



**HOLY EUCHARIST**  
for the  
**Sixteenth Sunday after  
Pentecost**

St. John's  
Anglican Church West  
Toronto  
September 17, 2023  
10:00 am

\* *The Land Acknowledgement is taken from A Liturgy for The National Indigenous Day of Prayer*  
[https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/nidp-liturgy.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1oWVCmVyX1tQWadWWfd1e5PoGDI4bf\\_p77nxkedV50uBfllCO4BE2MUa](https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/nidp-liturgy.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1oWVCmVyX1tQWadWWfd1e5PoGDI4bf_p77nxkedV50uBfllCO4BE2MUa)  
8 Retrieved 2021 March 8.

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*The blessing of backpacks is from the Church of England, Diocese of London*

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*Service Music: Mass of St. Matthias, Francis Patrick O'Brien © 2010 ICEL, 2017 WLP*

*Today's Readings: Exodus 14:19-31, NRSV; Exodus 15:1B-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12, NRSV; Matthew 18:21-35, Inclusive Bible 226*

***New around here? We're so glad to see you! Welcome to St. John's! We hope you are blessed today as we worship God together.***

***We invite you to stay for fellowship following our service or join us for education classes. If you have any questions about our congregation or the sermon, feel free to ask a member of the ministry team or to contact us another way. We're so glad you're here and hope to see you again.***

## **PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**

Celebrant & Preacher:	Mother Alexandra Stone
Eucharistic Assistants:	Lisa Rumble & Cheryl Atkins
Lectors:	Judith Olumbe & John Spragge
Intercessor:	Susan Rynasko
Piano:	Dan Gooch
Band:	Shuffle Puppy Raija Walli (Lead Vocals) Andrew Arth (Lead Guitar) Tessa Rusgnak (Vocals & Guitar)
Technical Support:	Michael Taylor, Chris Ruddy & Greg Los

## PRELUDE

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT\*

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we are upon. We give thanks to the Wendat, the Anishinaabe, the Mississauga of the Credit and the Haudenosaunee, the first people of this land.

We offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred on this land. We are also thankful for the gifts of the People of the land. Creator let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced.

With thankful and respectful hearts, we pray in Your name, Your Son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. **Amen.**

### HYMN      **Church (Take Me Back)**

There was a time that I swore I would never go back.  
I was blind to the truth, didn't know what I had.  
I was runnin', I was searchin',  
but every place I turned for healin',  
left me more broken than the last.

#### ***Refrain:***

*Take me back  
to the place that feels like home,  
to the people I can depend on,  
to the faith that's in my bones.  
Take me back  
to a preacher and a verse,  
where they've seen me at my worst,  
to the love I had at first.  
Oh, I want to go to church.*

Tried to walk on my own, but I wound up lost.  
Now I'm making my way to the foot of the cross.  
It's not a trophy for the winners,  
it's a shelter for the sinners,  
and it's right where I belong. **Refrain**

Oh, more than an obligation,  
it's our foundation;  
the family of God.  
I know it's hard,  
but we need each other;  
we're sisters and brothers **Refrain**

Yeah, I want to go to church (take me back).  
Oh, I want to go, want to go, I want to go,  
oh, I want to go to church (take me back).  
Oh, I want to go to church

*Text and Music: Michael Cochren, Bryan Fowler, Micah Kuiper  
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## **BLESSING OF BACKPACKS AND BRIEFCASES**

Celebrant: Creator God, we give you thanks for the new start which  
September brings. God of life and love:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: We thank you for schools, colleges and universities, and all who  
learn, teach and serve in them. God of life and love:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: We thank you for places of work, for colleagues and clients,  
challenges and tasks. God of life and love:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: We thank you for the opportunity to learn and grow at every  
stage; for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. God of life  
and love:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: We bring before you these bags, which through the year to come  
will carry the tools of learning and working. God of life and love:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: We bring to you those days when these bags feel heavy and  
difficult, and those days when they feel light and easy. God of life  
and love:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Bless these bags, all that they will contain, and your children who carry them. God of life and love:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Help each of us to grow in our knowledge and love of you, that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, now and always.

**All: Amen.**

### **OPENING PRAYERS**

Celebrant: The grace of Jesus the Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**All: And also with you**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

**All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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 Saviour. Amen.**

### **COLLECT**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

Celebrant: God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to see all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

*Please be seated.*

### **FIRST LESSON**

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and God drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch, God in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into panic. God clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for their God is fighting for them against Egypt." Then God said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, God tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus God saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that God did against the Egyptians. So the people feared God and believed in God and in God's servant Moses.

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**CANTICLE Through the Red Sea Brought at Last**

**CP 226**

Through the Red Sea brought at last, alleluia!

Egypt's chains behind we cast, alleluia!

Deep and wide flows the tide  
severing us from bondage past, alleluia!

Like the cloud that overhead, alleluia!

through the billows Israel led, alleluia!

By his tomb Christ makes room,  
souls restoring from the dead, alleluia!

In that cloud and in that sea, alleluia!

Buried and baptized were we, alleluia!

Earthly night brought us light,  
which is ours eternally, alleluia!

*Words: Ronald A. Knox © Burns & Oates Ltd.*

*Music: Melody Hudert Arien adapt. And harm. William Henry Monk.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Church in Rome.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another?

It is before their own earthly master that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for God is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of God. Also those who eat, eat in honour of God, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of God and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

If we live, we live to Christ, and if we die, we die to Christ; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are Christ's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that Christ might be Redeemer of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister or sibling? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister or sibling? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Christ, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GRADUAL

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!** [May repeat]



## THE GOSPEL

Gospeller: May God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Gospeller: The Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Matthew.

**All: Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.**

Peter came up and asked Jesus, "When a sister or brother or sibling wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?" "No," Jesus replied, "not seven times; I tell you seventy times seven. And here's why. Heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt. At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, 'I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full!' Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt. Then that same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars.

The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand, 'Pay back what you owe me!' The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, 'Just give me time and I will pay you back in full!' But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor's prison until the money was paid. When the other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. The ruler sent for the official and said, 'You worthless wretch! I cancelled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague, as I dealt with you?' Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt had been paid in full. God in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you truly forgive your sisters and brothers and siblings from your hearts."

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ

**All: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.**

## **GRADUAL**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## **SERMON**

*Please be seated for the sermon.*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Celebrant: I invite you now, as you are able, to stand and to join in confessing the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**All: I believe in God Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Saviour.  
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Intercessor: Holy One,

**All: with gratitude we pray.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Assistant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept*

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

**All: 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 neighbours 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 upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus the Christ.

**All: Amen.**

*All who wish are invited to come forward for anointing.*

## HYMN

### There Is a River

### Jars of Clay

There is a river that washes you clean  
There is a tree that marks the places you've been  
Blood that was spilled, although not your own...

For all of your tears,  
Are the wages for things you have done.  
On all of those nights, spent alone in the darkness of your mind.  
Give it up, Let go. These are things you were never meant to  
shoulder,

There is a river that washes you clean  
There is a tree that marks the places you've been  
Blood that was spilled, although not your own  
For all of your tears, love will atone

So, give up the right, to control the waves that empty at your life  
Above wild skies, are the rays that break the shadows we design

Give it up, let go. These are things you were never meant to  
shoulder.

Give it up, Let go...

There is a river that washes you clean  
There is a tree that marks the places you've been  
Blood that was spilled, although not your own  
For all of these things, love will atone

I know the world can turn in different ways.  
Most of the time we're simply hangin on.  
But under the signs of how we all behave,  
We might find the place where we belong...

There is a river that washes you clean  
There is a tree that marks the places you've been  
Blood that was spilled, although not your own  
For all of these things, love will atone  
For all of those nights, you cried all alone  
For all of your tears... love will atone.

*Words and Music: Matt Odmark, Dan Haseltine, Charlie Lowell, Steve Mason & Ron  
Aniello © Bridge Building Music, Pogostick Music*

## **THE PEACE**

**Celebrant:** May the peace of Jesus the Christ be always with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

*We take a moment to share the peace.*

# The Celebration of the Eucharist

## OFFERTORY

*If you are able to make a contribution, we appreciate your generosity. Your offering makes it possible to continue our ministry here at St. John's.*

*If you would prefer to give online, please visit our website at [www.sjw.ca](http://www.sjw.ca) and look for the donate now button.*

## HYMN

### Jesus Was an Only Son

**Bruce Springsteen**

Well Jesus was an only son  
As he walked up Calvary Hill  
His mother Mary walking beside him  
In the path where his blood spilled  
Jesus was an only son  
In the hills of Nazareth  
As he lay reading the Psalms of David  
At his mother's feet

A mother prays, "Sleep tight, my child, sleep well  
For I'll be at your side  
That no shadow, no darkness, no tolling bell,  
Shall pierce your dreams this night."

In the garden at Gethsemane  
He prayed for the life he'd never live,  
He beseeched his Heavenly Father to remove  
The cup of death from his lips

Now there's a loss that can never be replaced,  
A destination that can never be reached,  
A light you'll never find in another's face,  
A sea whose distance cannot be breached

Well Jesus kissed his mother's hands  
Whispered, "Mother, still your tears,  
For remember the soul of the universe  
Willed a world and it appeared."

*Words and Music: Bruce Springsteen © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC.*



*You are invited to stand around the altar in a circle and remain there until everyone has received Communion.*

### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**All: Holy God, accept all we offer you this day. May we who are reconciled at this table bring wholeness to our broken world. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### **Eucharistic Prayer 2**

Celebrant: May God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to God.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair.

By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence. Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy, O God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;

who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you."

In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ. All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

## **THE SAVIOUR'S PRAYER**

Celebrant: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**All: Abba, Amma, Beloved, your name be hallowed, your reign spread among us, your will be done well, at all times, in all places, on earth as in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Let us not fail in the time of our testing. Spare us from trials too sharp to endure. Free us from the grip of all evil powers. For yours is the reign, the power and the glory, the victory of love, for now and eternity, world without end. Amen and Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Celebrant: Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat, whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

**All: So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your realm.**

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**



## COMMUNION

*The Eucharistic feast is a participation in the Body and Blood of Christ. Receiving Communion is a sacramental means through which we reaffirm that we became part of Christ's one Body in our baptism.*

*The Anglican Church welcomes all Christians from any denomination to receive Communion.*

*Please speak to the priest after the service if you would like to discuss baptism or if you have any questions about the sacraments.*

*Those who do not wish to receive Communion at this time are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you wish to be blessed.*

*Gluten free hosts are available. Please let us know if you require one.*

## HYMN

### Teach Us Peace

Teach us peace, O loving God and help us to be kind.  
Friends reach out your weary arms and place your hands in mine.

If you're hungry take this bread, and fill your cup with wine.  
Teach us peace, O loving God and help us to be kind.

*Words: Cormac Culkeen*

*Music: Arr. by Dan Gooch*

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## HYMN

### Yaweh

U2

Take these shoes  
Click clacking down some dead end street  
Take these shoes  
And make them fit  
Take this shirt  
Polyester white trash made in nowhere  
Take this shirt  
And make it clean, clean  
Take this soul  
Stranded in some skin and bones  
Take this soul  
And make it sing

Yahweh, Yahweh  
Always pain before a child is born  
Yahweh, Yahweh  
Still I'm waiting for the dawn

Take these hands  
Teach them what to carry  
Take these hands  
Don't make a fist  
Take this mouth  
So quick to criticise  
Take this mouth  
Give it a kiss

Yahweh, Yahweh  
Always pain before a child is born  
Yahewh, Yahweh  
Still I'm waiting for the dawn

Still waiting for the dawn, the sun is coming up  
The sun is coming up on the ocean  
This love is like a drop in the ocean  
This love is like a drop in the ocean

Yahweh, Yahweh  
Always pain before a child is born  
Yahweh, tell me now  
Why the dark before the dawn?

Take this city  
A city should be shining on a hill  
Take this city  
If it be your will  
What no man can own, no man can take

Take this heart  
Take this heart  
Take this heart  
And make it break

*Words & Music: Paul David Hewson, Adam Clayton, Larry Mullen & Dave Evans  
© Polygram Int. Music Publishing*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**All: God of peace, in this eucharist we have been reconciled to you and to our neighbours. May we who have been nourished by holy things always have the courage to forgive. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Celebrant: Glory to God,

**All: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

### **CELEBRATIONS, NEEDS, REFLECTIONS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures high and low.  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known.  
Creator, Word and Spirit one.

**CP 672**

## HYMN

## Shine

## Collective Soul

Give me a word  
Give me a sign  
Show me where to look  
Tell me, what will I find?  
What will I find?

Lay me on the ground  
And fly me in the sky  
Show me where to look  
Tell me, what will I find?  
What will I find?

### **Refrain:**

*Whoa, Heaven let your light shine down (x4)*

Love is in the water  
Love is in the air  
Show me where to look  
Tell me, will love be there?  
Will love be there?

Teach me how to speak  
Teach me how to share  
Teach me where to go  
Tell me, will love be there?  
Will love be there? **Refrain**

Give me a word  
Give me a sign  
Show me where to look  
Tell me, what will I find?  
What will I find?

Lay me on the ground  
And fly me in the sky  
Show me where to look  
Tell me, what will I find?  
What will I find? **Refrain**

I'm gonna let it shine  
Heaven's little light gonna shine on me  
Hey, yeah, hey, yeah  
Heaven's little light gonna shine on me  
(Shine) Shine on me, yeah  
(Shine) Come on and shine

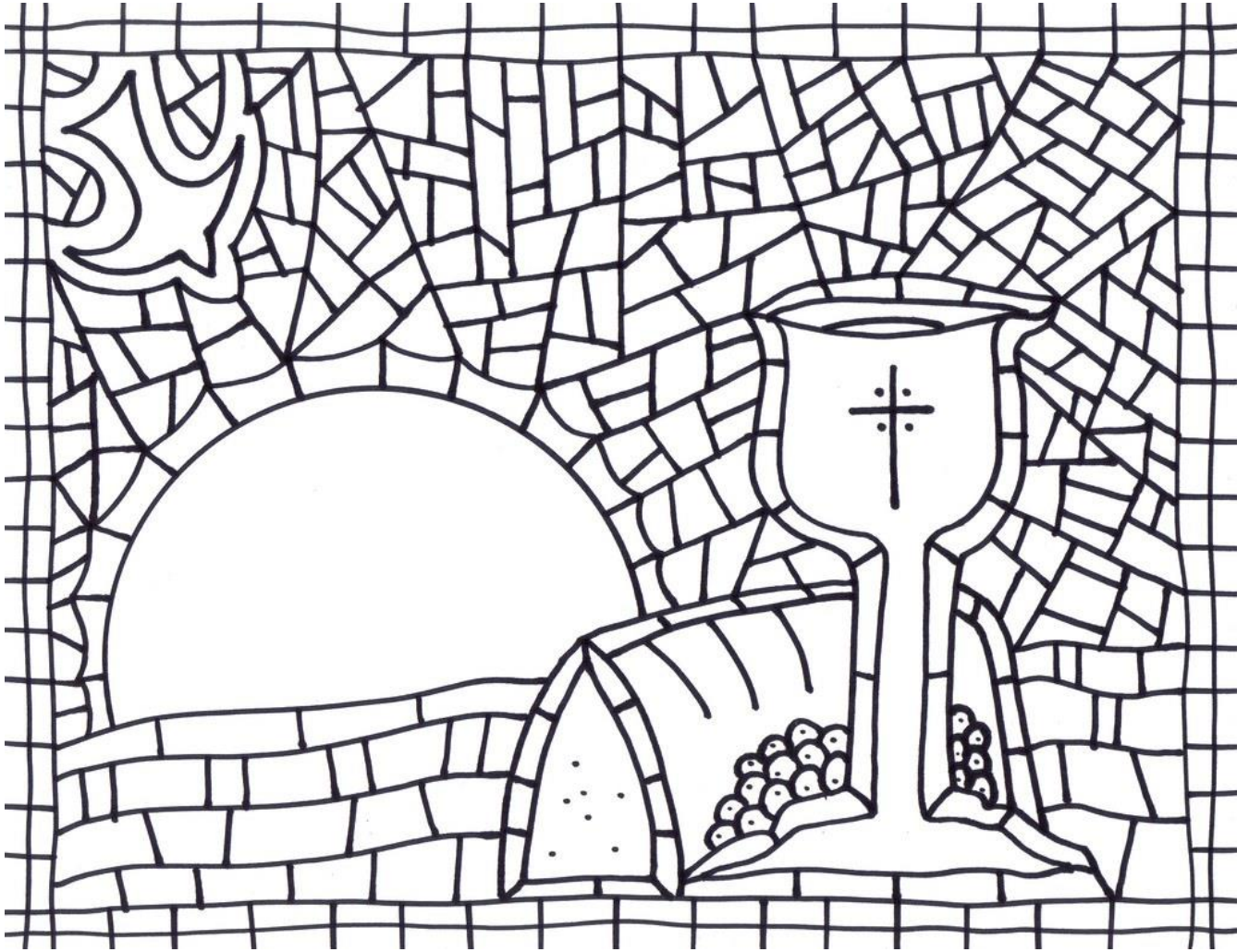
*Words & Music: Terry Lewis, James Harris Iii, Bernard Edwards & Nile Rodgers  
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## **DISMISSAL**

Assistant: Go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**



# WHAT'S *happening* This Week

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Tue, Sept 19	Morning Prayer (9:30 – 10 am)
Wed, Sept 20	Centering Prayer (9:30 – 10 am) Bible Study – on Zoom (7 pm)
Thu, Sept 21	Morning Prayer (9:30 – 10 am) Bible Study – In person (10:30-11:30) Holy Eucharist for St. Matthew's Day (12 – 12:30 pm)
Sat, Sept 23	Food Drop-Off (9 – 11 am) Coffee, Tea, and Creativity (10:30 am – 12:30 pm)
Sun, Sept 24	Morning Prayer (9 – 9:30 am – in Priest's Office) Holy Eucharist (10 – 11:30 am) <i>Preacher: Rev. Hannah Johnston</i>

## Building up for God!

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ, to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God, and to give and receive support to meet the challenges of our daily lives and ministries. We call on everyone to come and join us.

We are an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied, and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, straight, and LGBTQ2S+. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

### Ministry Team:

The Rev. Alexandra Stone, *Interim Priest-in-Charge*  
[pastor@sjwt.ca](mailto:pastor@sjwt.ca) 647-542-1467

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