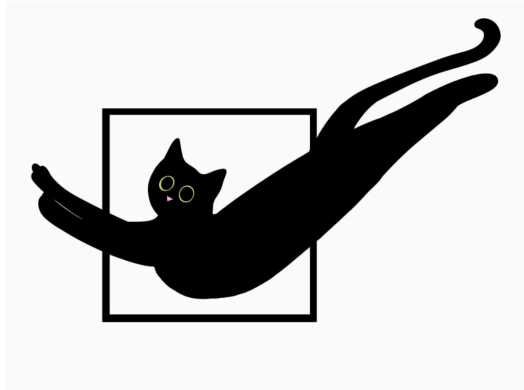


St. John's Episcopal Church

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



CAT Update

First of all, we have a cause for celebration! 88% of our active members completed the CAT survey! This is well above average according to Holy Cow Consulting. Thank you to all who took the time to submit a survey. Your love and care for your congregation are noted.

Second, the next step for the CAT will occur at our June Vestry meeting when our consultant from Holy Cow will meet with the Vestry to interpret the results with us. After the Vestry has time to process that conversation we will pick an auspicious time to bring the results to the whole

congregation for learning and conversation.

Our goal and our hope is that these survey results will inform strategic planning for the church and the ongoing evolution of our church culture under the hand of God's grace. Please direct any questions about the CAT to our Senior Warden, Chris Morin or the Rector.

Faith, Fly-Fishing & Fellowship (and did we mention DINNER)

Tonight, June 5th, at 6:00 pm the Rector will show the movie *A River Runs Through It* in the Undercroft. We will serve a 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.



Rector's Essay The Strength of Sacraments

On a number of occasions in my ministry, I have had the following exchange with a church member;

“I would love to bring home communion to your husband at the nursing home,” I offer.

“Oh, thank you, but his dementia is so advanced that he will not understand it,” his wife replies.

The good news about sacraments, however, is this; sacraments deliver the loving presence and grace of God in a way that far surpasses our cognition. The meaning and power of a sacrament is not constrained by our ability to decipher its ‘symbolic’ representation.

To continue reading this essay, scroll down.



Neighborhood Picnic

A Big Thank you to Jim Blanchette and the Men's Breakfast group for such a fabulous job with the parish picnic! Well done!



Planting Day

St. John's invites you to our “Planting Day” on June 7th (that's THIS Sunday), 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.

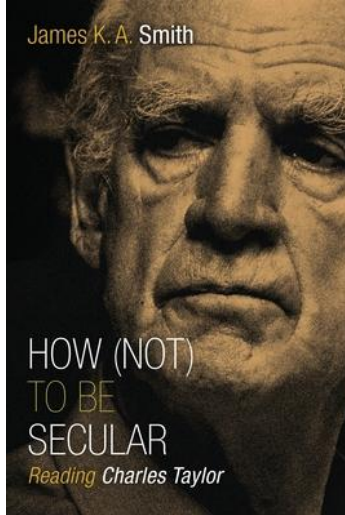
Celebrating Graduates!

On June 14 we will be celebrating High School and College Graduates at the 10 am service. [Please let us know if your graduate can attend.](#)



Reading with the Rector: [How \(Not\) to be Secular by James K.A. Smith](#) Wednesday, June 17th and 24th at 6:30 pm in person and on [Zoom](#)

This is an excellent book about a great book. Charles Taylor wrote his massive 900 page book "A Secular Age" 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 believe this book is VERY important for the mission of our church in a secular age. We must understand our context if we are to minister in it. Please RSVP with this [link](#).



St. John's Young Adult Group

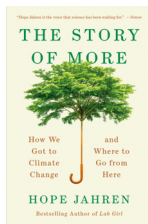
On **July 18th** at **4pm**, the **Young Adult Group** will be gathering at Jarrett and Alison's house in Hancock. We will enjoy a variety of (optional) outdoor activities (hiking, kayaking, swimming, etc.) and conversation, followed by a communal dinner. Additional upcoming events include **Bass Park After Dark (June 20th, 4:00pm)** and the **Summer Sidewalk Art Festival (July 11th, 10:00am)** in downtown Bangor. Generally, anyone between the ages of ~25-35 is welcome to participate. For questions and to RSVP, please email William Somes at WilliamLauringSomes@gmail.com.

Celebrate Pride at the Pride Parade in Bangor

In fellowship with our sister churches in Orono and Brewer, St. John's will once again be marching in the Pride Parade in Bangor and sharing an Episcopal Pride Booth as well on June 27th. All ages are invited to march in the parade and staff the booth. Once you sign up we will get back to you with information about our assembly point for the parade. Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/DwkaNJHjFyMoUMJN7>

There are t-shirts available in sizes M, L and XL that you can purchase for \$20.



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).

****Due to staff vacation, all announcements for the June 14th and 21st bulletin and This Week at St. John's are due by Thursday June 11th at noon.****

Serving the Community since 1835
Join Us For
SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP
Sundays at 9:00am
Starting July 5th
www.stjohnsbangor.org

Rector's Essay - The Strength of Sacraments - Continued

While sacraments have a symbolic dimension, they are much more than that. A sacrament participates in the reality of God and communicates God's tangible presence in the material of the sacrament and the action of sharing the sacrament. For example, our communion bread and wine - in the Episcopal tradition - Jesus Christ is really present in the bread and the wine offering us an eternal connection with God. Jesus is present in the act of sharing the elements and in communal sharing of them as well.

God's grace is sufficient and powerful to the degree that grace is imparted even when our faculties are dimmed. When someone is suffering from Alzheimer's or dementia this is incredibly good news. By ingesting the sacrament this person is fed by the bread of life and cup of salvation in a way beyond our full comprehension. God reaches that beloved person at a deep level even when we struggle to connect with them at all.

Our dominant Protestant culture is premised on denuding and disenchanting material reality, starting with sacraments. One result is the unfortunate idea that meaning and significance are assigned by our brains to objects in the world which are considered inert and empty until humans assign them meaning. The Anglican worldview is a counter-culture where we experience the material world as deeply imbued and sustained by God's abiding, loving presence. God's desire to communicate and include us in the divine life lives in and comes through all which God made good and all which God has redeemed and all the gifts God has given us for the purpose of restoration with God.

Some folks say that children should not receive communion because 'they do not understand it.' Once again, this perspective unfairly limits the power of the sacrament to our mental ability. Children understand the sacrament in their own terms and the grace of connection with God is as real for them as it is for us. Thanks be to God.

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.

Serving on Sunday June 7 at 8:00am:

Lectors – TBD

Chalice Bearer – Patricia S.

Serving on Sunday June 7th at 10:00am:

Lectors – David F., Alan B. and TBD

Acolytes – Eric G., Obi O. and Isaac P.

Chalice Bearers – Richard W. and Nancy D.

Ushers – Roger G. and Zach W.

Counters – Roger G. and Jim B.

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***

[Genesis
12:1-9](#)

[Romans 4:13-
25](#)

[Matthew 9:9-
13, 18-26](#)

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

***Morning
Prayer***

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

What's Happening This Week

Friday June 5th, 6:00pm: Reeling with the Rector.

Sunday, June 7th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, June 7th, 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, June 7th, 11:30am: Garden Planting Party

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

Tuesday, June 9th, 7:00am: Men's Breakfast at the Coach House Restaurant on Wilson St. in Brewer. [Contact Jim B.](#) for more information.

Tuesday, June 9th, 6:00pm: Finance Committee Meeting on [Zoom](#)

Saturday, June 13th, 12:00pm: Second Saturday. For more information contact [David C.](#)

Sunday, June 14th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, June 14th, 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, June 14th, 11:15am: Pride Month Craft Project in the Undercroft.

Sunday, June 14th, 11:15am: Acolyte Training at the Altar.

Sunday, June 14th, 7:00pm: [AA](#) meeting in the Undercroft.

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

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

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 Beesorchard at children@stjohnsbangor.org.

*****Nursery Care and Children's Chapel will be on Hiatus starting on June 21st and returning on September 13th*****

Opportunities to pray together:

Sunday Morning Eucharist

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

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: Allison S., Ronald R., and The Robbins family. **Continued prayers for** – Will, Neal, Carl H., Earlene B., Kyra H., Donald K., Jane Z., Susan J., Elena B., Doreen W., Mikenzy, Jay B., Susan S., Loretta, David B., Jane P., Henry L., Lyla C., Kelly M., D., M., L., Katie B., Ross M., MarLynne M., Kent C., Ann C., Esther R., Marcia & Richard, and Russell M.

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: Claudia B., Michael D. and Tarun J.

For the Departed: Thurston "Hunt" Smith and for our service members killed in the current conflict.

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Lorna and Ralph Whedon's 54th Wedding Anniversary.



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

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