

While we sing and hear music composed and arranged by women throughout the year, we have made a special effort to select the music of female composers during Women's History Month.

9:25 AM — At the ringing of the bell, please prepare for worship in silence.
9:30 AM — All stand as able at the ringing of the bell to begin worship.

Ministers enter in silence.

A Penitential Order: Rite Two

p. 351 Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good News. (Mark 1:15)

All kneel in body or spirit.

The Decalogue (The Ten Commandments)

Hear God's commandments to God's people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord
your God.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs
to your neighbor.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8,9)

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

Silence.

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.

The Celebrant alone stands and says

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.**

All stand in body or spirit.

**Kyrie: Lord Have Mercy
#235, Lift Every Voice and Sing**

Setting by Lena McLin

LENA MCLIN (1928-2023) wrote this “Kyrie” as part of a larger composition, The Mass of St. Augustine. Raised by her uncle, Thomas A. Dorsey, the “Father of Gospel Music,” McLin was inspired to follow careers including teaching High School Music, serving as a Pastor, and composing over 400 works. She founded the McLin Ensemble and the McLin Opera Company: both organizations creating performance opportunities for African American musicians.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

The First Lesson: A reading from the Book of Genesis

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm Appointed: 121 (*read in unison*)

p. 779, Book of Common Prayer

**1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?**
**2 My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.**
**3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall
asleep.**
**4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

**5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,**
**6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.**
**7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.**
**8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and
your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.**

The Second Lesson: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

Marty Haugen

All stand in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation,

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

vss. 1–3

1. Tree of Life and awe-some mys - t'ry, in your death we are re -
2. We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, lovepassed on through act -
3. Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling though our steps may

4
born; though you die in all of his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry
word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and bro - ken wears the bod - y of
be; one with you in joy and sor - row, we the riv - er, you the

8
morn, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn.
Lord, wears the bod - y of our Lord.
sea, we the riv - er, you the

The Holy Gospel

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

John 3:1-17

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Gospel Acclamation continued.

Vs. 4

In our call to be a blessing, may we be a blessing true;
May we live and die confessing Christ as Lord of all we do.
Christ as Lord of all we do.

All are seated as invited by the preacher.

The Sermon

The Rev. Stephanie Yancy, Interim Rector

All remain seated for a moment of silence following the sermon.

All stand in body or spirit.

The Nicene Creed

p. 358, Book of Common Prayer

**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.**

Prayers of the People

Composed by Lois Sauer, Licensed Lay Preacher

Leader: Be present, O merciful God, as we offer our prayers to you, knowing that you are always doing more for us than we can desire or ask.

Silence.

God of Mercy and Forgiveness, you know us better than we know ourselves. Awaken our hearts and souls to know where we fall short of being who you have created us to be. Help us to turn to you for forgiveness. Guide us to forsake all that tempts us away from you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Mother Hen, gather your Church throughout the world under the wings of your care. Banish fear and empower your gospel to be proclaimed. Bless all your people to be like Abram and trust in you. We especially pray for St. John's in this time of transition. Fill our leadership, staff, vestry, and search committee with the grace of your love and wisdom. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Repentance and Truth, we pray for our nation and all in authority, especially for our President, Congress, Judiciary, and all local officials. May your truth and wisdom guide their decisions, that we may turn away from divisiveness, self-centered blindness, and systemic injustice. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Love and Courage, just as your Son did not turn away from the pain and suffering that lay before him, may we not turn away from the suffering and needs of our brothers and sisters who are vulnerable, hungry, homeless, despised or marginalized in any way. May you lead us to action on their behalf. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Peace and Healing, draw us ever closer to you, that we may entrust into your care all that ails and distresses us in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for **Carol, Tammy, Jim, Pat, Jane, Reta, Greta, Cindy, Jack, Elizabeth, Marita, Dee, John, Caroline**, all those on our chronic prayer list, and those we name to you now (*name those in need, either silently or aloud*). May your love and tenderness particularly enfold all who suffer from chronic conditions. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Gladness and Delight, we ask your blessing on those who are joyous today, and especially on all those celebrating Birthdays this week; Bob Lawson, Michael McDuffie, Gail Strange, Camille Stell, George Godwin, and Ken Christie. Lord of all blessings, **hear our prayer.**

God of Welcome and Hope, as our bodies eventually return to the dust, we place our sure and certain hope in the Resurrection of your Son. Welcome into your Eternal Life and Peace, we pray, all who have died (*and those we name to you now, either silently or aloud*). Let perpetual shine upon them forever. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Let us say together the Prayer for Transition (*Composed by Lois Sauer, Licensed Lay Preacher*)

People **Ever-present and Holy God, as you continue to invite new people into St. John's, we ask your ongoing guidance and blessing upon us, that we may always become more fully the people and congregation you would have us to be. Keep our hearts deeply grounded in your divine love, that we may grow in steadfast love and gentleness for one another. Inspire our leadership with wisdom and creativity to navigate the ongoing changes that lay before us. In this season of transition, we particularly pray for our Sr. Warden Camille, vestry, staff, search committee, our Assoc. Rector, Fr. Mawethu, our Interim Rector, Rev. Stephanie, and our eventual new rector. Fill all of us with courage, kindness, and patience as we walk the Way of Love with one another and with the broader diverse community around us. All this we ask in the name of your son Jesus, who lives and reigns in each of us every day. Amen.**

Celebrant: Merciful God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love that we may be strengthened to do your will in all that we say, think, and do, to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please be seated for

Welcome & Parish Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

If you are viewing our livestream, you may wish to prepare your financial offering for mailing at this time. Anyone may give online at www.stjohnswf.org/give OR Text "STJOHNSWF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

Offertory Anthem (9:30 AM)

God So Loved the World

Text from John 3:16/Music by Sir John Stainer

CANTATE Women's Chorale

*God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
That whoso believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world.
But that the world through Him might be saved.*

All stand in body or spirit for

The Doxology

(7:45 am—spoken)

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

(9:30 am—sung—Hymn 380 vs. 3)

**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

p 361 Book of Common Prayer Eucharistic Prayer A

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.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing....who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus— Holy, holy, holy (7:45 AM spoken; 9:30 AM sung)
#858, Wonder, Love, and Praise

Setting by Annabel M. Buchanan

The harmonization of this American folk melody was created by ANNABEL MORRIS BUCHANAN (1889-1983). Known as both composer and folklorist, Buchanan collected traditional songs from southwestern Virginia, western North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee, totaling over 800. She also founded the White Top Folk Festival, promoting the music of the Appalachian Mountains.

**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, hosanna in the highest.**

The People stand or kneel in body or spirit. The Celebrant continues.

Celebrant Holy and gracious father: In your infinite love...Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption....

...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.**

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

**All 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.**

All stand in body or spirit for

The Fraction Anthem

Lamb of God

Setting by Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

#270, Lift Every Voice and Sing (7:45 AM spoken, 9:30 AM sung)

Holding the distinction of being the first African American graduate at Julliard (1948), MARJORIE LANDSMARK-DELEWIS (1920-2017) was born in Harlem and received her early musical training from her Classically trained pianist uncle. Throughout her life, Landsmark-DeLewis collaborated with the American Ballet Theatre and infamous choreographer Agnes de Mille, and served on the keyboard faculty of Sarah Lawrence College.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Communion of the People

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion or to receive a blessing (instead of the bread and wine) at the altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest to signal the clergy. If you need a gluten free wafer, please extend your hands with palms down. If you need to be served in your seat, please inform an usher. At this time, we will refrain from offering the common cup (drinking from a common chalice) and will offer the wine by intinction only (dipping the communion wafer in the cup of wine.) If you wish to receive the wine, please hold the wafer in your fingers as the chalice bearer comes to you and take care to dip only the wafer into the wine (and not your fingers.) If you are not comfortable receiving the wine this way, please know that receiving only the consecrated bread at Holy Communion (or the wine only) is still considered full Communion.

Communion Hymn (9:30 AM)
#439, The Hymnal 1982

What wondrous love is this

Words: American folk hymn
Music: Wondrous Love

- 1 What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this,
O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to lay aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown
for my soul.
- 2 To God and to the Lamb,
I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb,
I will sing.

- To God and to the Lamb
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme
I will sing.
- 3 And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free
I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

All stand in body or spirit for

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant 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.

The Celebrant prays a Solemn Prayer over the People.

Keep this your household, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(9:30 AM)

All children and youth here today are invited to join the clergy at the church door during the following hymn. Our youth will help send us out with the words of Dismissal.

**The Dismissal Hymn (9:30 AM)
#636, The Hymnal 1982**

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord

Words: K. in John Rippon's
Selection, 1787, alt.

Music: Foundation, melody from The Sacred Harp, 1844

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?</p> <p>2 “Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to
stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.</p> <p>3 “When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.</p> | <p>4 “When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.</p> <p>5 “The soul that to Jesus hath fled for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”</p> |
|--|---|

The Dismissal

Youth Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Sonata II

Composed by Elisabetta De Gambarini

A woman with multiple musical talents—composer, singer, organist, harpsichordist, pianist, orchestral conductor, painter—ELISABETTA DE GAMBARINI (1731-1765) was an active member of the Eighteenth-Century English Arts community. Gambarini was the first female composer to publish a collection of keyboard music in Britain.

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