

The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

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. See the note to our visitors on the back inside cover for more information about receiving Communion and joining the church.

Reminders for Worship

- Children of all ages are most welcome in worship, and during the service they may enjoy the activity bags, which are in the Tower Entrance. Nursery care is available for children from infancy to pre-K across Rutledge Drive in our Parish House Education Building from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Please use the crosswalk to get there!
- Formation is available for children, youth, and adults most Sundays from 10:10 to 10:45am in our Parish House complex across Rutledge Drive.
- 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.
- A restroom is available near the front of the church and can be accessed through an exterior door. Please see an usher for directions.
- You will find hand sanitizer in the pews and with the ushers. Please use it after the Peace and before receiving Communion.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: My Lord, What a Morning

arr. Richard Billingham

Welcome and Announcements

ENTRANCE HYMN: No. 371 Thou, whose almighty word

Moscow

THE WORD OF GOD

Acclamation & Response

BCP, p. 355

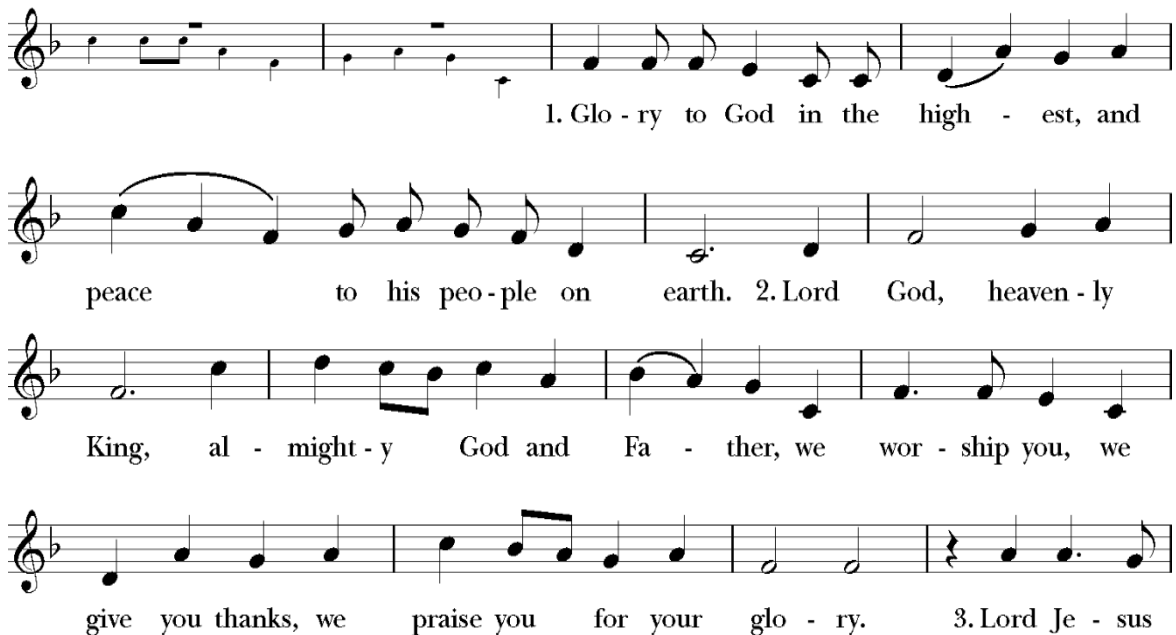
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

Hymnal S-280



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Malachi 4:1-2a

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse at the 8:45 service. At the 11:00 service, the congregation chants the Psalm in unison.

Psalm 98

Cantate Domino



Chant setting, #415 from The Hymnal 1982, Service Music

Music: Jerome Webster Meachen (1930). Copyright © 1956 Jerome Webster Meachen.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new SONG, *
for he has done marvelous THINGS.
 - 2 **With his right hand and his holy ARM ***
has he won for himself the VICTORY.
 - 3 The Lord has made known his VICTORY; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the NATIONS.
 - 4 **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of ISRAEL, ***
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our GOD.
 - 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you LANDS; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and SING.
 - 6 **Sing to the Lord with the HARP, ***
with the harp and the voice of SONG.
 - 7 With trumpets and the sound of the HORN *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
 - 8 **Let the sea make a noise and all that is IN IT, ***
the lands and those who dwell thereIN.
 - 9 Let the rivers clap their HANDS, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the EARTH.
 - 10 **In righteousness shall he judge the WORLD ***
and the peoples with EQUITY.
- 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: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

GRADUAL HYMN: No. 628 Help us, O Lord, to learn

St. Ethelwald

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

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

The Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare

your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

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

BCP p. 358

**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

The Leader and People pray responsively. The Leader begins

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. Lord, in your mercy

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. Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all lay and ordained people who minister in your Church. We pray for José, our Bishop, and Sean, our Presiding Bishop. Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially for Donald, our President, and Josh, our Governor. We pray for congress and the courts and for our state and local officials. Lord, in your mercy

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. Lord, in your mercy

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. Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble [*especially* ____]. Show your loving kindness to the poor, the persecuted, the sick, the lonely, and all who suffer. Be with refugees, prisoners, and those in danger. We pray for all who are struggling to get by, including those on our parish prayer list: for Patricia, Judy, Cheryl, Patrick, Susan, Jack, Jim, Ginger, Bob, Betsy, Chuck, Cindy, Chris, Gena, Dorinda, Tawana, Carla, Jeff, Julie, Betsy, and Matthew. Are there others?

The people may add their own petitions silently or aloud.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died, [*especially*____,]

The people may add their own petitions silently or aloud.

that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant offers a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 359

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people stand or kneel.

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.

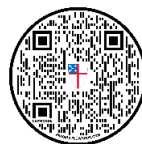
Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord. The Celebrant then shares an offertory sentence.

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 How Great Thou Art

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

11:00 All Things Work Together for Good

John Carter

Text based on Romans 8:28

All things work together for good to those who love the Lord.

To those who are called according to his purpose, all things work for good to those who love the Lord.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow *Lasst uns erfreuen*

Musical notation for the Offertory Response, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures here be -
low; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly
host; Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP p. 361

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or 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

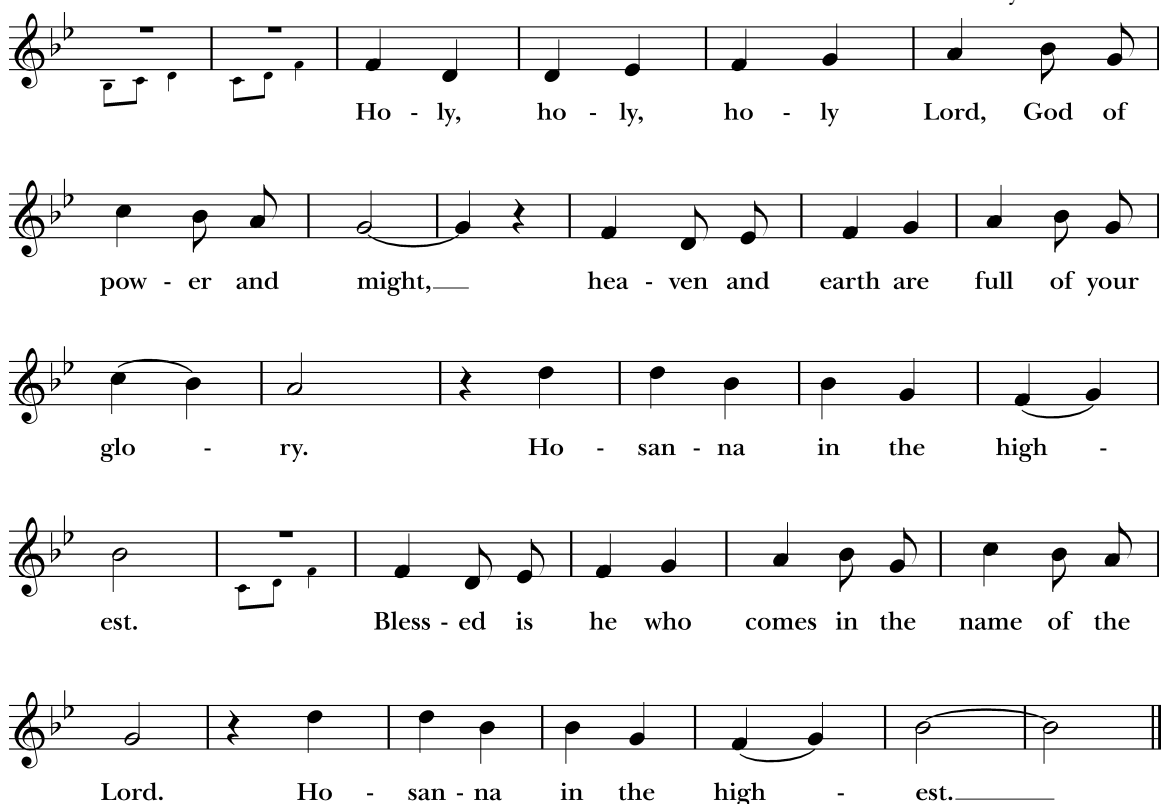
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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.

SANCTUS

Hymnal S-127



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, — hea - ven and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. —

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 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:

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,

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

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.

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 in the back of the bulletin.

The choir often begins by sharing a musical offering while the congregation receives the Sacrament. Following the choir's musical offering, please join in as we sing the Communion Hymn together.

COMMUNION HYMN: No. 615 “Thy kingdom come!” on bended knee *St. Flavian*

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.

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

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

DISMISSAL HYMN: No. 665 All my hope on God is founded

Michael

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Menuet Gothique from *Suite Gothique*

Léon Boëllmann

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: Patricia Haire, Judy Oldenburg, Cheryl Cohen, Patrick Necessary, Susan Rex, Jack, Jim Gibbs, Ginger Quarles, Bob Sundeen, Betsy Thagard, Chuck King, Cindy Brinkmann, Chris Smith, Gena Gross, Dorinda Burnett, Tawana Gibbs, Carla Poe, Jeff, Julie Bleimann, Betsy Darnall, and Matthew Kennedy.

The Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of R. P'On Lowndes, Elizabeth Plumb Lowndes, and Richard I. Lowndes II, *by their families.*

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, Art Mack, Judy Petersen, and Bill Taylor.

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. A gluten-free option is available upon request. 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				
	The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost November 16		The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King November 23	
	8:45am	11:00am	8:45am	11:00am
Lay Readers	Sandra Jeffery	Will Rodriguez	Danielle Pharr Judy Petersen	Mark Delk
Acolytes	Laura Teel	Beau Singletary Arlo Stephens Emily Ann Caldwell	Jasmine Pharr	Stan Rogan
Ushers	George Grzenda Stu Holcombe	John Knapp Edgar Ham	Jerry Tanner Jerry Holt	Hilton Swing Ned Curtis
Greeters	Lois Karcher Judy Petersen	Carmen & Ned Curtis	Brenda Hillyer Margaret Barker	Jann & Jim Cooper
Cart Drivers	Jill Owen	Scott Bell	Marlin Sanders	Chris Kanipe
Videography (Service)	E. Wiescholek	N/A	N/A	Tom Griswold
Videography (Formation)	Tom Griswold		N/A – Reception for Deacon Sandy	
Altar Guild	Cathryn Harrell BJ McKee	Jann Cooper Becky Petersen Jim Cooper (Brass)	Brenda Hillyer Laurie & Slava Morris (Sat./Brass)	Diane Skelton Sara Kester
Flower Guild	Galen Reuther & Claudia Northrup		Jan Tanner	
Opening Gatekeeper	David Dethero		David Dethero	
Closing Gatekeeper	Sandy Skelton		Sandy Skelton	



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

Church: 1895 Greenville Highway | Office: 1905 Greenville Highway

Mailing: PO Box 185, 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. Deacon Sandy Rex, Deacon: cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com

Ed Tompkins, Director of Music & Organist: music@stjohnflatrock.org

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

Stacy Knapp, Financial Administrator: finance@stjohnflatrock.org

Missy Izard, Director of Christian Education: missy@stjohnflatrock.org

Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

VESTRY MEMBERS

Jerry Holt, *Senior Warden*

Jim Gibbs, *Junior Warden*

2025

Kim Sanders

Patrice German

Laura Teel

2026

Jill Owen

Jon Fitzpatrick

Sandy Skelton

2027

Jim Cooper

Kitty Olson

Catherine Popp

Steve Sittnick

PARISH OFFICERS

Marlin Sanders &

Bill Williams, *Treasurers*

Kim Sanders, *Clerk*

STANDING COMMITTEES

Appointments: Carol Rector

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Jerry Tanner

By Laws, Canons & Insurance: Jim Olson

Christian Formation: Missy Izard

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: Jim and Jann Cooper

OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Acolytes: Laura Teel

Altar Guild: Cathryn Harrell, Laurie Morris

Chefs of St. John: Jim Vint

Churchyard Trustees: Pete Petersen

Docents: Polly Morrice & Scott Bell

Endowment Trustees: Mike Teel

Episcopal Church Women: Elizabeth Christenbury & Cava Sittnick

Flower Guild: Patrice German

Flower Memorials: Gaston Motes

Funeral Reception Ministry: Brenda Hillyer

Garden Guild: Jerry Tanner

Gatekeepers: BJ McKee

Golf Cart Ministry: Jill Owen

Good News Gardeners: Cathy & David Burge

Greeters: Worth Gordon & Carmen Curtis

Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee: John Barker

Holy Hikes-WNC: Cynthia Easterling

Lay Readers: Mark Delk

Meal Ministry: Catherine Popp

Needle Work Ministry: Judy Petersen

Sustainability: Elizabeth Christenbury

Ushers: Clint Adams & Bettie Orr

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

Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe