The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024 8:45 & 11:00am



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

Est. 1836 | Flat Rock, North Carolina

Mission Statement

To know and love God as He is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, to bring others to His saving love, and to serve the world in his name.

Welcome to St. John in the Wilderness

We welcome you warmly to St. John in the Wilderness and invite you to share in our songs, prayers, and eucharistic feast. If you do not have a church family at this time, then we invite you to join in this fellowship of faith as we share life together as the Body of Christ. While we are broken and incomplete in many ways, we find God making us whole through this parish community. Fill out a card in your pew and put it in the offering plate or talk to an usher, greeter, or member of the clergy to learn more about St. John. It is wonderful to be with you today!

Reminders for Worship

- Children of all ages are most welcome in our worship services. If parents prefer, nursery care is available for young children in the Parish House across Rutledge Drive.
- Formation for children and adults is held across the street during the 10:00 hour.
- You will find hand sanitizer in the pews and with the ushers. Please use it after the Peace and before receiving Communion.
- Please participate in the service by singing and praying with us. At the time of the Peace, please take a few moments to leave your pew and greet others in the name of our Lord.

Prayer List: Just a reminder that the Sunday prayer list will be updated at the end of the quarter. On Sunday, October 6, the list will be comprised of only the names submitted or updated in September.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: Psalm 95

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Adriaan Kousemaker (1909-1984)

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Welcome and Announcements

ENTRANCE HYMN: No. 1 Father, we praise thee, now the night is over Christe sanctorum



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THE WORD OF GOD

Acclamation & Response

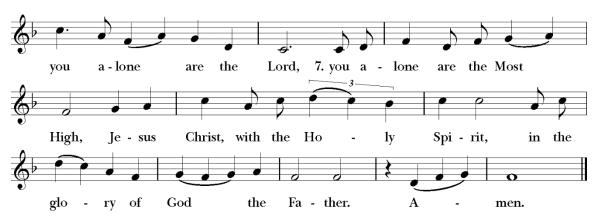
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant may say

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.**





The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

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.**

First Lesson: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favour is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

People

Psalm 125 Qui confidunt

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

1 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, * which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

2 The hills stand about Jerusalem; * so does the LORD stand round about his people, from this time forth for evermore.

- 3 The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, * so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.
- 4 Show your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good * and to those who are true of heart.
- 5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the LORD will lead them away with the evildoers; * but peace be upon Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Lesson: James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

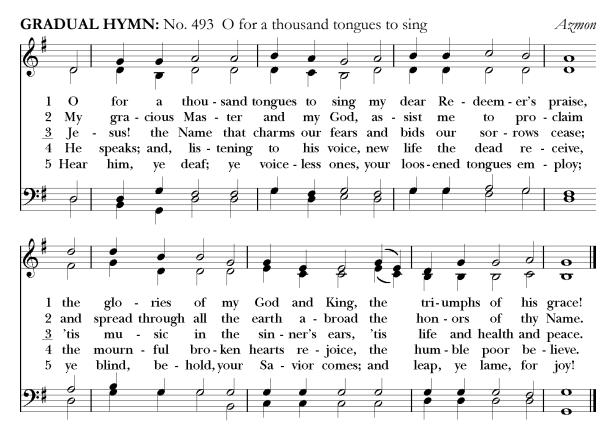
You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

As the music begins, all stand and reorient themselves to the Gospel of our Lord as it is processed into the congregation.



6 Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

The Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Josh Stephens

After the sermon, there is a brief moment of silence. When the Celebrant rises, the congregation stands.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

We thank you for all the blessings of this life: for the love you have shared with us in your Son Jesus Christ, for our families, friends, and neighbors, for the gift of this parish family, and for all the abundance we know.

Leader Lord, in your goodness

People Hear our prayer.

For the Holy Church of God across time and space, that your grace may increase among us as we seek to share Christ with each other and the world.

Leader Lord, in your goodness

People Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who minister in your Church, especially our diocesan bishop, José McLoughlin. And be with all lay and ordained people as they do your work in the world.

Leader Lord, in your goodness

People Hear our prayer.

We pray for our local community, and for the beautiful Creation that surrounds us.

Leader Lord, in your goodness

People Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially for Joseph, our President, and Roy, our Governor. We pray for congress and the courts and for our state and local officials.

Leader Lord, in your goodness

People Hear our prayer.

We pray for the people of this land. Grow in us a capacity for gratitude and patience, that we may encounter one another with open hearts and work together for the common good.

Leader Lord, in your goodness

People Hear our prayer.

We pray for our enemies. Reconcile us to nations and individuals who wish us ill and forgive us for the hurts we cause and the divisions we kindle.

Leader Lord, in your goodness

People Hear our prayer.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble. We pray for all who are struggling to get by and we ask that you bring healing and hope to those on our parish prayer list; for Dottie, Loretta, Betsy, Margaret, John, Charles, Hal, Chuck, Craig, Anne, Mary, Harriet, Lynne, Mason, Stephen, Tawana, Jack, Joyce, Judy, Herb and Ginger, Bobby, Robin, Leslie, Patty, Laurie, Glenn, Barbara, Dick, Ria, Emma, Katherine, Melissa, Joe, Mary Ellen, Bob, and Ann. Are there others?

The people may add their own petitions silently or aloud.

Leader Lord, in your goodness

People Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died, especially Gene Banks,

The people may add their own petitions silently or aloud.

that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Leader Lord, in your goodness

People Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant offers a concluding Collect.

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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 Bishop, when present, or the Priest, 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.**

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

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

A Prayer for Those Celebrating Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries in August

BCP, p. 830 Prayer 50

O God, our times are in your hands. Look with favor, we pray on your servants who are celebrating birthdays or wedding anniversaries this month. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant then shares an offertory sentence.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

The ushers pass the offering plates and present the gifts of the congregation at the Lord's table. Online gifts may be made using the QR code to the right.



OFFERTORY MUSIC: 8:45 Praise the Lord

Adriaan Kousemaker

11:00 Sing a New Song to the Lord

David Music

Sing a new song to the Lord, he to whom wonders belong; Rejoice in his triumph and tell of his pow'r, O sing to the Lord a new song.

Now to the ends of the earth see his salvation is shown; and still he remembers his mercy and truth, unchanging in love to his own.

Sing a new song and rejoice, publish his praises abroad; let voices in chorus, with trumpet and horn, resound for the joy of the Lord!

Join with the hills and the sea thunders of praise to prolong; in judgment and justice he comes to the earth,

O sing to the Lord a new song!

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Old 100th

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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.

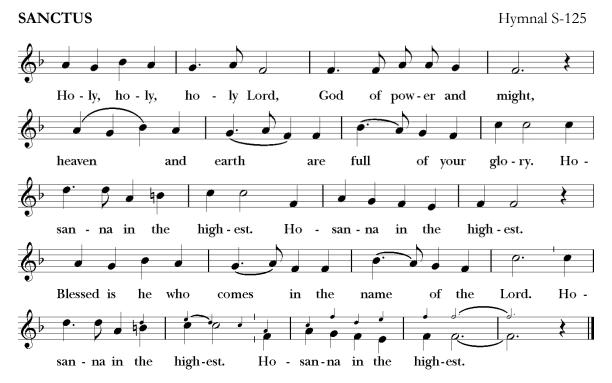
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:



The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

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

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

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

Celebrant and People

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

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

The Celebrant continues

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Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

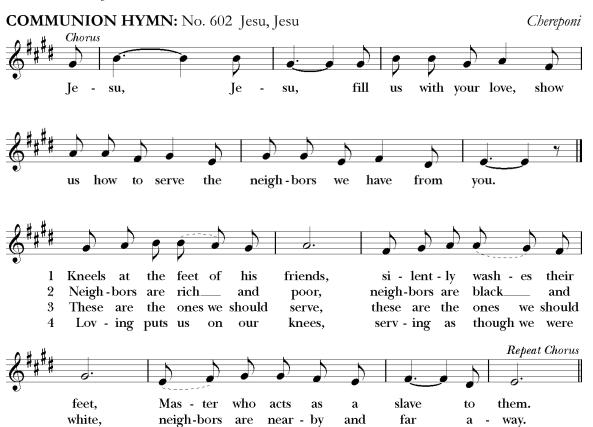
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ushers immediately begin releasing the congregation to share in the Eucharistic feast. A gluten-free option is available upon request. For further instructions about Holy Communion, see the note to our visitors on the back inside cover of the bulletin.



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Sending Out of Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant With whom will you share this communion?

Eucharistic Visitors respond with the names of those to whom they will go.

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts

that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's

body and blood.

People We who are many are one body, because we share one bread and one cup.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

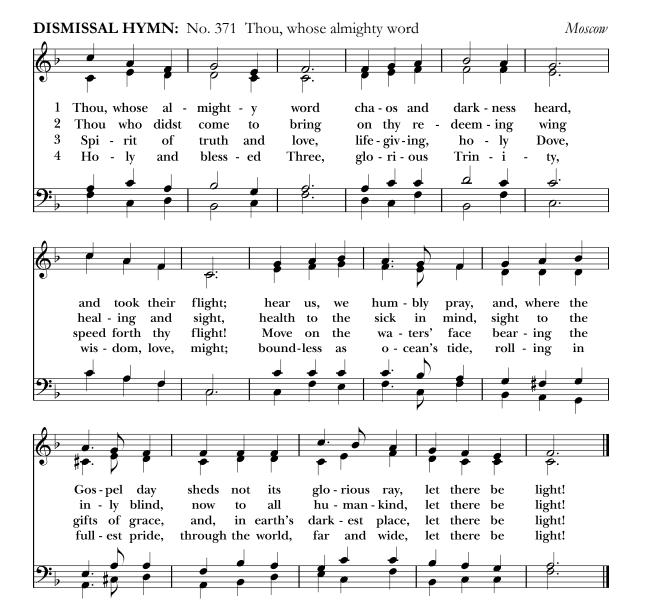
Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel for the Post-Communion Prayer.

Celebrant and 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.

The Blessing



The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Fugue in D

The Prayers of the People is that part of our liturgy which offers intercessions and thanksgivings to God. Worshippers, wherever they are in the church, are encouraged to offer aloud or silently their own such prayers during the appropriate part of the Prayers of the People. As we pray, please remember those who are ill or with other needs: Dottie Dalzell, Loretta Orentas, Betsy Thagard, Margaret Barker, John Flowers, Charles Cornwell, Hal Reid, Chuck King, Craig Whitham, Anne Vogler, Mary McCarty, Harriet Huiet, Lynne Bruno, Mason Richmond, Stephen Bruno, Tawana Gibbs, Jack Reeves, Joyce Beschta, Judy Oldenburg, Herb and Ginger Quarles, Bobby, Robin, Leslie Gagnon, Patty Vint, Laurie Staples, Glenn Layfield, Barbara Kovaz, Dick Zecher, Ria and Emma Gulbrandsen, Katherine Baker, Melissa, Joe and Mary Ellen Morison, Bob Sundeen, and Ann Kanipe.

Eucharistic Visitors share the Body and Blood of Christ with those who receive care from our Visitor Ministry. We thank God for the ministry of Clint Adams, Stephen Askew, Patricia Tanzer Askew, E.R. Haire, Art Mack, Bill Taylor, and Dick Zecher.

The Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Col. & Mrs. W. Fix, by Gibson Sims; those who died on September 11, 2001, by BJ McKee; and Michael Franz, by the Franz family.

To Our Visitors: We welcome you with all our hearts! You are also invited to come forward at the time of Communion to receive the Sacrament or a blessing. All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive Communion, including infants and children. To receive Communion, simply come forward to kneel at the altar if you are able. Put one hand in the palm of the other and the Celebrant will share the Body of Christ with you. You may then intinct or drink from the Chalice. If you are not baptized, please come forward and kneel at the altar while crossing your arms over your chest to receive a special blessing, and we invite you to talk to the priest at any time about entering discernment for being baptized. Won't you join with Christ and his Church on this journey of faith?

If you do not have a church home at this time, then we hope you will make St. John in the Wilderness your church family. We find that through sharing life together as the Body of Christ, we are made whole and renewed daily. Talk to an usher or member of the clergy about joining this parish, or you are welcome to simply fill out a card in your pew and put it in the offering plate. We welcome you!

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 8		Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 15	
	8:45am	11:00am	8:45am	11:00am
Lay Readers	Sandra Jeffery	Candace Lewis	Ann Stringfield	Stan Rogan
Acolytes	Mary Shelton	Anita Reid	Susan Rex	Elaine Howe
				Nora Williams
Ushers	Jerry Holt	D. Christenbury	Clint Adams	John Knapp
	George Grzenda	Karen Conley	Stu Holcombe	Bettie Orr
Greeters	Lynne Miller	Becky & Scott	Brenda Hillyer	Carmen & Ned
	Cathryn Harrell	Petersen	Lynne Miller	Curtis
Cart Drivers	Marlin Sanders	Tom Savage	Kathryn Whitten	Scott Bell
Videography	Jennifer Shelton	N/A	E. Wiescholek	N/A
Altar Guild	Candace Lewis	Laurie Morris	BJ McKee	Becky Petersen
	Kathy Newbold	Lynn Redmond	Cathryn Harrell	Lucie Earhart
	Gibson Sims (Brass)	(Sat.)	Sally Hopper (Sat./Brass)	
Refreshment Time	N/A – Parish Breakfast		LaVerne & Bill Hiatt	Fitzpatrick Family
Flower Guild	Flowers by Larry		Galen Reuther & Claudia Northrup	
Opening Gatekeeper	Jill & Mark Owen		Jill & Mark Owen	
Closing Gatekeeper	Jon Fitzpatrick		Jon Fitzpatrick	



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

PO Box 185, 1905 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock, NC 28731

828-693-9783 | www.stjohnflatrock.org

In the case of a pastoral emergency, call the Parish Office and dial 5.

Worship Services: 8:45 & 11:00am | Office Hours: 9:00am-4:00pm M-F

Sunday School for Adults, Youth, and Children: 10:00am

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service: Wednesdays 10:30am in the Wilderness Room

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Josh Stephens, Rector: rector@stjohnflatrock.org
The Rev. Ian Williams, Curate: ian@stjohnflatrock.org

The Rev. Deacon Sandy Rex, Deacon: cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com

Mims Yeargin, Director of Parish Communication & Administration: officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

Stacy Knapp, Parish Financial Assistant: finance@stjohnflatrock.org

Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Jerry Tanner

By Laws, Canons & Insurance: Jim Olson

Christian Formation:

Communications & Publicity: Joey Popp

Finance: Gary German

Historic Churchyard Committee: Sandy Rex

New Member Ministry: Brenda Hillyer, Judy Petersen

Outreach: Jennifer Shelton Personnel: Margaret Barker Stewardship: Jerry Holt

Senior Warden: Jerry Holt Junior Warden: Will Rodriguez

VESTRY MEMBERS

2024

E.R. Haire, Jr. Marisa Pharr Kim Sanders

Clint Adams

2025

Laura Teel Patrice German

2026

Jim Gibbs Jill Owen Jon Fitzpatrick Sandy Skelton

PARISH OFFICERS

Margaret Barker, Clerk of the Vestry Tom Griswold, Treasurer

OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Acolytes: Betsy Tibbs

Altar Guild: Cathryn Harrell, Laurie Morris

Chefs of St. John: Jim Vint

Churchyard Trustees: Pete Petersen Docents: Polly Morrice & Scott Bell Endowment Trustees: Ned Curtis

Episcopal Church Women: Carmen Curtis, Elizabeth Christenbury

Flower Guild: Patrice German Flower Memorials: Gaston Motes

Funeral Reception Ministry: Brenda Hillyer

Gatekeepers: Dick Zecher Golf Cart Ministry: Jill Owen

Good News Gardeners: Kathryn Whitten, Luann Ham

Greeters: Betsy Tibbs

Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee: John Barker

Holy Hikes-WNC: Cynthia Easterling

Lay Readers: Mark Delk
Meal Ministry: Janelle Walker
Needle Work Ministry: Judy Petersen
Newsletter Editor: Mims Yeargin
Sustainability: Elizabeth Christenbury
Ushers: Clint Adams, Bettie Orr

Visitor Ministry: The Revs. Patricia Tanzer Askew and Stephen Askew

Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe