

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost



September 27, 2020
10:30 AM

Join us for our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>
or <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>
Zoom Coffee Hour: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

September 27, 2020

In-Person Communion Service TONIGHT: Join us for in-person worship services every other **Sunday at 5:00 PM**. Please bring your own chairs—spots will be marked on the front lawn. Masks must be worn and social distance must be observed. Limited bathroom usage. At-risk individuals or anyone feeling unwell should not attend. Please use discretion. **Please RSVP [here](#)** so that we can plan for attendance.

Hymnal Supplement: The ELCA has produced a hymnal supplement to our current *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* entitled *All Creation Sings* to be released in November. If you would like to purchase a personal copy or donate toward the cost of the congregation purchase please contact the church office. \$12.50 per copy. For more information click [here](#).

Outdoor Property Day Saturday, October 3, 9:00AM (rain date October 10). Tasks will be socially distanced and focused on sprucing up the grounds and landscaping around the building. Lunch will be provided and all are welcome to come and lend a helping hand! Please RSVP to Andrew Larsen (alarsen83@gmail.com) if attending. Masks will be required for all volunteers.

St. John's Anti-Racism Committee Book Discussion: *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. The discussion will take place via ZOOM on **Tuesdays, September 29, October 6, and 13 at 5:00 PM**. Please join us on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82257936347>.

Cross Roads Tea: Our benefit Tea Party for Cross Roads Camp is going virtual! We will be meeting over Zoom on **October 17 at 4 PM**. Upon RSVP we will deliver you a personal tea party box. Join us for a fun afternoon to support our church camp. You must sign up by **October 9**. Sign up [here](#) to reserve a spot.

Remembrance of the Faithful Departed: Each year on All Saints Day we remember those who have died in the past year. You are invited to submit names and a picture of any loved ones or friends who have died in the past year. For more information or to submit a name please email Pastor Blake. Names must be submitted by **October 25**.

Reformation Intergenerational Zoom Event: Join us **Sunday, October 27 at 4:00 PM** for a fun program for all ages. We will sing, share, and learn about our Lutheran heritage.

Christmas Trees: We are looking to borrow well-kept, green artificial Christmas trees for use in producing Advent & Christmas videos. This would be a loan NOT a donation--you can have your trees back. We would want them by early November and can return them to you by December 16. If you have a possible tree to loan us, please contact the church office.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Please give generously to the emergency fund sponsored by the Summit Interfaith Council to help Summit immigrant neighbors adversely affected by COVID-19. You may make your tax-deductible donation to the Relief Fund [here](#), by either check or PayPal. Checks should be made out to and mailed to Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.

Prayer Before Worship

Holy God, all lives are yours, and you do not seek the death of any sinner. Renew our hearts, refresh our spirits, and help us walk in your holy way, that we may welcome the impartiality of your judgment and accept your all-embracing goodness; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE Setting of *Was frag ich nach der Welt*

By David N. Johnson (1922–1987)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN 557 Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun
Verses 1, 3, 4



1. A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy dai - ly stage of
3. Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis - perse my sins as
4. Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all I de - sign or



du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and joy - ful rise to
morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of thought and will; and
do or say, that all my pow'rs, with all their might, in



pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
with thy - self my spir - it fill.
thy sole glo - ry - may u - nite.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

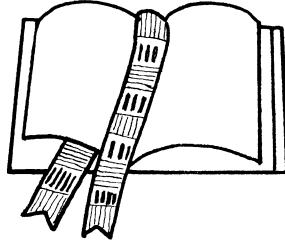
Music: MORNING HYMN, François H. Barthélémon, 1741–1808

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1–7



Spoken responsively

- ¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
- ²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- ³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- ⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**
- ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- ⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**
- ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD. **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 2:1–13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Lord, to whom shall we go?—

You have the words of e-ter-nal life: Al-le-lu-ia!—

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:23–32

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

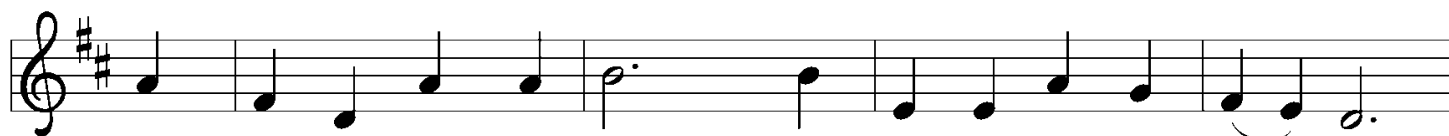
²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

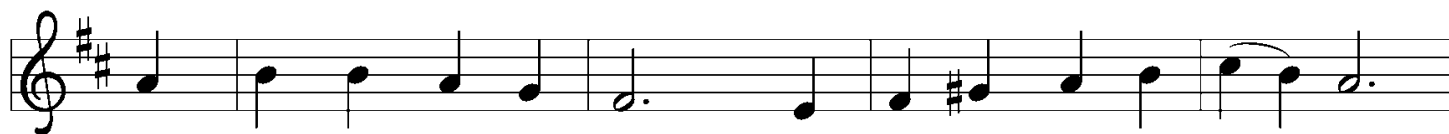
The gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 806 O God, My Faithful God



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 When dan-gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

Lord in your mercy, . . . **Hear our prayer.** *Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

And now let us pray as our Savior taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**



GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving. You may also contact the church office for more options.

OFFERING MUSIC Setting of "If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

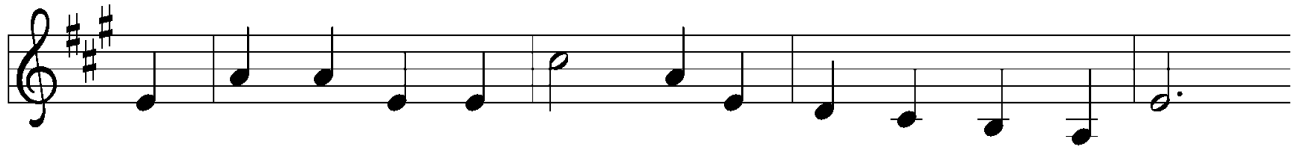
By J. S. Bach
(1685–1750)

and Donna Garzinsky (b. 20th C.)

Virtual Recorder and Percussion Ensembles

OFFERTORY 681 We Plow the Fields and Scatter

Verse 3



3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank-ful hearts.

Refrain



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt.
Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the \dagger Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and rest upon you now and forevermore. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN We Will Walk with God

We will walk with God, my broth-ers, we will walk with God.
We will walk with God, my sis-ters, we will walk with God.

The first system of the hymn consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in 4/4 time and have a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are centered between the two staves.

We will go re - joic - ing till the king - dom has come.

The second system of the hymn consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in 4/4 time and have a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are centered between the two staves.

We will go re - joic - ing till the king - dom has come.

The third system of the hymn consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in 4/4 time and have a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are centered between the two staves.

Text: Swaziland traditional; transcribed by Swedish Youth Exchange Project, ©; tr. by John L. Bell, b.1949, © 2002, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Tune: Swaziland traditional; transcribed by Swedish Youth Exchange Project, ©

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Fugue in G minor (BWV 558)

By J. S. Bach

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>

Zoom Children's Time is each **Sunday** at **9:30 AM**. Join: <https://zoom.us/j/374109491>.

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at **7:00 PM** on both our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

Hymns of Faith: Wednesdays at **10:30 AM**. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88523165763>

Worship Live Stream at 10:30 AM on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit or our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ **Worship bulletins** are located: <https://www.stjohnssummit.org/bulletins>.

Giving Is Important. We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. Please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore, Pastor

pastorggmoore@stjohnssummit.org

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org

Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music

dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

crothman@stjohnssummit.org

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

wk154linda@gmail.com

The Rev. Dr. Harry Kocotos, Visitation Pastor

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

587 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901

www.stjohnssummit.org

908-273-3846 | Fax: 908-273-9604

We're delighted you're worshipping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.



READER

Pentecost 17

- Today is the **17th** Sunday after Pentecost.
- Pentecost is a **growing season**.
- The color for Pentecost is **green**.

Blowing in the Wind

Pentecost is a time of spiritual renewal, as Christians notice God's Holy Spirit blowing through their lives. How would this Pentecost tree look with the Holy Spirit blowing through it?



He answered, 'I will not'; but

later he changed his mind

and went. **Matthew 21:29**

Memory Verse



Jesus wants us to say yes with our words and our actions. Write the word YES under each word of the memory verse.

I Believe

What do you believe about God and Jesus? Christians in many places say what they believe each week in something called a creed. Listen for the words *I believe* during worship—that's the creed!

What kinds of things show what you believe about God and Jesus? Search the picture and mark any God-Jesus reminders with a cross [there are at least 11], then quietly tell someone else why you marked what you did. Look for people, places, and things.



Following Jesus just as you are

God made each of us unique, so each of us follows Jesus in our own different way. After you complete the list below, ask a friend to answer the same questions. Are your answers the same? Probably not! And that's okay. God loves all of us!

I am good at...

My 3 favorite foods are...

What are 3 ways you might do God's work? (Check the other lists for ideas!)

I love doing...



Listening for the Creed

In worship we say the words of the Apostles' Creed. These words were written over 1000 years ago! They are written below, but many of the words are missing! Can you find them on the pages? Try to fill in all the blanks by the time the congregation says the Creed together.

I believe in God the _____ almighty, creator of _____
and _____. I believe in Jesus _____, God's only
_____, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
_____, born of the virgin _____, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was _____, died, and was buried; he
descended to the _____. On the third day he rose
again; he _____ into heaven, he is seated at the
_____ hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the
_____ and the dead. I believe in the _____ Spirit,
the holy catholic _____, the communion of
_____, the forgiveness of _____, the resurrection of
the _____, and the life _____. Amen.

saints

church

ascended

dead

Spirit

heaven

earth

Mary

Father

everlasting

Christ

sins

body

right

Holy

living

crucified

son



PRE-READER

Pentecost 17

- Today is the 17th **Sunday** after Pentecost.
- Pentecost is a season of **growing**.
- Pentecost is the **longest season** of the church year.
- We celebrate Pentecost in the **summer** and the **fall**.

Do you live in a place where the leaves change colors in the fall? The leaves change from green to orange, red, and yellow. Color this tree to make it look like a fall tree.



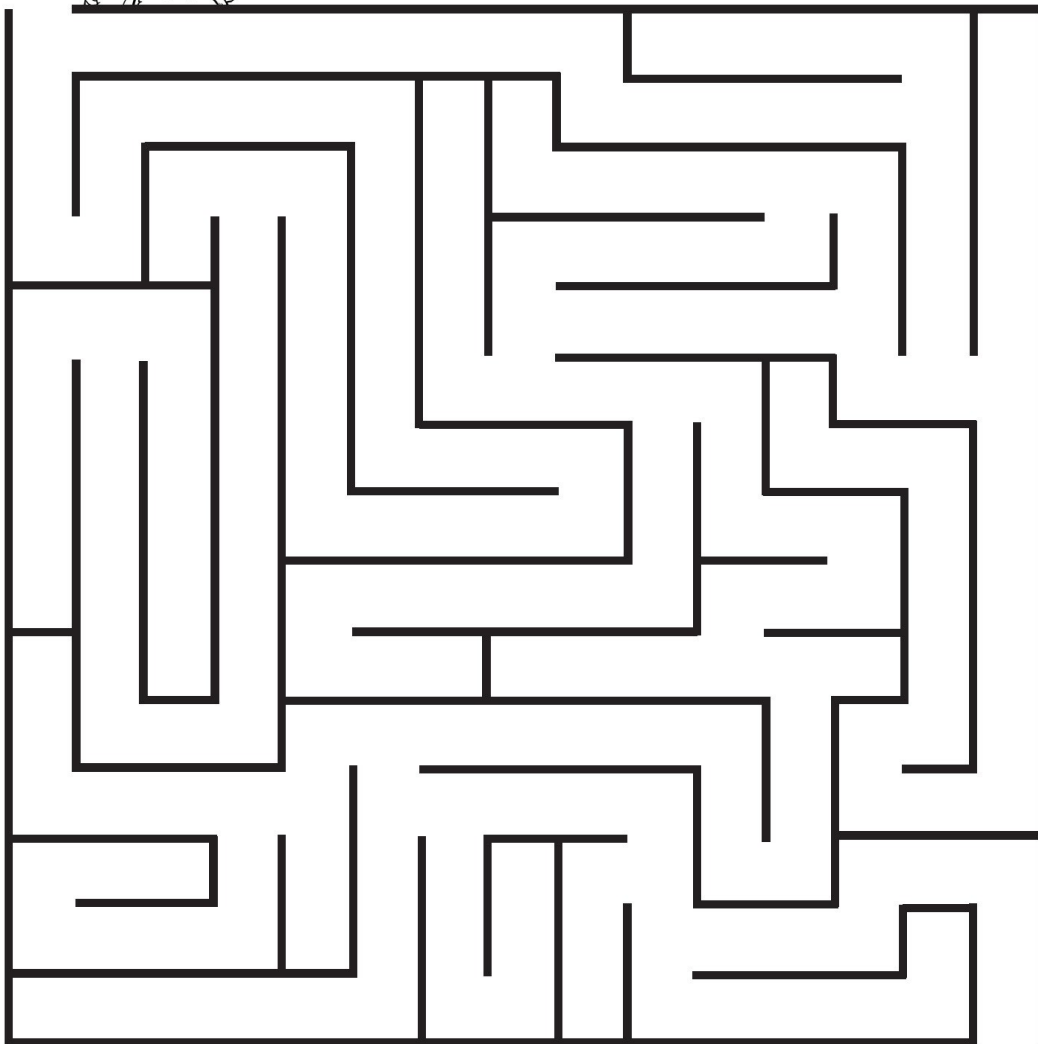


“You may say that you are good, but you don’t act that way.”



The chief priests asked Jesus lots of questions. Jesus showed them how to find the answers.

Follow the maze with the chief priests to get to Jesus.



Look for these things at church.

Circle the ones you can find in your worship space.

