



SAINT JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rooted in God, Growing in Faith

Compline Worship

May 14, 2026 6:30 p.m.

576 Concord Rd. Glen Mills, PA 19342
Phone: 610-459-2994 SaintJohnsConcord.com

Founded 1702 - Celebrating 324 Years of Worship

The Rev Jill M. LaRoche Wikel – Rector
The Rev. Terry Dinovo – Pastoral Care Chaplain
The Rev. Elizabeth Brickle – Deacon

Mission of Saint John's: To be a welcoming community committed to seeking, serving, and growing in Christ.

*Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God.
St. John's welcomes all to our diverse, inclusive, and affirming community.*

Compline

Ascension Day

The offering of prayer late in the evening, by laity, religious orders or clergy, often called Compline, has sometimes been described as the 'goodnight prayer of the Church'. It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night.

As the psalmist wrote:

I lie down in peace and take rest my rest for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

Night Prayer derives its content from the wisdom of the centuries in Scripture and above all in the psalms, but also from contemporary Christian experience of God. It celebrates the awareness that each of us who tries to pray is a part of the human whole. So we are taken over the threshold from daytime, not in a mood of self-centred spirituality, but as representatives of humanity, acknowledging our creaturehood before God. [New Zealand Book of Common Prayer]

Approach *(please stand)*

Celebrant: The angels of God guard us through the night,

***People:* and quieten the powers of darkness.**

Celebrant: The Spirit of God be our guide ***People:* to lead us to peace and to glory.**

Celebrant: It is but lost labour that we haste to rise up early, and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety. For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep. *Silence.*

Celebrant: My brothers and sisters, our help is in the name of the eternal God,

***People:* who is making the heavens and the earth.**

Night Prayer

Celebrant: Dear God, thank you for all that is good, for our creation and for our humanity, for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth, for the gifts of life and of one another, for your love which is unbounded and eternal.

O thou, most holy and beloved, my Companion, my Guide upon the way, my bright evening star.

We repent the wrongs we have done: *Silence*

Celebrant: We have wounded your love. ***People:* O God, heal us.**

Celebrant: We stumble in the darkness. ***People:* Light of the world transfigure us.**

Celebrant: We forget that we are your home. ***People:* Spirit of God, dwell in us.**

Celebrant: Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you, to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to trouble us. Living flame burn into us, cleansing wind, blow through us, fountain of water, well up within us, that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

Invocation

Celebrant: Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,

***People:* that our mouths may proclaim your praise.**

Celebrant: Let us worship the God of love. ***People:* Alleluia, alleluia.** (*please be seated*)

A Reading from the book of Acts

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the

kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Silence may follow the reading.

A Reading from Psalm 47:1-7

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; *
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 For the LORD Most High is to be feared; *
God is the great King over all the earth.
- 3 God subdues the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 God chooses our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

- 5 God has gone up with a shout, *
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; *
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is King of all the earth; *
sing praises with all your skill.

Silence may follow the reading.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Reflection

Silence may follow the reflection.

Celebrant: Let us pray: Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

Hymn (*please stand*)

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

Hymnal 460 vv1-3

- 1 Alleluia! sing to Jesus!
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone;
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.
- 2 Alleluia! not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:

though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! bread of Heaven,
Thou on earth our food, our stay!
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! sing to Jesus, #460 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

Prayers

Celebrant: Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,

People: for you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.

Celebrant: Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;

People: hide me under the shadow of your wings.

ORDINARY DAYS

People: Preserve us, O God, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in your peace.

Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis*

People: Praise be to God, I have lived to see this day. God's promise is fulfilled, and my duty done.

At last you have given me peace, for I have seen with my own eyes the salvation you have prepared for all nations – a light to the world in its darkness, and the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying, as in the beginning, so now, and for ever.

Amen. *The antiphon may be repeated.*

People: Preserve us, O God, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in your peace.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer (alternative)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the

grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

The minister and people pray responsively.

Celebrant: I will lie down in peace and take my rest, ***People:* for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.**

Celebrant: Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,

***People:* let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.**

Celebrant: May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,

***People:* glorified and exalted above all for ever.**

Celebrant: Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.

The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.

The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

***People:* Amen.**

Sentence of the Day and Final Versicle.

Sentence of the Day: THURSDAY

Celebrant: Christ be within us to keep us, beside us to guard, before us to lead, behind us to protect, beneath us to support, above us to bless.

Final Versicle *The service concludes*

Celebrant: The divine Spirit dwells in us. ***People:* Thanks be to God.**