



# SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ashfield, Massachusetts

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 27, 2025

## Welcome to Saint John's!

Our mission at St. John's Church in Ashfield is to grow, through worship, in God's gospel of hospitality and wholeness, and to faithfully live that word in our fellowship, families, communities, and the world. May all who enter here be received as Christ.

## An Acknowledgement

We worship and share God's mission on the unceded land of the Nipmuc, Pocumtuc, and Wabanaki peoples. We are mindful that our blessing came at the price of their sorrow and we pledge to grow in our awareness of racial injustice with God's help.

## Invitation to Holy Communion

This is God's table. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To eat, present your hands to be given bread. To drink, take a sip as the cup is held to your lips. Dipping the bread into the wine is discouraged for reasons of public health. To receive a blessing, instead of bread, cross your arms on your chest.

## Acknowledgements

- The Book of Common Prayer, 1979
- Eucharistic Prayer A, Expansive
- The Book of Occasional Services 2022
- The Holy Bible, The New Revised Standard Version
- Venite App

An \* indicates that we invite you to stand as you are able

***Bold*** text is said by the assembly

Prelude: "Berceuse" Louis Vierne

Duane Nyman, Organist

**\*Gathering Hymn #199**

*Come, ye faithful*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.

**\*Gloria S-280**

*Powell*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Collect of the Day*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The First Reading*

*Acts 5:27-32*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 150

Responsively by whole verse

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple; \*  
praise him in the firmament of his power.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise him for his mighty acts; \***  
**praise him for his excellent greatness.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; \*  
Praise him with lyre and harp.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise him with timbrel and dance; \***  
**praise him with strings and pipe.**

<sup>5</sup> Praise him with resounding cymbals; \*  
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

<sup>6</sup> **Let everything that has breath \***  
**praise the Lord. Hallelujah!**

The Second Reading

Revelation 1:4-8

A Reading from the Book of Revelation.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

\*Sequence Hymn #209

*We walk by faith, and not by sight*

\*Gospel Acclamation S-70 cantor intones



*The Renewal of Baptismal Vows*

*Celebrant* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*People* **I do.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

**\*Sprinkling Rite** Streams of Living Water

*Cyprian Consiglio*

**Streams of living water shall flow from within you.  
God will wipe away ev'ry tear from your eye.**

*The Prayers of the People*

*Form III*

Father, 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 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;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

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

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

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*

*Cycles of Prayer*

I ask your prayers for those remembered in our cycles of prayer: In the Anglican cycle we pray for The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for Trinity Church, Lenox; Social Justice Commission; Church School Teachers & Christian Educators; Episcopal Youth Event (EYE); The Society for the Increase of the Ministry (SIM). In our towns' cycle we pray for local merchants, business owners, and their employees. Among our members

and friends, we pray for Amy Troyer-Karas; Georgette Vianni; Jane & Jim Wagener; Maisie & James Wallick, Penny, Charlie; The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Walters; Barbara Weeks. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Sean M. Skalski. And among our ministries we pray for our Centering Prayer group. **Amen.**

*Presider concludes with a collect*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Peace*

*Celebrant* The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

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

*Wardens' Welcome & Announcements*

*Offertory dedicated to Vicar's Discretionary Fund in Memory of Russell Williams*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Anthem: The St. John's Madrigal Singers

*#178, Jesus is Lord of all the earth*

*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, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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:

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

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:

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

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 Jesus Christ our Savior: By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

**AMEN.**



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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread S-154**

*Hurd*

*Prayer for Spiritual Communion*

*Armed Services Prayer Book, 2008*

**ALL:** In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory.

**CONGREGANTS ONLINE:** Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come.

**ALL: Amen.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**\*Communion Hymn #206**

*O sons and daughters, let us sing!*

Let us pray.

\*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.

\*Recessional Hymn #208

*The strife is o'er, the battle done*

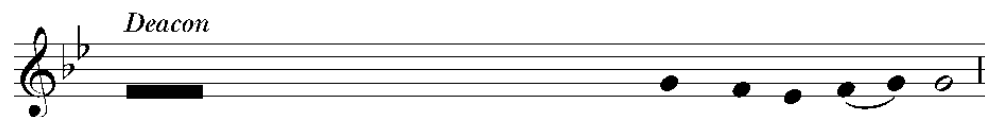
*Easter Blessing-*

*The Book of Occasional Services 2022*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

\*Sung Dismissal S-175

*Deacon*



Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia.

*People*



Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Postlude: Postlude on "St. Thomas" Douglas E. Wagner

Duane Nyman, Organist

*Please stay for coffee and conversation!*

## EVENTS

April 27: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

April 27: Offertory dedicated to Vicar's Discretionary Fund in Memory of Russell Williams

April 29: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry

May 4: The Rev. Mark Hatch is our supply priest

May 11: The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas is our supply priest

May 11: Ring the Bells for Climate Change 11am

May 11: Vestry Meeting

May 18: The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas is our supply priest

May 18: History Moment - Lucinda Brown presents Gordon Dean

## CONTACT US

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**Email:** stjohnsashfield@gmail.com | **On the web:** stjohnsashfield.org |

**Facebook:** @stjohnsashfield

### *Lay Leaders & Clergy*

**Co-Senior Wardens:** Sue Craft, 628-0289  
and Susan Todd, 628-3998

**Junior Warden:** Maddy Roberts

**Treasurer:** Raven Harris

**Clerk:** Lynnette Leidy Sievert

**Vestry:** Kevin Blanchard, Lucinda Brown,  
Darlene Monds, Kay Spencer, Jane Wagener,  
Andrew Wickline

**Licensed Preachers:** Raven Harris, Andrew  
Wickline

**Lay Eucharistic Visitors:** Sue Craft, Andrew  
Wickline, Kristen Wickline, Jane Wagener

**Licensed Worship Leaders:** Andrew  
Wickline, Kristen Wickline, Sue Craft

### *Staff*

**Organist:** Duane Nyman

**Director, Madrigal Singers:** Julie Meservey

**Parish Administrator:** Lis Henry **email:**  
stjohnsashfield@gmail.com

**Financial Administrator:** Amy Murray

**Sexton:** John Wickline

### *Ministries*

**Pastoral Care Team:** Sue Craft

**Digital Ministry:** Ted and Kara Toothaker,  
Andy Wickline, Jane Kaufman

**Buildings & Grounds Team:** Maddy  
Roberts

**Green Team:** Kristin Wickline

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Kristen Wickline

**LOVE in a Backpack:** Jenny Wildermuth

**Bicentennial Celebrations:** Addison Hall