

# **St. John's Episcopal Church**



**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Year C

**September 7, 2025**

10:00 a.m.

# Welcome

**Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church.** Whether you are passing through or looking for a church home, we are honored by your presence and we invite you to worship with us fully—singing, praying and receiving communion. We are a multigenerational community that strives to serve Christ through invitation, inclusion, faith and action. Most Sundays we have two services: a contemplative 7:45 a.m. service and a choral service at 10:00 a.m.

**Children are welcome at all services.** Children's coloring bulletins, books and crayons are available near the back of the sanctuary. Children in PreK – 4th grade are invited to their own children's worship service upstairs at 10:00 a.m. and will return to the sanctuary for communion. Nursery is available for infants and toddlers beginning at 9:45 a.m. until noon.

**All are welcome to receive communion at St. John's.** This includes children of all ages. At the 7:45 service we gather around the altar. For the later services we have communion in stations, the right side for the bread and the left side is for the wine. We receive the Body of Christ, the bread, in our outstretched hands. Wine will be available to all who wish to take it via the common cup. If you do not wish to receive any part of the communion you may still come forward for a blessing. Crossing your hands over your chest lets us know you wish to receive a blessing.

**If you would like more information about St. John's** or to be included on our mailing list, please fill out the visitor book found near the entrance to the sanctuary or email <admin@stjohnsoakland.org>

## **Land Acknowledgment:**

Oakland and Berkeley sit in the territory of Huichin, part of the stolen land of the Chochenyo Muwekma Ohlone, the successors of the historic and sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. We acknowledge the land and labor of the Ohlone people, whose connection to this land we remember, and whose presence—past, present, and future—we respect. We acknowledge that the land we are meeting on today is the original homeland of Ohlone people. We seek to show respect by rejecting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people's history and culture, while seeking to invite and honor the truth.

**Photo and Video Release:** by attending an event or worship service held by St. John's you enter an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur. By taking part, you consent to such recording media and its release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for news, webcasts, social media, or other promotional outlets of St. John's.

# Liturgy of the Word

Today's service includes pieces from *Godspell*, a 1971 musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz (whose work also includes *Pippin* and *Wicked*). *Godspell* is based on the Gospel of Matthew, and most of its lyrics came directly from the Episcopal hymnal. "They are re-settings of traditional Episcopal hymns," Schwartz wrote in 2010. "It may amuse you to know that when the film version of *Godspell* opened, I was roundly criticized for the lyrics for 'Save the People' by Richard Schickel, the movie critic of Time Magazine, who quoted them disparagingly. Apparently he's not Episcopalian."

## **Prelude**

Turn back, o man  
*Carrie Leadingham, Soloist*

*Godspell*, Stephen Schwartz

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Processional Hymn**

Prepare ye the way of the Lord

*Godspell*, Stephen Schwartz

*Please join the choir after the Cantor sings, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"*

## **Opening Acclamation**

**BCP p.355**

*Celebrant*

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

*People*

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

## **The Collect for Purity**

**BCP p.355**

*People*

**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.**



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For

*The hymn continues on page 5.*

you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the

Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of

God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray. Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

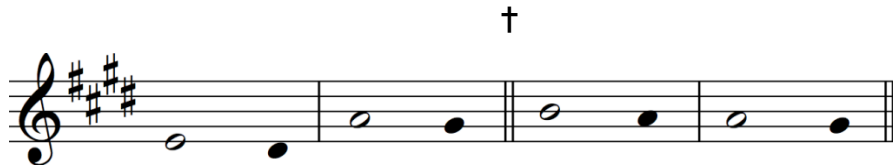
Moses said to all Israel the words which the Lord commanded him, “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Psalm 1**

S412 Robert Knox Kennedy



- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the **wicked**, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the **scornful**!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the **Lord**, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and **night**.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not **wither**; \*  
everything they do shall **prosper**.
- 4 It is not so with the **wicked**; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows **away**.

- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment **comes**, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the **righteous**.  
6 For the Lord knows the way of the **righteous**, \*  
but the way of the wicked is **doomed**.

*Please be seated.*

**SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21**

A Reading from Paul's letter to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

<i>Reader</i>	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
<i>People</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Sequence Hymn**

Day by Day

*Godspell*, Stephen Schwartz

Day by day, day by day,  
Oh, dear Lord, three things I pray:  
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,  
follow thee more nearly, day by day.

## **The Gospel**

**Luke 14:25-33**

*Gospeler*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

*Gospeler*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Sermon**

**The Rev. Kathleen Moore**

## **Meditation**



**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; Austin Rios, our Bishop; the Vestry, Wardens, clergy and staff of St. John's; and all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, and all those affected by their decisions; remembering especially ... Strengthen our resolve to stand with the marginalized, not out of partisanship, but as followers of the risen Christ.  
**Through your spirit make us agents of justice and peace.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, remembering this week in our cycle of prayer ... Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

We pray for all who have died, remembering this week in our cycle of prayer ... Give to the departed eternal rest.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *Silence*

*Celebrant:*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

BCP p.360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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

BCP p.360

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*          **And also with you.**

*We greet those nearest us in the name of Christ.*

*Please be seated.*

## Announcements

### Birthday/Anniversary/Transition Prayers

BCP p.830

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life/lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### God grant them many years

WLP 824

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in B-flat major and 4/4 time. The first system consists of two staves. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) starts with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, Bb3, and C4. The lyrics 'God grant them ma - ny years!' are written below the vocal line. The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment has a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, Bb3, and C4. The lyrics 'God grant them ma - ny years!' are written below the vocal line. The score concludes with a double bar line.

# Liturgy of the Table

## Offertory Sentence

Let us with joy-filled hearts offer the fruits of our life and labor to God.

*Make an online contribution to St. John's by visiting*

**<https://onrealm.org/StJohnsOakland/Give/RKYEJXDYJG>**



## Offertory

Learn your lessons well  
*St. John's Chancel Choir*

*Godspell, Stephen Schwartz*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Doxology

*Old 100th*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

# The Great Thanksgiving

## Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p.367

*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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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 S 128

William Mathias

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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with John all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

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

**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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* The gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome.

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the altar.*

*You may consume the bread and then drink from the cup, or you may choose to receive bread only.*

*If you do not wish to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing,  
indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.*

*Gluten-free vegan wafers are available on request.*

*The bread and cup are given to the people with these words:*

*The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.***

*The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.***



## Communion Music

Medley from *Godspell*  
*Sara Evinger, Pianist*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**BCP p.365**

## Postcommunion Prayer

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

*People*

**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.**

## Blessing

### Recessional Hymn 291      We plow the fields and scatter

*Wir pflugen*

1 We plow the fields, and scat - ter the good seed on the land,  
2 He on - ly is the Ma - ker of all things near and far;  
3 We thank thee, then, O Fa - ther, for all things bright and good,

but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand;  
he paints the way - side flow - er, he lights the eve - ning star;  
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food:

*Hymn continues on page 19.*

he sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
 the winds and waves o - bey him, by him the birds are fed;  
 the gifts we have to of - fer are what thy love im - parts,

the breez - es and the sun-shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
 much more to us, his chil-dren, he gives our dai - ly bread.  
 but chief - ly thou de - sir - est our hum - ble thank - ful hearts.

*Refrain*

All good gifts a - round us are sent from heaven a - bove;

then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.

## **Dismissal**

*Subdeacon*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People*

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

All for the best  
*St. John's Chancel Choir*

*Godspell*, Stephen Schwartz



***Mary Lim, Tina Popenuck, and Anne Meyer***

**Rector:** The Rev. Scott Denman

**Associate Rector:** The Rev. Kathleen Moore

**Director of Children and Youth Ministries:** Lori Robinson

**Interim Co-Music Directors:** Sara Evinger & Cheryl Keller

**Associate Clergy:** The Rev. Ed Bonsey

**Associate Clergy:** The Rev. Dr. John Kater

**Parish Administrator:** Siv Ricketts

**Altar Guild Director:** Susan Merrill

**Flower Guild Director:** Pauline Felder

**2025 Vestry:**

Sarah Jones — Senior Warden

Michael Daly — People's Warden

Steve Baronian, Sarah Blain

Ginger Cook, Jen Howard-Lukens,

Alan Howe, Nancy Lehrkind,

Gene Williams, Linda Williams

Tina Popenuck – Clerk of the Vestry

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***The vision of St. John's is to manifest God's love  
through invitation, inclusion, faith and action.***

***St. John's mission is to manifest the love of God through the Holy Spirit with each other,  
our community, and the world through worship, spiritual growth, and Christian service.***