

St. John's Episcopal Church

"Our mission is to know and to share the love of Jesus Christ"



Rector's Essay **Reading with the Rector**

Summer reading season is upon us! At camp, or at the beach, or in a hammock in the yard, summer is a great time for books. Here are some books I recommend for summer reading for all ages:

[How \(Not\) to Be Secular](#) by James KA Smith. This is an excellent book about a great book. Charles Taylor wrote his massive 900 page book [Secularism](#) about 20 years ago. Smith offers a much shorter and accessible commentary on Taylor's magisterial work that speaks directly to the struggles of faith in a social imaginary dominated by exclusive humanism. Ever wonder how the world became so indifferent to the questions and answers offered by faith? This book provides a clear picture of how we arrived at this point and how faith still answers our deepest cravings for meaning and orientation in the world. I will offer a Reading with the Rector conversation about this book in June. I think it is VERY important.

[Reading Genesis](#) by Marilynne Robinson. Easily the most thought provoking and compelling reading of the first book of the Bible that I know. The great essayist and novelist Marilynne Robinson makes a compelling case for God's providence working itself out across the stories of oh so human people in the saga that is Genesis. Ever wonder why God would work with such an eccentric and abrasive group of people as partners in the Divine enterprise of revelation and restoration? This book will give you a new lens to take to the beginning of our story with God.

To continue reading this essay, scroll down.

Wet Weather Gear Needed for Neighbors

Our neighbors who are homeless are getting soaked to the bone this Spring and they are asking for wet weather gear. We are collecting raincoats, rain ponchos, umbrellas and rubber boots. If you have any to spare or are willing to purchase new ones we will be collecting these items in the back of the church for the next two Sundays. Some will go to the Public Library where many unhoused people shelter during the day and some will go with me and other members who minister with our neighbors on the street.

Support Our Muslim Neighbors

The Rector has been in touch with the leaders of the Local Islamic Center this week to offer support during this time of heightened fear among our Muslim neighbors following the despicable attack of a Mosque and School in San Diego. When asked about the best ways we can express support, leadership at the Masjid in Orono suggested that we write cards and letters of support and mail them to: 151 Park Street in Orono. I encourage our members to this act of neighborly love.

Food, Film and Fun

We are so excited that our next Family Film night will be on May 23rd at 5:30pm. We'll be watching Disney's Encanto and dining on pizza.



Great Wednesday

Join us for Worship + Supper + Bible Study. 5:30pm Eucharist, 6:00 pm Bible Study and Food. The Beatitudes in Matthew & Luke. May 6th-27th. The class is also available on [Zoom](#).

****Final Class of this session is this week****

Summer Music at St. John's

Hello parishioners of St. John's Church. It is hard for me to believe that summer is close upon us and thus, the conclusion of the 2025-2026 choir season is on May 31st.. This means that, while choir members are always encouraged to vest and join Josh and I, we will have openings for musical offerings during the Offertory portions of our summer services. Please let me (Colin - choirdirector@stjohnsbangor.org) or Josh (jbachsing@gmail.com) know if you would like to make a musical offering this summer!

Blessings, Colin Graebert, Choir Director

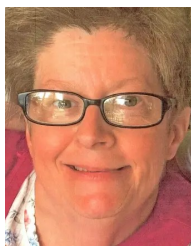
The Gospel of Mark as told by Alison Boden

If you missed Alison Boden's memorized recitation of the entire Gospel of Mark when she presented it at St. John's, you have another opportunity to attend on Saturday, May 30 at 6 pm at Trinity Anglican Church at 56 Center St. Bangor, ME.



Parish Picnic on the Lawn with Our Neighbors

On May 31st we will enjoy our parish picnic on our lovely lawn after the 10:00 am service. Many thanks to the Men's Breakfast group for volunteering for grill duty! And thank you in advance to everyone who will bring a dish for potluck sharing! You can find sign up sheets in the Narthex and the Undercroft. As someone said, the Kingdom of God is like a potluck. Even with little planning there is always enough food! Beverages will be provided. If someone could bring a corn hole set up that would be fun for the kids.



Kristin Weeks

The Family of Kristin Weeks invites you to join them when Kristin is interred at Mt. Hope Cemetery on June 2nd at 11:00am. Please meet at the Superintendent's Office 15-20 minutes prior to the service so we can process to the burial site together.

Faith, Fly-Fishing & Fellowship

On June 5th at 6:00 pm the Rector will show the movie *A River Runs Through It* in the Undercroft. We will serve a simple meal and follow the screening with conversation about this deeply theological movie. The Rector loves movies, fly fishing and theology. All are welcome whether you fish for fish or fish for people. Thank you to the Men's Breakfast group for sponsoring! This is a *Reeling with the Rector* event.

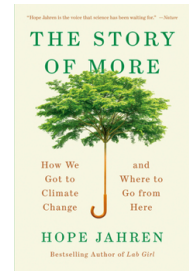


Planting Day

St. John's invites you to our "Planting Day" on June 7th, following the 10:00am service. Wear your gardening clothes, bring a trowel or other gardening tool, and a native plant to help beautify the grounds.

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group invites you to their next meeting, on June 16th at 2:00pm, to discuss "[The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go From Here](#)" by Hope Jahren. The group meets on [Zoom](#) and all are welcome. Please contact the [office](#) with any questions.



Announcements and Prayer Requests

Please be sure to submit all announcements and prayer requests to [the office](#) by noon on Thursday for them to be included in the weekly announcements and bulletins. Please submit photos / posters as a JPEG, and announcements in Word (not in a PDF).

Rector's Essay - Reading with the Rector - Continued

[Gilead](#) by Marilynne Robinson. If you have not yet read this modern American classic, run, do not walk, to get yourself a copy. Robinson, a long-time instructor at the Iowa Writers Workshop, is one of our greatest prose stylists today. The fictional town of Gilead, Iowa and the families of two preachers in the town serve as the focus of four related novels. Gilead brings together theology, American history, and family struggles all into one compelling, gentle narrative. I cannot recommend this book and the other three in the series highly enough. [Lila](#), [Home](#), and [Jack](#).

[Being Reasonable: The Case for a Misunderstood Virtue](#) by Krista Lawlor. If there ever was a book written for our moment in history, this is the one. How do we recover the virtue of reasonable engagement with each other? How do we exchange reasons and make sense together in such an irrational season? Offering reasons for actions and belief is a fundamental obligation for creatures of the human kind. For Episcopalians we claim reason as one of the three legs of our three legged stool with Scripture and Tradition, but do we know what we mean when we say it?

[The Permeable Self: Five Medieval Relationships](#) by Barbara Newman. According to Charles Taylor, the modern self is especially lonely, arid and alienated because in our disenchantment we lost a basic permeability of self that helped us connect to people, God, and the world beyond our buffered selves. Barbara Newman - professor of English and Religion at Northwestern University and expert on Hildegard of Bingen - uses the lens of permeability to look closely at how medieval people experienced the world. One way to understand what we have lost and what can be regained is to drop our prejudice against our medieval forebears and learn

from them how to inhibit relationships in a fresh way. Newman was my thesis advisor at Northwestern and I cannot recommend her enough as a lucid thinker and writer.

[To Live Well: Practical Wisdom for Moving through Chaotic Times](#) by Justin Whitmel Earley. As you may have noticed I am a huge advocate of educating all people in the classic and biblical virtues. This book is especially appropriate for high school youth and parents. With splendid clarity and concision, the author walks through the classic and biblical virtues which provide crucial orientation to life in an unsteady world. My passion for the virtues comes from my own struggles to find practical wisdom I could trust in a world seemingly gone mad. In response, I would like to provide virtue education for our youth and this is one place to start. The chapter on “Loving Rightly” does tread into areas of sexual identity and traditional marriage that I disagree with and you might as well, but if you read it with your children this can provide a springboard for conversation and clarification of what you believe and why.

Happy Reading this Summer! One cause for celebration for me is that so many of the great theologians of the present moment are Anglicans! You might look up Rowan Williams, Kathy Tanner, Sarah Coakley, or Mark McIntosh (*Mystical Theology*). Also, many of the best Philosophers of our time are Christians! Dallas Willard, Robert Merrihew Adams, David Bentley Hart, James KA Smith, and Charles Taylor. Please explore these awesome thinkers and writers! Personally, the smartest thinkers I know are people of faith so enough of this unwarranted secular snobbishness!

-Jarrett

Serving on Sunday May 24th at 8:00am:

Lectors – TBD

Chalice Bearer – Patricia S.

Serving on Sunday May 24th at 10:00am:

Lectors – Chris M., Cindy L., Kelsi H., Richard W., Evan T., Chaofan C., Ann H., Katharine F., Shannon W., Scott B., Robert F., Ben O. and Zach W.

Acolytes – Dakota M., Gavin F. and Edmund H.

Chalice Bearers – Cassy P. and Grant P.

Ushers – Katharine F. and Eric G.

Counters – Mary W. and Paul J.

Serving on Sunday May 31st at 8:00am:

Lectors – TBD

Chalice Bearer – Cindy L.

Serving on Sunday May 31st at 10:00am:

Lectors – Zach W., Richard W. and William S.

Acolytes – Grant P., Isaac P. and David C.

Chalice Bearers – Grant P. and David C.

Ushers – Ken H. and John H.

Counters – Marsha C. and Don L.

Thank you to all who volunteer as Lectors, Acolytes, Chalice Bearers and Ushers. If you would like to serve in one of these positions, please let the [office](#) know.

***Sunday's
Readings***

[Acts 2:1-21](#)

[1 Corinthians
12:3b-13](#)

[John 20:19-
23](#)

What's Happening This Week

Saturday, May 23rd, 5:30pm: Family Film Night.

Sunday, May 24th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, May 24th, 10:00am: Rite II Eucharist with Choir, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.

Sunday, May 24th, 11:30am: Vestry Meeting

**Sunday
Worship:**
[Worship
Bulletin
YouTube](#)

**Morning
Prayer**
**Monday -
Friday:**
9:00am
Morning
Prayer
[Zoom](#)
[Facebook](#)

**Tuesday-
Friday:**
in person in
the Bethlehem
Chapel

**Evening
Prayer**
**Monday -
Friday:**
5:15pm
live on [Zoom](#)

Sunday, May 24th, 7:00pm: [AA](#) meeting in the Undercroft.

Monday, May 25th: The Parish Office is closed in observation of Memorial Day.

Tuesday, May 26th, 9:30am: Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen at the Salvation Army. To get more information on serving, please contact Claudia and Jim B. at claudia&jim@stjohnsbangor.org.

Wednesday, May 27th, 5:30pm: Great Wednesday - 5:30pm Eucharist in the church, 6:00pm Dinner and Bible Study in the Undercroft, class is also available on [Zoom](#). ***Final class of this session.***

Friday May 29th, 9:00am: Faithful Givers Roadshow, a Diocesan Program

Sunday, May 31st, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, May 31st, 10:00am: Rite II Eucharist with Choir, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by the Parish Picnic. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.

Sunday, May 31st, 7:00pm: [AA](#) meeting in the Undercroft.

For more information about these and future events, as well as ways to get involved, check out www.stjohnsbangor.org.

Nursery Care and Children's Chapel

Children should arrive between 9:45 and 10:00 am in the Undercroft on Sunday mornings for Nursery care, ages 0-3, and for Children's Chapel, ages 4-10.

In **Children's Chapel**, we celebrate the boundless curiosity and wonder of our young ones as we delve into the stories and lessons of the Bible. We aim to cultivate a nurturing and engaging environment that teaches our youngest members the stories of their faith and promotes spiritual growth and a strong sense of community. For inquiries or to register, please contact Mary-Frances Beesorchar at children@stjohnsbangor.org.

Opportunities to pray together:

Sunday Morning Eucharist

8:00am in person and at 10:00am in person and on [YouTube](#)

Wednesday Eucharist

5:30pm in person

Morning Prayer

Mon-Fri, 9:00am on Facebook and on [Zoom](#)

and in person Tuesday - Friday in the Bethlehem Chapel

Evening Prayer

Mon-Fri, 5:15pm on [Zoom](#)

Volunteering is a wonderful way to give. Looking for the right Ministry Opportunity for you? Just click the link below for more information.

[OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY](#)

Parish Prayer List:

If you would like to add or reinstate a name or concern for our parish prayer list, please contact the church office or prayers@stjohnsbangor.org.

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed, and for those who have requested prayer: Robert F., The Robbins family, all first responders, Will and Neal, Carl

H., Earlene B., Doreen W., and Mikenzy. **Continued prayers for** – Lyla C., Dustin, Kelly M., D., M., L., Katie B., Ross M., MarLynne M., Kent C., Ann C., Esther R., Hunt and Allison, Haley, Mary W., Marcia & Richard, Russell M., Kyra H., Donald K., Jane Z., Susan J., Elena B., Jay B., Susan S., Loretta, David B., Jane P., and Henry L.

For our Homebound Members: Bonnie A., Kathy C., Ginny F., Carolyn L., Evelyn L., Roberta D., Carolyn S., Esther R., Gary S., Deborah T., Lee W., Donna W., Lura W., Lilly P., Earlene B., and Eileen H.

For the World: for Peace and Goodwill among Nations and for peoples in places of violence or oppression, and for the many places in our world where there is danger and desperation. We continue to pray for the people in Ukraine and for the innocent people in Gaza, Sudan and Iran. For those suffering in other countries in the Middle East. For an end to war and all forms of violence. For all who suffer for conscience's sake. For our enemies and those who wish us harm. For all suffering effects of climate change and of natural disasters. For refugees, immigrants, and those who are displaced.

For our Nation: For the healing of divisions and the celebration of diversity; for the recognition that no single viewpoint on any issue, no matter how important, is without human error; and for all who struggle to change our world and its systems of oppression and exploitation.

For the Leaders of our Country, State and Community: Donald J. Trump, President; Members of Congress, especially, Susan Collins, Angus King, Chellie Pingree, Jared Golden of Maine; Janet Mills our Governor; and Susan Hawes our Mayor; for those who administer justice in the courts of this land, that they all may serve our nation and the world with wisdom, civility, and compassion.

For our Military Personnel, especially those of this Parish: Sarah M., Dillan L., and Joshua M. For all members of our military currently in harm's way. We pray for peace. We also give Thanksgiving for all veterans and their willingness to lay down their lives for our country.

With Thanksgiving for the lives of those celebrating birthdays during the coming week including: Scott B., Beatrix H. and Elsie P.

For the Departed: Joshua Taylor Tibbetts and for our service members killed in the current conflict.



St. John's Episcopal Church

225 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401

207-947-0156

<http://www.stjohnsbangor.org>



St. John's Episcopal Church | 225 French Street | Bangor, ME 04401 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!