

# ST. JOHN'S GLOUCESTER

THE FIFTH SUNDAY  
AFTER THE EPIPHANY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II

FEBRUARY 9, 2025

10:00AM

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*For thousands of years, First Nations people walked on this land in Gloucester; their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives and spirituality. St. John's is gathered on the traditional territory of the Pawtucket, and we give thanks to them, and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.*

*They followed the seasons, hunted, fished, raised families, grieved for their dead, nourished their living, shared the stories of their ancestors, and considered themselves the caretakers of this place.*

# THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*We are all loved by God, who wants us all to grow and flourish. God does not distinguish between us based on the color of our skin or the country in which we are born, yet today we live in a society that is fractured by the differential treatment of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups. Racism denies the reconciling work of Jesus Christ that was achieved for all people. Racism denies our common humanity in creation and our belief that all are made in God's image.*

## THE PRELUDE

*Adoration*

Florence Price (1887-1953)

## THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Blessed Absalom*

LEVAS #44

LAUDA ANIMA

Words by The Rev. Canon Harold T. Lewis (b. 1947)

1. Born in bond-age, born in shack - les, Born stripped of all dig - ni - ty,  
2. Seek - ing to ex - pand hor - i - zons, Bi - ble, pri - mer he did find;  
3. When in Phi - la - del - phia set - tled, He sought per - sons in great need,  
4. One fine morn - ing, while at wor - ship, Wrested from his knees in pray - er;

1. Abs' - lom Jones was bound, de - ter - mined, That he would one day be free.  
2. To each word he was at - ten - tive, Learn - ing, lest he fall be - hind.  
3. Ded - i - ca - ted to em - pow' r - ment, His own peo - ple did he lead.  
4. He, his friends, were thus e - vic - ted: "You no more may praise God here."

1. Bless - ed Abs' - lom, leads us, guides us, In the bonds of u - ni - ty.  
2. Bless - ed Abs' - lom, lib - er - ates us From the pri - son of our mind.  
3. Bless - ed Abs' - lom, pray that we from All in - diff' - rence may be freed.  
4. Bless - ed Abs' - lom, pray that we may Stand stead - fast and per - se - vere.

## THE OPENING SENTENCES

*United Church of Canada*

*Celebrant* We come to worship today determined to follow the Christ,  
*People* **who calls us to a new understanding of how to love.**

*Celebrant* We come to worship with open hearts and minds  
*People* **and a soul ablaze for justice and equality.**

*Celebrant* We come to meet God and each other  
*People* **Let us worship in love and understanding.**

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE SONG OF PRAISE

LEVAS #44

*Blessed Absalom*

*LAUDA ANIMA*

Words by The Rev. Canon Harold T. Lewis (b. 1947)

*Founded he Saint Thomas' church for Afric's sons and daughters blest;  
Full-fledged members of Christ's Body, They no longer were oppressed.  
Blessed Abs'lom, pray that we may Be the church at Christ's behest.*

*Blessed Abs'lom Jones, first priest of Afric's stock within our fold;  
May we, inspired by your witness Raise up priests with hearts of gold!  
Blessed Abs'lom, pioneer, prophet May your story long be told!*

*Praise to Christ the Liberator; Praise Creator ever blest;  
Praise the Spirit, Source of comfort, North to south, and east to west:  
Blessed Abs'lom, priest, exemplar, In God's bosom now at rest.*

## A COLLECT FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray together.

**Compassionate God, who sent Jesus Christ to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities, create in us new hearts and enlarged visions, to see the image of God in every person irrespective of background, race and ethnicity. May we be generous in our love of others as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice; creating communities of human flourishing, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **THE CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Leave it there*

Charles Albert Tindley (1851-1933)

*If the world from you withhold of its silver and gold,  
And you have to get along with meager fare; Just remember in His word.  
How He feeds the little bird. Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.*

*Leave it there, leave it there, leave it there, leave it there,  
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there, leave it there.  
If you trust and never doubt, He will surely bring you out;  
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there, leave it there.*

*If your body suffers pain, and your health you can't regain,  
And your soul is almost sinking in despair; Jesus knows the pain you feel.  
He can save and He can heal. Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.*

*When your enemies assail, and your heart begins to fail,  
Don't forget that God in heaven answers prayer.  
He will make a way for you, and will lead you safely through.  
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.*

*When your youthful days are gone, and old age is stealing on.  
And your body bends beneath the weight of care; He will never leave you then,  
He'll go with you to the end. Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.*

## THE HEBREW BIBLE

Amos 5:21-24

I despise your festivals,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,  
I will not accept them;  
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals  
I will not look upon.  
Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM

Psalms 85:1-7

*Read the Psalm responsively.*

*Lector* Lord, you were favorable to your land;

*People* **you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

*Lector* You forgave the iniquity of your people;

*People* **you pardoned all their sin.**

*Lector* You withdrew all your wrath;

*People* **you turned from your hot anger.**

*Lector* Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

*People* **and put away your indignation towards us.**

*Lector* Will you be angry with us for ever?

*People* **Will you prolong your anger to all generations?**

*Lector* Will you not revive us again,

*People* **so that your people may rejoice in you?**

*Lector* Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

*People* **and grant us your salvation.**

# THE GREEK BIBLE

Acts 10:34-35

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right, is acceptable to God.

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

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

# THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Bless the Lord, O my soul!*

BLESS HIM HOLY NAME

Words and Music by Andrae' Crouch (1942-2015)

Bless the Lord, — O my soul: and all that is with —

Fine

in me, Bless His ho - ly name.

He has done great things, — He has done great —

D.C.

things, — He has done great things, Bless His ho - ly name!

## THE GOSPEL

John 13:33-35

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

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

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

## THE HOMILY

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada*

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*LEM* God of all peoples, whose Son reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, help us to break down the barriers in our communities, enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world.

Lord, in your mercy,  
*People* **hear our prayer.**

*LEM* We pray for all victims of racial hatred and discrimination, and we seek your protection for those affected in our churches, our schools, our places of work and our communities.

*People* Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*LEM* We pray that we may know the power of reconciliation. Wherever there is division between us and others, because of our race or ethnicity, we pray that we may all be led to reconciliation. We pray for all who work to bring communities together in ways that are just and equal for all.

*People* Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*LEM* As we pray for reconciliation, we pray also for restoration. We pray for those whose spirits and communities have been weighed down by racism. Guide us as we strive to ensure everyone has equal dignity.

*People* Lord, in your mercy,  
**All hear our prayer.**

## **PRAYERS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE WITH THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

*Black History Month has been observed since 1987 and today we lament and remember the black voices and stories which were overlooked and marginalized and we want to encourage positive awareness about Black History.*

*A candle is lit.*

*Celebrant* Let us light a candle to remember that God is love. There is no fear in love, perfect love casts out fear. Let us celebrate the love that God has for all God's creation.

*People* **God of love, You created all human beings in your image and likeness. Bearing your image, you call on us to reflect your goodness, justice, and love to all the world. Remind us of our call to follow your Son and to speak out for justice, mercy, and compassion. Amen.**

*A candle is lit.*

*Celebrant* Let us light a candle to give thanks to God for Black men and women in every generation who have contributed to the growth of this country.

*People* **Gracious God, We give you thanks for all who have built up this country through their dedication, their witness and their faith in you. Amen.**



*A candle is lit.*

*Celebrant* Let us light a candle to remember those who have been affected by the transatlantic enslavement of African peoples and all who today are affected by slavery and its legacy. For over 400 years, more than 15 million people were the victims of the transatlantic slave trade. Today we continue to treat others based on the financial profit we can derive from them: the persons who work in poor conditions and who are underpaid, the children who are forced to work and receive less than minimum wage, the migrant workers who are exploited. Slavery still exists today.

*People* **Gracious God, help us to regard all persons as made in your image. Create in us brave hearts to acknowledge and address our prejudices. Forgive the way we collude with silence and imprison others in it. Amen.**

*A candle is lit.*

*Celebrant* We light a candle of hope. Hope because God is still at work in our world. With this hope we pray especially today for adventures in conversation about understating the true story of our complicity . We believe that love is stronger than all the ills of the world.

*People* **God of compassion let us commit ourselves to bear the light of the hope of our lives. Amen.**

## **THE CONFESSION**

*Celebrant* God of all, we confess that we have inherited a faith that was used to justify the theft of native lands and the enslavement of your people. From this sin, we ask for deliverance.

*People* **Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord, and in your mercy, set us free.**

*Celebrant* Grant us courage to renounce the false teaching that we can somehow know you without being committed to justice for all people.

*People* **Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord, and in your mercy, set us free.**

*Celebrant* As we name and unlearn the habits of racism, discrimination, and prejudice, give us grace to draw deeply from the witness of the movements that have always resisted injustice in the power of your Spirit.

*People* **Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord, and in your mercy, set us free.**

## THE ABSOLUTION

*Celebrant* 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 PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Celebrant* Christ is here right now making peace among us.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE OFFERTORY HYMN

*Precious Lord, take my hand*

PRECIOUS LORD

Words and Music by Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993)

*During the Offertory Hymn, the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar.*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me  
2. When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger  
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws

stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; \_\_\_\_\_  
near, when my life is al - most gone; \_\_\_\_\_  
near, and the day is past and gone; \_\_\_\_\_

— through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the  
 — hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I  
 — at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my

light, take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me on. \_\_\_\_\_  
 fall, take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me on. \_\_\_\_\_  
 hand, take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me on. \_\_\_\_\_

Words: Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993). Music: Thomas A. Dorsey; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Copyright © 1938 by Unichappell Music, Inc. Copyright renewed. International copyright secured. All rights reserved.

## THE DOXOLOGY

*The gifts of the people are brought to the Altar.*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Christ, all peo - ple

here be - low; Praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;

Praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

# THE MINISTRY OF THE TABLE

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### From The Liturgical Resources, Church of England

The Altar Flowers given today are in loving memory of Jennifer Harrison McNamara on her birthday given by Nancy Harrison and family.

*Celebrant* God is here.

*People* **God's Spirit is with us.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up to God.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to our God.

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

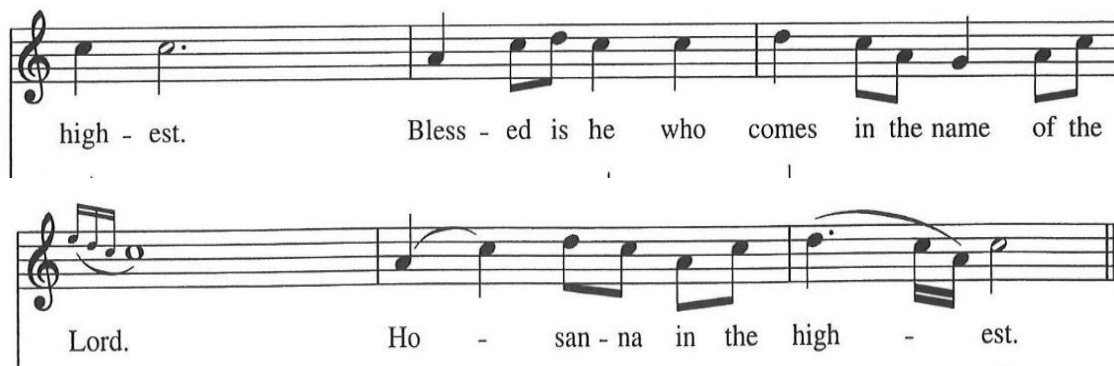
It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal God. For though the human race is divided by dissension and discord, Christ calls us in his death and resurrection to embody hearts of change and his work of reconciliation. By your Spirit you give courage to overcome fears and to seek the unity of all. By the working of your power, hatred is overcome by love, revenge gives way to forgiveness and division is transformed by mutual respect and humility.

Therefore, we give you ceaseless thanks, and join with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host, to proclaim your glory in their unending song of praise:

### THE SANCTUS

by Lena McLin (1928-2023)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry Ho - san - na in the



We praise and bless you, loving God through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we follow his command to gather together, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine and praised you, 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, God, we remember all that Jesus did. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

*People*     **Lord, by your cross resurrection you have set us free. You are the Savior of the world.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favor on your people, especially: **Colette Doyle, Clay Gordon Woodgate, Mikey, Grayson and Tony Johnson, George Hillman, Oliver, Nicole and Charlie, Gordy and Beth Isaac, Mara, Jan Goodwin, St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Altadena, CA), St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (Pacific Palisades, CA), Diane Vaux, Demetria, Thelma, Tanya.** *Are there others to be named?* Gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, for ever and ever.

# THE GREAT AMEN

by Carl MaultsBy (b. 1949)

A - - men, A - - men,  
A - - men, A - - men,  
A - - men, A - - men, A - - men.

The musical notation consists of three staves in 4/4 time, G major. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "A - - men, A - - men,". The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "A - - men, A - - men,". The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "A - - men, A - - men, A - - men.".

And now, as Jesus has taught us, we pray:

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

1982 Blue Hymnal #146

*Celebrant and People*

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.  
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.  
For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,  
now and for ev - er. A - men.

The musical notation consists of seven staves in 4/4 time, G major. The lyrics are: "Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name, your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.".

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

# THE FRACTION ANTHEM

*Lamb of God*

by Lena McLin (1928-2023)

Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.  
sins of the world: grant us peace.

## THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for you, the People of God!

### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*St. John's welcomes everyone to come to God's table, for communion, to share in Christ's sustaining life. You may participate by extending your hands and placing one hand over the other for the bread and sipping from the chalice. If you prefer not to receive wine, you may cross your hands over your chest. If you prefer gluten free wafers, let us know. You may also come to the altar simply for a blessing, while others come for communion. To receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest. The Priest will pray for God's blessing upon you.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart*

TRADITIONAL

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of glory, in this holy feast you have made us one with Christ and with that great multitude of the faithful—those who hunger and thirst no more and worship night and day in your temple. Lead us in the paths of righteousness and guide us to the springs of the water of life. Amen.

## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND PRAYERS FOR TRAVEL

### THE BLESSING

*Celebrant* Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, be among you and remain with you always.

*People* AMEN.

### THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Soon and very soon*

by Andrae' Crouch (1942-2015)

SOON AND VERY SOON

1. Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King;  
2. No more dy - ing there, we are going to see the King;  
3. No more cry - ing there, we are going to see the King;

(Hal-le-lu-jah!)

Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King;  
No more dy - ing there, we are going to see the King;  
No more cry - ing there, we are going to see the King;

(Hal-le-lu-jah!)





Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King.  
 No more dy - ing there, we are going to see the King.  
 No more cry - ing there, we are going to see the King.



Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! We're going to see the King.  
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! We're going to see the King.  
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! We're going to see the King.

**THE DISMISSAL**

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

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**THE POSTLUDE**

*Every time I feel the Spirit*

arr. Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

**WE WELCOME YOU TO**

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GLOUCESTER**

We know that Christ is present in each person here and we celebrate the diversity of the body of Christ. If this is your first visit, please introduce yourself today and visit again sometime. If you've been away, welcome back. If you are here every week, it's always great to see you! We worship in the Anglican tradition and are a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, which is part of the Episcopal Church USA. We honor individuals of every age, gender, ethnic heritage, sexual orientation and religious background. We respect the dignity of every human being.

## **NEWCOMER'S WELCOME**

If you're new to St. John's, or just visiting, and we missed you at the door, please accept our warmest welcome. We hope you will experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship together. Please greet the Priest as you leave and complete a visitor's card found in each pew and place it in the offertory plate, give it to an usher, or give it to the Priest.

We hope to see you again!

## **PARTICIPATING IN THE LITURGY**

*The People of God gathered in St. John's Church*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Marya DeCarlen
<i>LEM</i>	Claudette Chmura
<i>Lector</i>	Claudette Chmura
<i>Acolyte</i>	Karen Kasper
<i>Ushers</i>	Tom Chmura, Connie DeSimone
<i>Musicians</i>	Director of Music-John Churchwell, Choir and Congregation
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Karen Kasper, Melanie Murray-Brown
<i>Flower Guild</i>	Rosemary Sullivan, Kip Ellis
<i>Live Streaming</i>	Norm Barr

**COFFEE HOUR TODAY** is hosted by Sue Lupo and Claudette Chmura.

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN EPISCOPALIAN?**

Are you new to the Christian faith and want to explore what it means to follow Jesus? Join us to discuss how you might grow deeper in faith during the season of Lent, meet regularly with a group of other inquirers to share your faith journey, learn about the history, worship and faith practices of the church, and discern your membership and ministry at St. John's. If you are interested in The Episcopal Church or learning more about confirmation or reception please join us for an introductory meeting.

Annually, we offer 4 interactive class for those who are curious. Before we schedule classes, The Rev. Marya DeCarlen will offer an informal conversation on February 16th in the Thompson Room after the 10:00 a.m. service. (Of course, after you have had time to munch on coffee hour goodies!) If you'd like to join the classes, you can share your questions and curiosities so we can address them in the classes. Please call the office if you are interested. (978-283-1708)

## **COMMON THREADS**

Common Threads will meet the third Saturday of each month. Join us on February 15 at 11am in the Thompson Room, with your handiwork, for fellowship between the fingers, heart and soul!

### **ROLE OF CONGREGATION IN WELCOMING NEWCOMERS**

Newcomers are gifts to congregations. They bring fresh expressions of God's image before us and challenge us in often needed ways. They represent potential new partners in care and accountability. They remind of us of why it's essential that our church exists. If we delight in their presence, invite them with intentionality, and watch how their belonging to God and to our congregation moves us ever closer God's call for us, well then, HALLELUJAH!

If you see someone you don't know, introduce yourself and greet them! If you see someone standing or sitting alone at coffee hour, join them!

### **A NOTE ABOUT PLEDGE ENVELOPES**

After 2025, St. John's will no longer order booklets of printed pledge envelopes. This year, use your envelopes as always, or, if you do not use them but already picked them up, you're welcome to return them to the office.

In 2026, we will make recycled envelopes available in the sanctuary for those who choose to use one. Those who regularly make cash donations will need to be SURE to write their name on whatever envelope they use so we can track your giving. If anybody else's needs are not met by this system, please contact Elizabeth.

### **WALK OF LOVE**

This Valentine's Day, we can reaffirm the importance of immigrants and their many contributions to the social and economic fabric of our town and nation. Millions of individuals have enriched the United States with their vibrancy and strength. We honor families' sacrifices, struggles, and successes, because America's strength is reflected in our diversity built over generations. The Associated Clergy of Cape Ann are planning a "Walk of Love" on February 14. Stay tuned for more details.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers beautify the Sanctuary of our church, and are a gift which honors God's creation. A contribution to the flower fund is a meaningful way to honor or remember a loved one. After worship, the flowers offer further blessings to people in special circumstances as they are delivered by members of the flower team with a note of encouragement.

Cost: \$35

## SANCTUARY CANDLE

If you look up while seated in our sanctuary you will see a candle suspended in water near our high altar. It is called the *Sanctuary Candle* and it is a symbol in the Episcopal Church of the Light of Christ. Our light was designed and made by sculptor John Fleming, formerly of Rockport, whose work you may see in the Franze Denghausen Room in the Rockport Library, and possibly at the Rockport Art Association. It burns continuously as a reminder that consecrated bread and wine are always present and available for people in special circumstances. It is also a reminder that God is always with us. In the Jewish tradition, the lamp is known in Hebrew as *ner tamid*, which translates to eternal light or flame and also symbolizes God's eternal presence. A contribution to the sanctuary lamp fund in honor of a saint who has gone before us, is a way to link their heavenly life with yours. Cost: \$10

*All offerings will be mentioned in the bulletin and noted before the Eucharistic prayer.*

## COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour is an extension of the Eucharistic table and helps us come together in fellowship. We appreciate your support and dedication in making this ministry a warm and welcoming experience for everyone. Currently there are four teams serving on Sunday mornings. If you'd like to join a team of 2-3 people or create a new team, please email Marge or call the office at 9781-283-1708.



### St. John's Gloucester

stjohnsgloucester.org  
48 Middle Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930  
Parish Office Telephone: 978-283-1708  
WiFi Password: 48MiddleSt

The Rt. Rev. Julia E. Whitworth, Bishop of Mass. & The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol Gallagher, Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen, Priest-in-Collaboration  
mdecarlen@comcast.net  
Marge Bishop, Church Assistant  
marge@stjohnsgloucester.org  
John Churchwell, Director of Music  
Elizabeth de Veer, Parish Administrator

Wardens: Patricia Anders & Katharine Newhouse  
Clerk: Geoff Pope  
Treasurer: Karen Kasper  
**VESTRY:** 2026: Dee Dee Bedford, Rick Britton, Sarah Larson  
2027: Maryann Tapiro  
2028: Sue Lupo, Doug Parsons, Lindsay Smith, Barbara Soreng

OneLicense A-715980