the love of Christ in prayer, service and fellowship.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE.

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732.545.6262 ▪ christchurchnewbrunswick.org



The Reverend Joanna P. Hollis, *Rector*
The Reverend Daphne Roberts, *Deacon*
Suzanne McDonald, *Music Minister and Organist*
Brittney Girault, *Parish Administrator*
Elaine Winkler, *Bookkeeper*
Carlos Garcia, *Sexton*

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