



ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

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PARISH

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop

Bradley Pace, Rector

Gretchen Freese, Associate Rector

Andrea Arsene, Curate

Teresa Lohrman, Parish Administrator

Michael Bennett, Director of Music

Becky Dick, Senior Warden

Bruce Johnson, Junior Warden

St. John's is a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Indianapolis.

From the Rector

In his book, *Hymn of the Universe*, the Jesuit priest and theologian, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin writes about “the Mass on the World”, a sacrifice of humanity to God in praise and worship and a celebration of God’s Spirit that fills all things in that worship. This image of “the Mass on the World” is so striking to me. It reminds me of the long debate in the Church over the nature of Communion, over the nature of the thing the priest is doing, or the nature of the thing we do together when we celebrate the Lord’s Supper. A caricature of Western Medieval theology says that in the Mass the priest offers Christ on the altar again and again each time the mass is celebrated. A caricature of reformed theology says that Christ’s sacrifice was done once and for all on the cross and that the mass—a term they increasingly rejected because of its connotations—was simply done in his memory. Episcopalians, in one sense, try to split the difference. Officially, at least, we claim that Christ is truly present in what we are doing, but that we offer a sacrifice of our “praise and thanksgiving”.

What is so striking to me about Teilhard's image is the that the offering, the sacrifice, in this mass is the whole of humanity—this “restless multitude, this ocean of humanity.” “This,” he says to God, “is the material of my sacrifice; the only material you desire.”

If we wonder what it is that God most wants, if we wonder what it is that God is most after, we can find it in the biblical story. In the beginning, God created humanity in God's own image and put them on earth to reflect God's love into the world and back to God. When that relationship was shattered, God tried again and again to bring human beings into relationship with him—through Abraham and his descendants and again through Israel. The center of that relationship was always God's faithfulness to humanity and God's desire for humanity's faithfulness to God. The prophets told the people to “seek the lord while he wills to be found”. The prophet Micah summed it all up this way: “What is it that the Lord requires of you? To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.”

All of this finds its culmination, its climax, in Jesus. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” “God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son”, his own self in the flesh. The story, of course, did not stop there. After his death and resurrection, Jesus promised his disciples that, even after he was gone, God's own Spirit would come and fill their hearts and give them power to share God's love with the rest of humanity. The Spirit filled the life of the Church, and the Church became, in St. Paul's language, the body of Christ

From Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's *Hymn of the Universe*

Since once again, Lord ... I have neither bread, nor wine, nor altar, I will raise myself beyond these symbols, up to the pure majesty of the real itself; I, your priest, will make the whole earth my altar and on it will offer you all the labours and sufferings of the world....

My paten and my chalice are the depths of a soul laid widely open to all the forces which in a moment will rise up from every corner of the earth and converge upon the Spirit. Grant me the remembrance and the mystic presence of all those whom the light is now awakening to the new day.

One by one, Lord, I see and I love all those whom you have given me to sustain and charm my life. One by one also I number all those who make up that other beloved family which has gradually surrounded me, its unity fashioned out of the most disparate elements, with affinities of the heart, of scientific research and of thought. And again one by one — more vaguely it is true, yet all-inclusively — I call before me the whole vast anonymous army of living humanity; those who surround me and support me though I do not know them; those who come, and those who go; above all, those who in office, laboratory and factory, through their vision of truth or despite their error, truly believe in the progress of earthly reality and who today will take up again their impassioned pursuit of the light.

in the world. As he puts it elsewhere, “in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself...and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.”

This happens over and over again in the biblical story, and it happens here in this church community, too. It happens each time we celebrate Communion. What is Communion, after all, if not a reenactment of our own reconciliation with God and one another? What is Communion, after all, if not the moment when we become spiritually and physically the Body of Christ? As Rowan Williams puts it somewhere, in the Eucharist, in consuming the bread and wine, the Body and blood, we too are consumed.

Later Teilhard says of all this, “I will this morning climb up in spirit to the high places...and there...upon all that in the world of human flesh is now about to be born or to die beneath the rising sun I will call down the Fire.” That fire is the Holy Spirit. That fire is the fire of God’s love. That fire comes in rushing, violent wind and fills the hearts of God’s people inspiring them to be the Body of Christ in the world. That fire, Teilhard, says, penetrates “all things individually and collectively” and all things are “flooded by it...that one might suppose the cosmos to have burst spontaneously into flame.”

And so, I continue to pray as I often do when I begin my sermons: Come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of your people. Kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your breath and we shall be made whole. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen. May we burst into flame with the fire of God’s love that we may truly be God’s hands and heart in the world. – *Bradley Pace*,
bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org

This restless multitude, confused or orderly, the immensity of which terrifies us; this ocean of humanity whose slow, monotonous wave-flows trouble the hearts even of those whose faith is most firm: it is to this deep that I thus desire all the fibres of my being should respond. All the things in the world to which this day will bring increase; all those that will diminish; all those too that will die: all of them, Lord, I try to gather into my arms, so as to hold them out to you in offering. This is the material of my sacrifice; the only material you desire.

Once upon a time men took into your temple the first fruits of their harvests, the flower of their flocks. But the offering you really want, the offering you mysteriously need every day to appease your hunger, to slake your thirst is nothing less than the growth of the world borne ever onwards in the stream of universal becoming.

Receive, O Lord, this all-embracing host which your whole creation, moved by your magnetism, offers you at this dawn of a new day.

This bread, our toil, is of itself, I know, but an immense fragmentation; this wine, our pain, is no more, I know, than a draught that dissolves. Yet in the very depths of this formless mass you have implanted — and this I am sure of, for I sense it — a desire, irresistible, hallowing, which makes us cry out, believer and unbeliever alike:

‘Lord, make us one.’



Bishop Jennifer's Easter Message

Dear Ones,

Last week, I told the clergy of the diocese that a quote by the popular author and motivational speaker Glennon Doyle recently caught my imagination: "If grace isn't shocking and counter cultural and scandalous and a little ridiculous, then it's not Grace."

Some days, grace seems to be so thin on the ground as to be undetectable. We see the gaps between God's dream for the world and the hard and broken lived experience of the most vulnerable among us, those in the path of war, and those who are scapegoated and hunted down for who God created them to be. Our faith in the risen Christ calls us to see what's missing.

The Christ-centered, resurrection-oriented, and yes, countercultural way—shows us that the space between the way things are and the way we want them to be is the space where grace can happen. The space in between is not barren, but full of opportunity for grace to abound. Because of course, God is present in that space. Our Easter proclamation is that God is present with us in all of it—cross, empty tomb, and beyond. It is, as Glennon Doyle says, ridiculous.

Friends, in this precious Easter season, as we return to the familiar rituals and practices of our faith changed forever by what we have endured, may God bless us with abundant, scandalous, and life-giving grace. Christ is risen. Alleluia!

Bishop Jennifer

Image: Bishop Jennifer presides at an outdoor Easter Vigil in 2021 at the Episcopal Church of All Saints, Indianapolis. Photo: Tim Jensen.

Parish Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, May 1, after the 10:30 a.m. service

St. John's will host an Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, May 1 following the 10:30 service. Youth are invited to help hide the eggs. For more information, contact Gretchen Freese at gretchen@stjohns-laf.org.

Greater Lafayette

Youth Overnight Lock-in

Friday, May 20, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

tentative time and date

Youth from St. John's, the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, and other churches will join for an evening of worship, games, and fun in a welcoming and affirming environment. For more information, contact the church office at stjohns@stjohns-laf.org or 765.742.4079.

Easter Celebration, Rector's Sabbatical Send-off, BBQ

Sunday, May 22 after the 10:30 a.m. service

St. John's Rector, Bradley Pace, will begin his sabbatical on Sunday, May 22. Please join us for Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. followed by BBQ lunch (Bradley swears he's going to spring for Revolution BBQ). Let us continue our celebration of the 50 days of Easter. All are welcome.

Photos from Holy Week & Easter 2022



Photo credits include Randy Brist, Olynn McInerney, and Kyle Tribbett.

Baptism

Saoirse Violet Tribbett, April 16, 2022
at the Great Vigil of Easter
*Daughter of Kyle and Stephanie Amador Tribbett
and sister Nolan and Aidria. See the pictures in the
collage on page 5.*

Deaths

Sylvia Miessler, March 28, 2022
Longtime member and friend of St. John's.

Jacquilyn Billey, April 10, 2022
Member of St. John's in care since 2019.

The 'Round the Fountain Art Fair & St. John's Strawberry Shortcake Booth Saturday, May 28

For decades St. John's has sold homemade strawberry shortcakes at the annual 'Round the Fountain Art Fair on Memorial Day weekend. The fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 28 this year, and St. John's will be there. We will need volunteers to bake cakes, cut strawberries, and serve at the event. Funds for the sale support music program and provide scholarships for St. John's youth to attend Waycross Summer camp. Further details will be shared in the weekly parish communications in early May. More information about the fair itself is available at www.roundthefountain.org.



February & March 2022 Vestry Notes

The St. John's Vestry met over Zoom on Saturday, February 26 for orientation and the regular meeting. Among the items discussed were:

- Bradley Pace appointed Becky Dick as Senior Warden. The Vestry elected Bruce Johnson as Junior Warden.
- Dennis Sorge was appointed to a one-year term, and Dee Kueberth was appointed to a two-year term. There appointments filled otherwise vacant spots on the Vestry.
- Dennis Sorge was elected to serve as the chair of the Finance Committee.
- Bradley informed the vestry that the Diocese has asked St. John's to host a new curate beginning this summer. This is a training program for new clergy. A proposal and motion would be put forth at the March Vestry meeting.
- The vestry discussed and approved additional guidelines for regathering as well as returning various elements to our worship and fellowship.
- The Vestry approved the creation of the All Saints Speakers Fund. This fund, created from various memorial funds held in reserve, will be used to bring speakers to St. John's each year around All Saints' Day. More information about this fund and about future speakers will be forthcoming. Bradley's sabbatical grant will cover at least part of the cost of the series' first speaker.

The St. John's Vestry met in-person on Wednesday, March 16 for a regular meeting. Among the items discussed were:

- The Vestry approved hiring Kemper CPA Group to lead our financial review of 2021. Kemper has been our auditor for the past four years.
- Bradley discussed plans for a Mutual Ministry Review in the fall. The MMR is a process where the Rector and Vestry discuss their ministry together.
- The Vestry approved a proposal from Bradley to host a curate beginning this summer. Financial details need to be discussed at the April meeting.

St. John's Financial Summary

March 2022

INCOME	January-February	Budget	% of Budget
Pledge Income	\$109,855.00	\$386,450.00	28.4%
Operating Income	\$6898.21	\$105,569.93	6.6%
Non-Operation Income	\$9,876.52	\$33,406.23	29.6%
Transfer Income	\$0.0	\$43,500.00	0.0%
TOTAL INCOME	\$126,629.73	\$568,926.16	23.7%
EXPENSES			
Outreach	\$16,160.22	\$85,796.00	18.8%
Program	\$3478.29	\$21,600.00	16.1%
Administration	\$742.21	\$4,400.00	16.9%
Personnel	\$78,616.26	\$310,131.24	25.3%
Office	\$5,216.50	\$26,650.00	19.6%
Property	\$23,099.02	\$120,348.92	19.2%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$127,312.50	\$568,926.16	22.4%
Net Income (loss)	\$-682.77		

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Save the Date

Anniversary Organ Concert with Richard Elliot
Friday May, 6 at 7:30pm

Mormon Tabernacle Choir Principal Organist Richard Elliott will be performing the inaugural Anniversary Organ Concert on our Quimby organ. Originally scheduled for April 2020 (one year after the organ dedication), Elliott will finally be coming to Lafayette. He has been at the Tabernacle for 30 years and is the senior organist of the five on staff. The concert is free.

