



St. John's Episcopal Church
An Episcopal Congregation since 1847

Lent Two
March 1, 2026
Holy Eucharist Rite I

St. John's Mission Statement:

St. John's Episcopal Church strives to teach God's word and do God's work to improve the spiritual and physical well-being of its congregation and the surrounding community.

Hymnal Number

Prayer Book Page

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PROCESSION

GATHERING SONG

BE STILL FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

PLEASE SEE INSERT

PENITENTIAL ORDER

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DECALOGUE WITH SUNG RESPONSES

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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THE WORD OF GOD

s-89 SONG OF PRAISE

KYRIE

PAGE 323

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.*

The people sit.

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST READING: 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.

PSALM 121

Please read alternating by half verse, broken at the asterisk

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 EPISTLE: 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.

The people stand

691 SEQUENCE HYMN

MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

THE GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

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?”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!
CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S SERVICES.**

- Don't forget to join us each week for coffee hour immediately following the service.
- Children are invited to join us for Children's chapel each Sunday if they wish. Parents are welcome to accompany them. Children will be invited to attend following the collect and will return before communion.
- **Lenten Program:** St. John's is hosting a Lenten program each Wednesday in Lent at 6 PM, through March 25th. We will begin with a simple supper followed by a study of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and conclude with Compline at 7:15. Paul's instructions to the church in Corinth speak to what it is to be "the Church" to this day. Everyone is welcome!
- **There will be a Funeral for Ralph Sites on Saturday, March 7th at 2 p.m.** A reception will follow the service. *If you can offer food or help with hospitality, please call Marsha East at 919-247-8300 or Cathey Burks at 540-330-9326*
- **Adult Forum on March 8th** Will be led by Nancy Hill who will present and lead a discussion on the Jewish festival of *Passover.*
- **The Warming Shelter Steering Committee has arranged for AED Training** by Bedford County Fire and Rescue in St. John's parish hall on March 10th at 2 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend and learn about proper use of AED machines.
- **If you would like to give greenery for the altar the cost is \$40.00.** A flower chart is in the parish hall entrance. Simply sign up for any Sunday you would like to give flowers.

✠ LAY MINISTERS OF THE DAY – 10:00 AM ✠

CHALICISTS: TIM BROOKE AND KATE BROWN

LAY READER: SHANNON MCGUIRK

USHERS: GORDON EUBANK AND SHANNON MCGUIRK

ACOLYTE: JEFF EAST, CHARLIE MCNEELY, CONNOR WANDREI

ALTAR GUILD: PAT AND MIKE RIELEY, CHANDRA SCHMEHL, BONNIE AND CRAIG MCCRACKIN

SOUND/AV: TBD

COFFEE HOUR HOST: MARSHA EAST

OBLATION BEARERS: TBD

VESTRY PERSON OF THE MONTH: RHETTA WATKINS

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*The Rev. F. Wilson Brown- Rector
Jennifer Horne- Parish Administrator
Mary Anne Eubank-Organist
Tracey Goff-Sexton*

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ST. JOHN'S VESTRY

*MARSHA EAST-SENIOR WARDEN
CHRISTOPHER EY- JUNIOR WARDEN
KATE BURKS MCNEELY- CLERK
BETSY THOMAS
RHETTA WATKINS
SHANNON MCGUIRK
MARTHA NOWLIN
PHILIP BAKER
CRAIG MCCRACKIN*