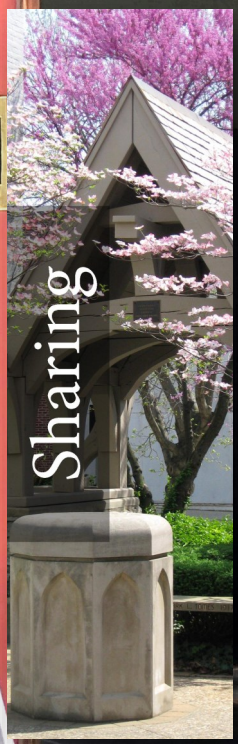
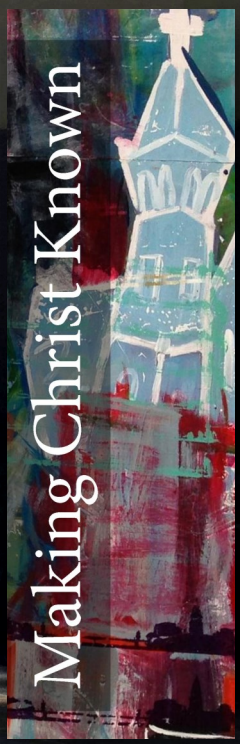
ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE





WELCOME

St. John's Episcopal Church is a community called to live out the promises of baptism: to stand in awe of the God known in Jesus Christ and through the Church's ancient witness; to continue in the Apostles' teaching and prayers and in the breaking of bread; and to resisting evil, proclaiming the Good News of God's love, loving our neighbor, and striving for justice. We are first and foremost a WORSHIPING community, committed to SHARING God's love and our lives by reaching out to our community and to MAKING CHRIST KNOWN. In the Greater Lafayette community, St. John's is known for traditional, Anglican worship and beautiful music; for a long-standing commitment to serving those in need in our community; and for a gracious theology that acknowledges the complexity of faith while welcoming everyone into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your interest in St. John's. If you have already attended worship here or have come to the church for some other reason, I hope that you found St. John's to be a place of

welcome and Christian hospitality. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to share the ministry of St. John's with you. If you are simply passing through, it is our prayer that God will go with you. If you have yet to attend worship with us, please do so. You will find holy worship and a community of people dedicated to the service of God.

If we might be of assistance in any way, please feel free to call on me or another member of the parish's clergy or staff.

In love and service,

The Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace, Rector

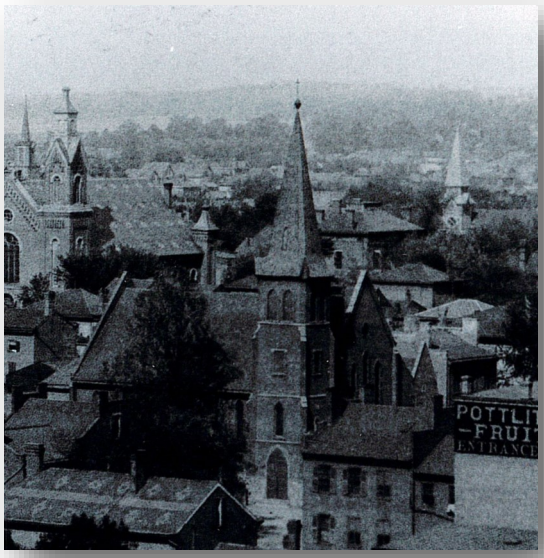
"ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

is a WORSHIPING community called by Christ

to grow spiritually and to nurture that growth in others, to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being, to SHARE God's love and our lives by reaching out to our community, and

to MAKE CHRIST KNOWN through word and action."

A HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS



St. John's Episcopal Church was organized in the spring of 1837 and soon took up residence on the corner of Sixth and Ferry Streets. Under the leadership of the first priest, the Rev. Samuel Roosevelt Johnson,
St. John's met regularly for worship and education and the congregation quickly grew. From the beginning it has been important to members of St. John's to worship in a traditional Anglican style with traditional choral music.

As the congregation grew, the needs of the church community expanded as well. Throughout our long history, the St. John's community has remodeled and expanded the church's facilities several times. Throughout these construction projects, we maintained our connection to the history and tradition of the congregation all the while making space for a changing world.

As is typical of Episcopal Churches from the 19th century, St. John's has beautiful stained glass windows, original walnut pews, and a pipe organ. During the mid-90s, St. John's installed an elevator to make the entire building physically accessible to all. Most recently, St. John's did a major renovation of our worship space improving the acoustics and aesthetics, installing a hearing loop system, and installing a new pipe organ.

In the late 20th century as many churches moved into suburbs, the people of St. John's made an intentional decision to remain a "downtown" church. While this limits us in certain ways (for instance, St. John's has never owned a parking lot), the decision also highlights our firm commitment to ministry in the world. We are proud to offer space for 12-step groups, community music programs, and advocacy groups as well as public worship every weekday so that daily prayer is offered by the people of St. John's on behalf of the entire community.

WORSHIPING

True worship—our response to God's majesty and gracious love—is at the heart of the Christian faith and life, but it is especially dear to Episcopalians. Our worship is rooted in ancient tradition, and is sacramental, incarnational, and beautiful.

We worship using *the Book of Common Prayer*, first published in 1549 and revised and adapted many times since to meet the needs of changing times and peoples. Even still, our worship maintains an unbroken connection to the earliest forms of Christian worship. Because of that, there is a great deal of historical and theological memory in our worship, and many Christians throughout the centuries have found this way of worshiping God to be both grounding and fulfilling. Episcopalians have found that this ancient worship still speaks to us, since it is responsive both to age old questions and new complexities. So while our worship can seem complicated at first, it is well worth the effort.

Our normal worship includes the celebration of Holy Communion or Eucharist (a Greek word meaning "thanksgiving"). In the Episcopal Church, all baptized persons are welcome to share in the Eucharistic feast. The Church teaches that this bread and wine are made holy, consecrated, by the community's prayers and that they become the actual body and blood of Christ. In this sense, the bread and wine are truly sacramental: they become "an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace."

> "Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
>
> -The words of Jesus during the Last Supper

The Christian faith is incarnational—celebrating the good news of God becoming embodied in the person of Jesus Christ—and so we believe that Christian worship should be incarnational as well. That is why we use real things in our worship: real bread, real wine, real candles, real music, real flowers. We also worship as real people. We make mistakes, mispronounce words or names, and sing out the wrong note from time to time. As you enter into worship with us, please do not worry about making mistakes. They are a part of the human experience. We also worship with our bodies. We move in worship—crossing ourselves, greeting, bowing, sitting, standing, and sometimes kneeling. Watch what others are doing and feel free to go along as you are comfortable. For some "official" guidelines, check the italicized instructions (rubrics) in the bulletin or in *the Book of Common Prayer.*

More than anything else, our worship is characterized by beauty—the beauty of our prayers, the beauty of stained glass, the beauty of candlelight, the beauty of sacred music, and the beauty of sacred mystery. There is nothing that Anglican Christians or Episcopalians do so well as beautiful worship.

Children of all ages are especially welcome in our worship. For more information about children in worship at St. John's, visit www.stjohns-laf.org/children-in-worship/.

"Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."

-Psalm 96:9

SHARING

St. John's is widely known for its outreach to the community—for sharing God's love and our lives by seeking and serving the people of Greater Lafayette and beyond. For decades, St. John's and Lafayette Urban Ministry operated one of the largest food pantries in the region serving nearly 10,000 individuals each year. Since the pantry's closing in 2019, the people of St. John's have worked hard to find new ways to serve those in need in our community. St. John's continues to serve as a founding member of Lafayette Urban Ministry, supporting the Immigration Clinic and other programs. We support Food Finders Food Bank and are working with Food Finders to train clients in community organizing and advocacy. We work with Lafayette Transitional Housing and serve on the "Compassion Council" to help provide emergency relief to members of the community experiencing homelessness. We provide volunteers for Family Promise—a short term homeless shelter for families. In partnership with Lafayette Urban Ministry, St. John's hosts Jubilee Christmas each year, a program that helps provide Christmas gifts, food, and more to those in need. St. John's also supports Habitat for Humanity through the "Apostles' Build", helping to fund and build affordable housing. In order to share God's love beyond our local community, we have begun partnering with the Anglican Diocese of Brasília to share our stories and our resources.

In addition, St. John's is committed to building an inclusive and welcoming community through the work of Interfaith Leaders of Greater Lafayette and Greater Lafayette Immigrant Allies and through

intentional commitment to anti-racism work. We are also proud to be a celebrate and support the LGBTQIA community in Lafayette and across at OUTFest and IndyPride.

St. John's supports community music and arts programs such as the Lafayette Masters' Choral and the Tippecanoe County Chamber Society. The church also hosts nearly a dozen 12-step groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

For more information about any of these programs or initiatives, contact the church office at 765.742.4079 or go to www.stjohns-laf.org and look under "SHARING".

"Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"

-From the Baptismal Covenant

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN

Children & Youth Formation

Our Christian Formation for Children meets on Sundays during the school year at 9:15 AM. Our hope is to share the foundational stories of our faith so that our children grow up knowing that they are connected to a story much larger than that of their immediate family.

We have two classrooms (PreK-1 and Grades 2-5) and we use the Godly Play curriculum. Godly Play is a Montessori-based approach which teaches the children through the art of storytelling, and invites children to wonder about where God is in these stories and in their own lives. To learn more about Godly Play, please visit their website at www.GodlyPlayFoundation.org or go to www.stjohns-laf.org/childrens-formation/.

The St. John's Youth (grades 6-12) meets throughout the year. (usually on the first and third Sunday of the month from 6-8 PM). The group gathers for fellowship, formation and outreach. For more information, go to http://www.stjohns-laf.org/st-johns-youth/.

Adult Formation

We have a variety of education and formation opportunities for adults at St. John's. St. John's hosts a series of classes called "the Big Questions" that explore the big story of Christianity, the Bible, the Episcopal Church, and Christian Discipleship. Adult Bible study meets weekly on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM. The St. John's Book Group meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. Quiet Days are scheduled a few times throughout the year and are an opportunity to find quiet in prayer, in meditation, and in God's presence. Topical educational opportunities are offered between Sunday services as interest arises. Recent offerings have included discussions of the theology of death and resurrection; the intersection of science and religion; and an exploration of the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

JOINING ST. JOHN'S

In his book *Always Open*, Richard Giles says that membership in the Episcopal Church is really just "loitering with intent." In general, this describes our attitude toward membership pretty well. If one of the clergy or staff get your email or, God forbid, your address and phone number, you'll end up on the mailing list, be asked to join us in service of some kind, and even get a birthday card from the Rector. One way or the other, however, once we get to know you, we'll think of you as part of the gang even if your name never actually shows up in the official records.

The fact is, no one at St. John's is going to compel you into anything. That's simply not how we work. We don't even insist that you believe the same things we believe. Whereas some churches or denominations insist that you believe first, learn to behave second, and only then are you invited to belong; in the Episcopal Church, things work in the opposite direction. You belong the moment you walk in the door. If you give us a chance, we'll teach you how to behave (how to find the bathrooms or the narthex or when to cross yourself). Our ultimate hope is that by our example—by the way we love God and one another—we'll help you come to know the God of grace and love we proclaim. Instead of compelling folks into membership, we aim to create the kind of local Christian community in which you will want to do more, because you are known and valued, and your gifts recognized.

If you do find St. John's to be the kind of Christian community that inspires you to love and serve God and God's Kingdom, consider becoming an official member. Membership shows your commitment to this community and to our mission of worshiping the God made known in Christ, of sharing God's love, and to making Christ known in our community and to future generations. If you are interested in officially joining St. John's, you can find out more information by calling the church office at 765.742.4079.

WORSHIP & PRAYER AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday Worship

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:00 AM Hospitality in St. John's Commons
9:00-11:45 AM Nursery care is available
9:15 AM Godly Play Children's Formation & Adult Ed
9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:15 AM Sung Holy Eucharist
11:30 AM Hospitality in St. John's Commons

June-August
9:00 AM Sung Holy Eucharist

For special services, visit www.stjohns-laf.org.

Weekday Worship & Prayer

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday Evening Prayer at 5:30 PM
Tuesday Healing Prayer & Holy Eucharist at Noon
Thursday Holy Eucharist at Noon

Regular weekday services are held in
the Chapel of the Resurrection.
Please enter through the Memorial Garden on Ferry Street.

The Chapel of the Resurrection is open for prayer & reflection
Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

ST. JOHN'S STAFF & ADMINISTRATION

St. John's Office

The St. John's Office is located in "the Rectory" on Ferry Street.
Please enter through the Memorial Garden.

Office hours are
Monday - Thursday from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM.
Friday from 8:30 AM—Noon.

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LAFAYETTE

600 FERRY STREET LAFAYETTE, IN 47901

765.742.4079 www.stjohns-laf.org

WORSHIPING · SHARING · MAKING CHRIST KNOWN