



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Holy Eucharist

Rite I - 8:00 am

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026

You are welcome at
St. George's Church:
Inclusive of race,
nationality,
sexual orientation,
gender expression,
and tradition.

Welcome to St. George's!

View Our Complete Weekly
Worship Schedule on our Website:
StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/worship

Whether you are worshiping online or in person, we are glad you are here. We hope you will find comfort in the beauty of the worship and encouragement in your personal faith journey.

New to St. George's?

Thank you for joining us today! You can use this bulletin to follow along with the worship service. We use liturgies based in the red *Book of Common Prayer*. Hymns are from the blue *Hymnal 1982* and green *Wonder, Love, and Praise*. All are located in your pew. Watch fellow worshipers for when to stand or sit, and please only do what is comfortable for you. We'd love to get to know you and help get you connected with our parish ministries, formation, and fellowship groups.

Families with children: Nursery services are also available during the 10 am service in our nursery room (in the office hallway, one level below the main church). Please see an usher or greeter for directions.



Visit StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/connect or scan the QR code and we'll be in touch.

You can also fill out the Newcomer Card in your pew and drop it in the offering plate. We welcome the chance to meet you!

Thank You for Your Generous Gifts!

Your financial gifts fund our ministries so we may show the Love of God to all. This month your gifts have helped:

- bear witness to God's love and the God-given dignity of every human being at local events for Juneteenth and Pride.
- share food and community with neighbors at Monday evening Community Dinners

You can make a financial gift:

- **In-person:** place gift in collection plate in the aisle.
- **Online - one-time or recurring:**

StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/giving. Or scan the QR code.

• **Text:** Send a text message with the dollar amount [e.g. \$50] to: 540.701.4133)

• **Automated bank withdrawal** (contact our parish finance manager, Kevin Carey, to arrange this)

• **Paypal:** www.paypal.com/paypalme/stgeorgesfxbg

• **Mail:** P.O. Box 7127, Fredericksburg, VA 22404



Walking Together

Pastoral Care at St. George's is a ministry of the clergy and the laity. By walking with each other through times of joy and times of sorrow, the love of Christ is revealed.

Prayer Ministers are available to pray with you during our worship services and outside of worship times on the phone. Our Prayer Group provides intercessory prayer weekly. Our One Body Response Team (OBRT) offers prayers, sends cards, and responds to other needs as able.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) are available to bring Holy Communion to the homebound.

Our Wednesday Noon Eucharist service in the nave includes prayers for healing and anointing.

Prayer Shawls are available upon request. These mantles of healing and comfort are made by our ministry teams.

If you need support or encouragement, please consider reaching out to our church office (540.373.4133; office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net). You may also contact clergy directly to make an appointment.

If you have a pastoral care emergency (death, serious illness, or other crisis) and need to speak with clergy, please call or text 540.361.8573 to reach clergy on call.

Land and Labor Acknowledgment

We give thanks for the land which God created as a precious gift. We honor the Indigenous peoples who long knew the land of our parish more than 10,000 years before it was established over 300 years ago, including the Patowomeck and Rappahannock Tribes who still live here. Please see our website for the full text of our land acknowledgement.

We also honor the people of African descent whose enslaved labor supported the parish for the first half of its history. Rooted in the Gospel, repentant of sin, we are nurturing faith and seeking justice, healing, and repair of relationships amid the complexity of our times.

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost July 26, 2026

from the red Book of Common Prayer
(BCP)

We invite you to prepare for worship by observing silence or taking time for private prayer. Please take a moment to silence cell phones and alarms. We are glad you are here!

Celebrant: Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

BCP 323

Summary of the Law

BCP 324

Kyrie

BCP 324

The Word of God

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect of the Day

BCP 180

O God, the protector of all who trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Genesis 29:15-28 *New Revised Standard Version*

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why

then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country-- giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

BCP 738

Romans 8:26-39 *New Revised Standard Version*

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 13:31-33,44-52 *NRSV*

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought

it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Deacon or Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Rock Higgins

The Nicene Creed

BCP 326

The Prayers of the People

BCP 328

The Confession

BCP 330

A special "peace" candle is lit and this prayer is offered

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

All are now invited to exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory and Announcements

Celebrant: As we prepare the altar to receive the offering of Christ in the sacrament, we make our offerings in gratitude for God's abundant grace. Please see the instructions later in the bulletin about participating in Communion or receiving a blessing. Know that you are most welcome. Thank you for sharing your gifts in commitment to God and to our ministry together. As we give thanks for God's abundant grace, "Since you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1. *You can make your offering in the plate as you come forward for communion or send your offering electronically, by mail, or by automated bank withdrawal. See details on the inside cover of this bulletin for an easy to use QR code. Thank you!*

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer I	BCP 333
Sanctus + Benedictus	BCP 341
The Lord's Prayer	BCP 336
The Breaking of the Bread	BCP 337
Lamb of God, Prayer of Humble Access	BCP 337

Invitation to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to participate in Communion, either by receiving the Sacrament or receiving a blessing. Communion is the sacramental body and blood of Jesus Christ received in bread and wine blessed by the Holy Spirit.

- *Proceed forward toward the communion ministers when prompted (notify an usher if you need to receive at your seat).*
- *To receive the bread, hold your hands out, palms up.*
- *To receive the wine, sip from the cup (a.k.a. chalice) or point to the cup for the bread to be dipped by the minister.*
- *Gluten-free? Hold your hands palms down, then take the wafer from the separate container when offered. Ask for the gluten-free cup if preferred.*
- *To receive a blessing (prayed by the minister), cross your arms over your chest.*

Receiving just the bread or just the wine is a full and valid participation.

For more information about participation in the sacraments of Holy Communion or Holy Baptism, contact the clergy.

The Prayer After Communion	BCP 339
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Farewell Blessing for Father Rock

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord

The congregation responds **Thanks be to God!**

Announcements

For the latest news and events,
sign up for our weekly e-newsletter,
The St. Georgian:
StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/enews

VBS Music Camp Performs: *The Lost Boy* Today

Join us today during the 10 am worship service to see the St. George's Vacation Bible School and Music Camp perform *The Lost Boy*, a fun and jazzy retelling of Jesus being lost in the temple. This week our VBS has been in full swing with bible stories, crafts and music. They have been hard at work learning the music and lyrics to this fun musical retelling of Luke 2:41-52. Come see what they've been up to during the 10 am service. Special thanks to our Director of Children's Music, Julian Jones, as well as our other adult leaders and volunteers. It's been a fun week!

Farewell Coffee Hour for Father Rock

Today we bid farewell to our Interim Associate Rector, the Rev. Rock Higgins. Following the 10 am service, please join us in Sydnor Hall for a special coffee hour as we celebrate his ministry among us and give thanks for the many gifts he has shared with our congregation. We send him with our blessings and heartfelt gratitude for his faithful service, leadership, and dedication during his time with us. We wish him every blessing in the next chapter of his journey.

Today's Altar Arrangement:

The altar arrangement is given in loving memory of my husband Jim Pierce by Karen Pierce, arranged by Flower Guild member Sarah Bass.

Save the Date: Worshipalooza

Saturday, August 15 10 am - 2 pm

Plan now for our annual day of trainings for worship ministry leaders: lectors and intercessors, ushers and greeters, acolytes, livestream technicians, Eucharistic ministers, and more. A detailed schedule will be announced at the end of July. We invite children, youth, and adults to be trained and help us lead worship!

Volunteers Needed for 2026 School Dressing Days

It takes an amazing team of volunteers to help make School Dressing Days a success, and we'd love for you to be part of it! Help provide students with the clothing and essentials they need to begin the school year feeling prepared, confident, and ready to learn. Every volunteer helps create a welcoming experience for local families. Scan the QR code to sign up. Choose the shift that works best for you and invite a friend to serve alongside you!



Evening Bible Study Series with Fr. Frank Uwaezuoke

Join our new Priest Associate, the Rev. Frank Uwaezuoke, on four Tuesdays (July 28, August 4, 11, 18) for an exploration of scripture and culture. This Bible study theme "*The Body of Christ: I Am Because We Are*" (*Ubuntu*), draws on the wisdom of the African Church and the witness of Scripture. Meets in Faulkner Hall from 6 - 7:30 pm.



Beautiful Music in a Beautiful Space

Announcing Our 2026-2027 Concert Series

We're excited to share the lineup for our 2026–2027 Concert Series! This season features returning favorites Peter and Will Anderson, Becky and Slam, Scary Music for Organ, and Christmas at St. George's, along with exciting newcomers including Vox Humana and the Alma Ensemble*'s *Boundless: Music by Inspiring Women*.

As always, all concerts are offered free of charge. If you would like to help us continue sharing beautiful music in a beautiful space with our community, please consider making a donation. Every gift helps sustain this ministry and keep music accessible to all.

**This concert is supported, in part, by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly.*



Scan the QR code to view this year's lineup and for information on how to donate.

Visit our website at stgeorgesepiscopal.net/concerts

St. George's Prayer List

For the most up-to-date list of prayers and thanksgivings, sign up to receive our email prayer list: StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/signup

Regarding the Prayer List:

We strive to extend the power of the congregation's prayer to those who feel they would benefit from its embrace. Please submit prayer requests in writing to office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net. Names remain on the list for 1 month. All new additions listed in italics.

Our leadership:

Sarah, Sean, Mark, Gayle, and Mark; for Joe, Rock, Frank and Ethan, our clergy; for those who are priests and pastors in our community; for our staff—Laurel, Jake, Kevin, Danielle, Barbara, Achim, Riley, Amy, Emma, Meredith, Sojo, Juliann, Stephanie and Lucy; and for our Vestry.

Those needing God's grace:

Rev. Aaron Dobynes, Paul Sungenis, Helen Soheili, Soheili Family, Emily Croner, Chris and Cynthia McRae, Jillian Pabalan, John Danello, Ellen Sharp, Makenna M, Lisa Bogardus, Jennifer Haines, Fisher Family, Kathy Dozois (mother of Christine McElhinney), Gabi Kelly, Linda Dolph, Shane Kanatous

Those in convalescence:

Barry Krause, Rev. Carey Connors, Annie Redmond, Ella (daughter of former parishioner Jill Brown), Bob Sarkisian, Ann Tebbutt

Those who have died:

Gene Kubal, Patrick Dougherty, Sandra Fisher (daughter of Kevin and Sujey Fisher), *Gloria Davis*

Those expecting children:

Maren Cadwallender and Em Sleza

Those serving our country overseas:

Jeff Bryant, Travis Weber, Avery Endler

Those with ongoing concerns:

Arya Holmes, Dick Roth, Molly Myers, Claire Simpson, Paula Mullins, Logan Vaaler, Russ Carter, Ron Tebbutt, Janis Hales, Scott Fray, Makai Kingston Bernardi Brown, Elizabeth Martel, Barbara Atkins

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion and all Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Lay Leaders

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Our Partners: St. George's Episcopal Preschool; Notre Dame Parish and School (Port-au-Prince, Haiti), Père Geffrard Ricot; The House college chaplaincy and young adult ministry; SAWs Virginia; Rev. Ōshin Jennings, No Barriers Zen Temple; Micah Ecumenical Ministries; Our Little Roses - Honduras

Contact Staff

For pastoral emergencies:
540.361.8573

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The Rev. Rock Higgins
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The Rev. Ethan Lowery
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Amy Bogardus
Nursery Supervisor and
Youth Ministry Assistant

Meredith Walburn
Nursery Assistant

Sojo Higgins
Nursery Assistant

Emma James
Nursery Assistant

Serving This Sunday

Thank you to our worship leaders
serving today. If you would like to
volunteer, contact the church office:
office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Clergy:

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr.
The Rev. Rock Higgins

Preacher:

The Rev. Rock Higgins

Lector:

Trip Wiggins

Greeter:

Peggy Verdine

Altar Guild:

Jemma Judd
Lee Anne Hecker
Ann Tebbutt
Kathy Lober
Marilyn Farrington

Flower Guild:

Sarah Bass

Coffee Hour:

Trip Wiggins
Barbara Blose

Contact Our Vestry:

The Vestry is our elected, lay leadership council led by our Senior Warden Kit Burns and our Junior Warden Wendy Cannon. The Vestry welcomes your questions, concerns, and feedback. Email them at: vestry@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

St. George's Episcopal Church

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