

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | Walpole, NH
All are welcome – no exceptions – to worship, love, serve & grow.

A MORNING SERVICE OF WORD & PRAYER
with Administration of Holy Communion
Sunday, October 25, 2026 | Proper 25

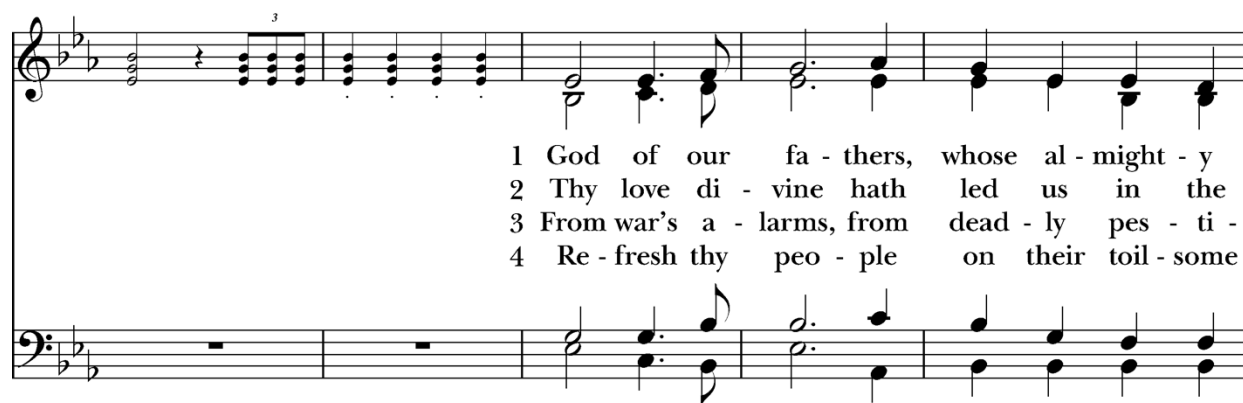
PRELUDE *Nocturne op.27 #1 by F.Chopin*

Vladimir Odinokikh

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING WORDS

Celebrant: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*



1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some



hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 past, in this free land by thee our lot is cast;
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
 way, lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;



of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 be thou our ru - ler, guard - ian, guide, and stay
 thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease,
 fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,



our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 thy bount - eous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

CONFESSION

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

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

JUBILATE

Psalm 100

The Celebrant and People say in unison.

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and
charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you
command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

People may be seated while the Lector reads.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy:

¹Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain – that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees – as far as Zoar. ⁴The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” ⁵Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. ⁶He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 90:1-6,13-17

Lector and people read responsively by whole verse.

¹LORD, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**

from age to age you are God.

³You turn us back to the dust and say, "Go back, O child of earth."

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night.**

⁵You sweep us away like a dream; we fade away suddenly like the grass.

⁶**In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

¹³Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? be gracious to your servants.

¹⁴**Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

¹⁵Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

¹⁶**Show your servants your works and your splendor to their children.**

¹⁷May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

People may remain seated while the LEM reads.

A reading from the Paul's letter to the church in Thessalonica:

¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

LEM: The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
2 What God's al-might - y power hath made, his gra - cious mer - cy
3 Let all who name Christ's ho - ly Name give God all praise and



a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his watch - ful
glo - ry; let all who know his power pro - claim a - loud the



our sal - va - tion; with heal - ing balm my soul he fills, and
eye ne'er sleep - eth. With - in the king - dom of his might, lo!
won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, the



ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stills: to God all praise and glo - ry.
All is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry.
Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-46

People stand to hear the gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People **Thanks be to God.**

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." ⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²"What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

THE HOMILY

Rev. David Gilliam

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE MAGNIFICAT

After a time of reflection, all stand as you are able.

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith in the words of Mary:

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.
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***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The LEM and the People pray responsively. All remain standing as you are able.

O Lord, who is our refuge from age to age, hear our prayers.

For those preparing for Holy Baptism; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Rob our bishop, for our parish clergy; for this holy gathering and for the people of God in every place.

O God, hear us.

For Donald our President, Kelly our Governor, and our elected town officials; for our courts and legislatures; for mercy, justice, and peace among all peoples.

O God, hear us.

For good weather, abundant fruits of the earth, and peaceful times.

O God, hear us.

For our communities and our neighbors near and far; for our families, companions, and all those we love.

O God, hear us.

For orphans and widows, the sick and the suffering, for travelers, strangers, and all with heavy burdens.

O God, hear us.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, especially these members and friends of our parish: Al & Patti Sparks, Andrew Wilking, Beth & Josh, Betty Williams, Bob Lindberg, Danielle & Jake Horihan and their families, Erik Lindberg, Heydi Manchame, Janice Sykes, Jeanne Phillips, Karen (Kathie Clark's sister), Kathy DePasquale, Luke Styer, Niomi Stanley, Pam Stevens, Peggy Pschirrer, Rebecca Cooper, Rick Zurmuhlen (Kristi's and Karlie's father), and Sara Crosby.

O God, hear us.

For those who rest in Christ and for all the dead, we pray.

O God, hear us.

Let us pray for our own needs and for those of others, silently or aloud.

Silence

O God, hear us.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Almighty God, whose gifts of blessing and grace have no end, write in our hearts your joy and zeal to tell the story of our faith by our words, by our deeds, and by offering all that you have given us: our lives, our gifts, our resources. Grant us also a portion of your never-ending generosity, that we may proclaim your love and mercy to the world around us through our parish community; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant 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, forever and ever. Amen.

THE PEACE

All stand. People may greet one another from their seats.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Therefore, let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to God.

1 O for a clos - er walk with God, a calm and heaven-ly frame,
2 Where is the bless - ed - ness I knew when first I saw the Lord?
3 Re - turn, O ho - ly Dove, re - turn, sweet mes - sen - ger of rest;
4 The dear - est i - dol I have known, what - e'er that i - dol be,
5 So shall my walk be close with God, calm and se - rene my frame;

1 a light to shine up - on the road that leads me to the Lamb!
2 Where is the soul - re - fresh - ing view of Je - sus and his word?
3 I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.
4 help me to tear it from thy throne, and wor - ship on - ly thee.
5 so pur - er light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass, in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are printed below the staves, with line numbers 1 through 5 indicating the verses. The first system covers the first five lines of the first verse, and the second system covers the first five lines of the second verse. The music ends with a double bar line.

DOXOLOGY*All stand.***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.**

SOLEMN DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION (from the reserved sacrament)

All **In the beginning, the Holy Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being. Through Mary, the blessed Mother, the Word was made flesh in the body and blood of Jesus. Out of the Earth, Christ is born again and dwells among us.**

Celebrant **O God, Creator of time and space, your Spirit abides with us and with all creation. We thank you for these gifts of the land and for these, our bodies, which we offer in your service. We thank you for this holy food we are about to receive, a miracle of new and unending life in you.**

All **Gathered here today in your presence, may our hearts and souls be set on fire. May we bound to this good Earth in love, and to all your creatures from every people and tribe and faith and language and nation and species. May we be transformed by the same self-giving love that has transformed this bread. May we, taking into our humble bodies this holy food, become the love that creates all things, bears all things, renews all things. In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you wish a blessing, instead of the bread or wine, cross your arms over your chest.

Gluten free wafers are available; let the priest know at the altar that you'd like one.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Vladimir Odnokikh

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

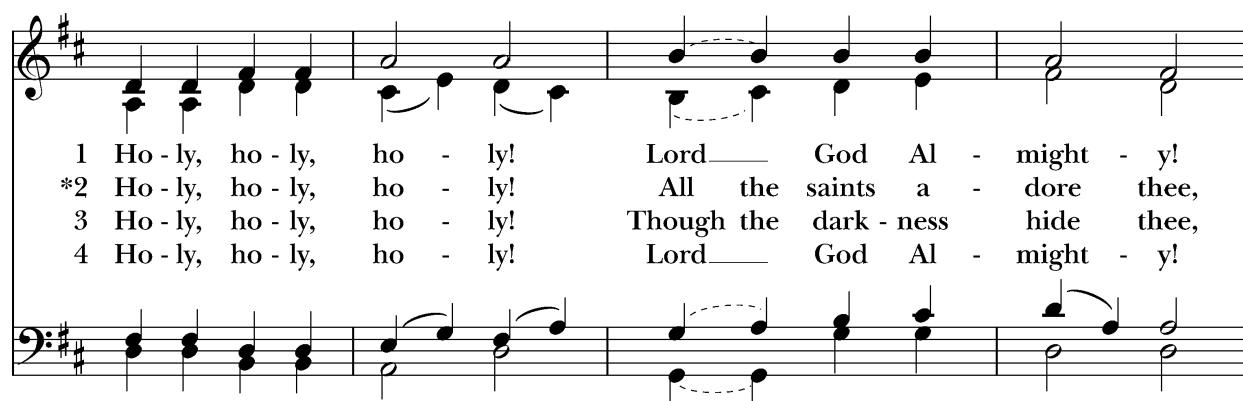
People stand as you are able.

Let us pray. (Celebrant and People say in unison)

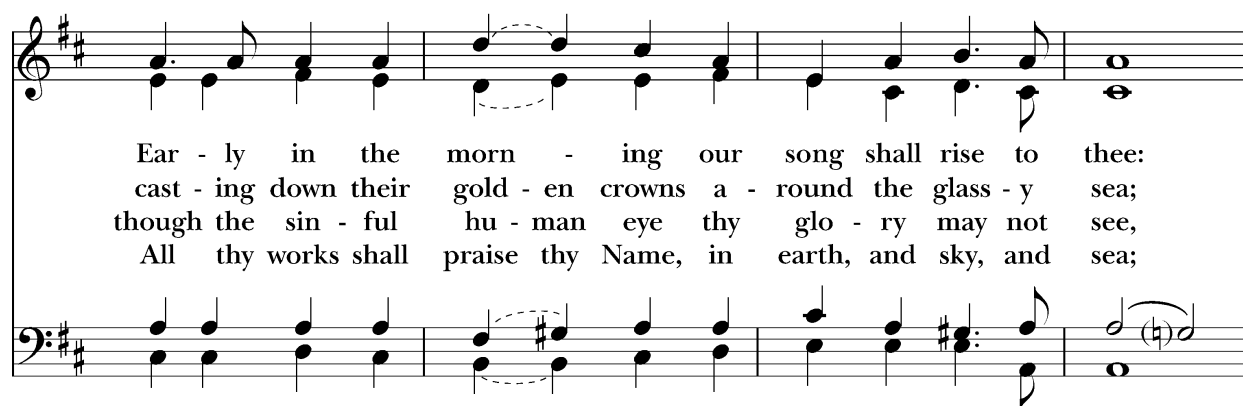
**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

Celebrant: The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*



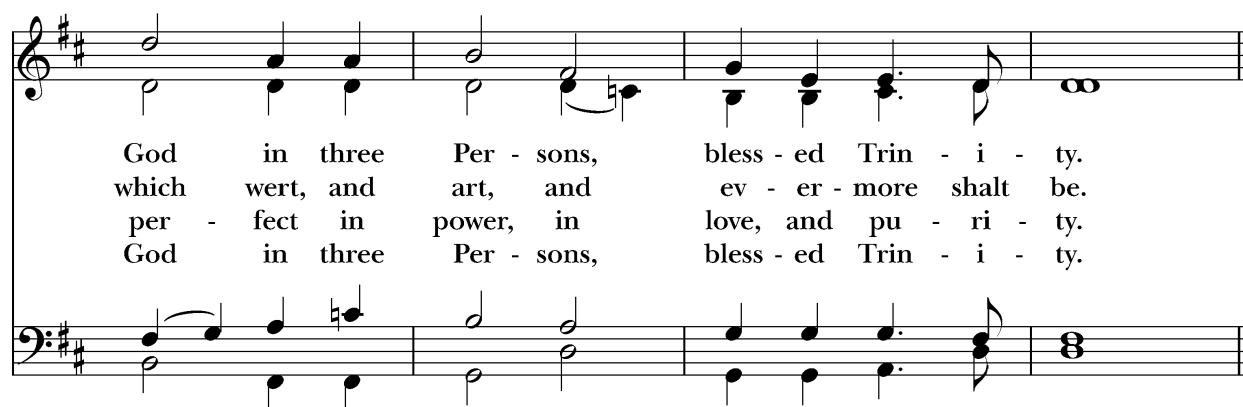
1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 *2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee:
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the sin - ful hu - man eye thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,



God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.
 which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Finale from Concerto #15 by Mozart*

Vladimir Odnokikh

+++

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PARISH INFORMATION

Working Together at St. John's

	<i>This Sunday</i>	<i>Next Sunday</i>
<i>Celebrant:</i>	The Rev. David Gilliam	The Rev. David Gilliam
<i>Rector:</i>	The Rev. Frederick Chisolm	The Rev. Frederick Chisolm
<i>Deacon</i>	The Rev. Deacon Bill Clark The Rev. David Gilliam	The Rev. Deacon Bill Clark The Rev. David Gilliam
<i>Organist:</i>	Vladimir Odnokikh	Vladimir Odnokikh
<i>Acolyte:</i>	Conor O'Donnell	Conor O'Donnell
<i>Lector(s)</i>	Maryann Lindberg	Al Sparks
<i>LEM</i>	Sarah Downing	Alison Chisolm
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Mary Schoppmeyer	
<i>Flowers</i>	Missy Wilkins	Patti Sparks
<i>Ushers</i>	Joe Cuoco & Richard Henderson	Mairin Keleher & Josh Beer
<i>Hospitality</i>	Al and Patti Sparks	Kristy Street & Karlie Zermuhlen
<i>Counters</i>	Linda O'Connell & Karen Proctor	Alison Brule & Patti Sparks

Bring Your Best Friend for a Blessing

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 25 | 3-4 p.m. | Walpole Common, in front of the Gazebo |

Fr. Fred Chisolm of St. John's and Pastor Melissa O'Brien of First Congregational Church will lead the annual Blessing of the Animals. All species are welcome. If your animal companion doesn't play well with others, feel free to bring a photo instead. An offering will be received, with donations going to Heifer International.

Help Us Make St. John's Glow

Join us for **pumpkin carving** at the church on **Wednesday, October 28, at 6:30 p.m.** Bring your own pumpkin and carving tools, and help us get St. John's ready for Halloween.

Then, on **Saturday, October 31**, help us **hand out candy at Walpole's annual Halloween celebration.**

Festivities begin at dusk, and Taylor Royle will be our "head witch." If you would like to help at the St. John's booth, contact Taylor and Martin at taylorroyle@gmail.com.

A Joyful Milestone to Celebrate Together

Celebratory Luncheon

Sunday, November 8 | After Church | Parish Hall

Bob and Maryann Lindberg warmly invite the St. John's family to gather for lunch and celebrate a joyful milestone: Bob's two-year graduation from the transplant program. They are deeply grateful for the prayers, encouragement, and support they have received along the way, and would love the chance to celebrate and say thank you in person.

A sign-up will be shared closer to the date so they know how many people to expect. For now, please save the date and plan to join us. And no need to bring a dish — Bob and Maryann are providing the whole feast.

With Gratitude and Good Wishes: Celebrating the Rev. David Gilliam

With hearts full of gratitude and joy for his next chapter, we prepare to bid farewell to the Rev. David Gilliam, who has been called to serve as Associate Priest for Children, Youth & Families at the Cathedral of All Souls Episcopal Church in Asheville, North Carolina.

St. John's is honored to serve as David's sponsoring parish, and we are deeply grateful for the eight months he has shared his ministry with us. We have been blessed by his presence, his gifts, and his care for our parish community. We are also grateful to his wife, Katie, whose warmth, kindness, and engaging spirit have been such a welcome addition to our parish life.

David's last Sunday with us will be November 15. Please join us for worship and a **special coffee hour in his honor** as we celebrate his ministry among us, thank David and Katie for the gifts they have shared, and send them on their way with our love, prayers, and very best wishes.

We rejoice with David and Katie as they begin this new chapter and wish them every blessing on the journey ahead.

Giving Thanks for the Gifts Among Us

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
— 1 Peter 4:10, NRSV

One of the blessings of life at St. John's is the many ways members of our parish offer their time, talents, care, and generosity in service to our church and our wider community. With grateful hearts, we give thanks for these gifts among us:

- ♥ **To Patti Sparks**, for her many years of faithful service leading the Altar Guild and ensuring that our altar was lovingly prepared for worship.
- ♥ **To Bob Lindberg**, for sharing his skill and craftsmanship in constructing and installing the new railing on the steps to the altar.
- ♥ **To Kit Bowry**, for picking up a paintbrush and beginning the work of painting the north wall of the sanctuary.
- ♥ **To Al Sparks and Taylor Royle**, for representing St. John's at the October 3 Welcoming Newcomers to Walpole event and extending our parish's welcome into the community.
- ♥ **To Alison Brule**, for coordinating the hospitality for the Charlie Montgomery memorial service and helping St. John's offer a warm welcome to Charlie's family and the many people who came to remember him.
- ♥ **To our anonymous donors**, whose generosity provided gardening services for our fall flower-bed cleanup and helped care for the grounds that welcome us and our neighbors to St. John's.

We are grateful for each of these offerings and for the many other acts of service, large and small, that sustain the life of St. John's. Together, these gifts are an expression of our care for one another, our church, and our community.

Many Hands Make Light Work

There are lots of ways to lend a hand at St. John's and in our wider community this fall. Whether you have an hour to give, something to bake, or would like to become part of one of our parish ministries, we'd be glad to have you.

Holiday Fair Helpers Needed

Our **Holiday Fair is Saturday, November 21**, and there are several ways to be part of the fun.

- First, **we need plenty of goodies to sell**. Cookies, jams, jellies, preserves, and other homemade treats are all welcome — and we need lots of them.
- You can also join us for a **cookie-decorating** evening in the Parish Hall on **Thursday, November 19, at 6:30 p.m.** Everyone is welcome, and no decorating experience is required.
- And on Fair Day itself, **we'll need volunteers to staff shifts throughout the event**. If you can give us a little time on Saturday, November 21, we'd be grateful for the help.

Join the Altar Guild

The Altar Guild has openings for new members. The guild prepares the altar for Sunday worship, with members serving on a rotating schedule, so you'll take a Sunday every so often rather than every week.

Mary Schoppmeyer is now leading the Altar Guild. If you're curious about what's involved or would like to join, please let Mary know.

Friendly Meals Needs Drivers

The Friendly Meals Program of the Fall Mountain Food Shelf is looking for volunteers to deliver meals in Charlestown on **Tuesdays and/or Thursdays**.

Meals are picked up in Alstead and delivered in the late morning. A route takes approximately one hour. If you might be able to help, please see **Betsy McGuire or Marilyn Wilking**.

Grab a Red Bag and Fill It Up

Fall Mountain Food Shelf Collection

Pick up one of St. John's red shopping bags, fill it with a few pantry staples, and help stock the shelves for our neighbors in need. This month, the Food Shelf is especially looking for **canned tuna and chicken, pasta, rice, mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, salt, pepper, and sugar**. Every bag helps. Betsy McGuire is our Fall Mountain Food Shelf Coordinator and can answer any questions.

Sara Would Love a Visit

Sara Crosby is currently at Pine Heights, a rehabilitation center located at 187 Oak Grove Avenue in Brattleboro. She would be very glad to receive visits from members of the parish. Please call or text Sara at 802-591-0721 ahead of time to arrange a convenient time to visit.

A Conversation We All Need to Have

Death, Dying and Dunkin' Donuts

Saturday, November 14 | 10a | First Congregational Church

Pastor Melissa O'Brien, Interim Pastor at First Congregational Church, will lead a thoughtful and practical workshop about end-of-life concerns. Drawing on her experience as both a hospital and hospice chaplain, Melissa will help participants explore some of the questions and decisions that come with aging, serious illness, death, and dying.

Our Rector: The Rev. Fred Chisolm can be reached at (802) 649-6495 (cell) or via email at rector@StJohnsWalpole.org.

St. John's Vestry 2026: Marilyn Wilking (Senior Warden), Drew Street (Junior Warden), Lisa Cuoco (Treasurer), Alison Brule (Clerk), Josh Beer, Mairin Keleher, John Proctor. Both wardens may be reached at info@StJohnsWalpole.org