

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 9, 2023 | 9:15 AM



All are welcome at Saint John's regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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We're delighted you're worshiping 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.

Prayer Before Worship

Savior and Friend, you call us to lay down our burdens and find rest in a relationship with you. Help us to learn from you how to be gentle and humble of heart, that our burdens may be light. Amen.

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

Gathering

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

ELW *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book*

ACS *All Creation Sings: Purple Book*

PRELUDE Prelude; Contemplation

C. Alexander Peloquin

WELCOME

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 404 Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove



1 Come, gra - cious Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, with light and
2 The light of truth to us dis - play and make us
3 Lead us to Christ, the liv - ing way, nor let us
4 Lead us to heav'n, that we may share full - ness of



com - fort from a - bove. Come, be our guard - ian
know and choose your way; plant ho - ly fear in
from his pas - tures stray. Lead us in ho - li -
joy for - ev - er there; lead us to our e -



and our guide; o'er ev - 'ry thought and step pre - side.
ev - 'ry heart, that we from God may ne'er de - part.
ness, the road that we must take to dwell with God
ter - nal rest, to be with God for - ev - er blest.

Text: Simon Browne, 1680-1732, alt.

Music: HERR JESU CHRIST, MEINES, German folk tune, 15th cent.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

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

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Zechariah 9:9–12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war-horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

PSALM 145:8–14

Spoken responsively.

- ⁸The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹**Lord, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**
- ¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.
- ¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**
- ¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, Lord, are faithful in all your words,
and loving in all your works.**
- ¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING Romans 7:15–25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

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

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

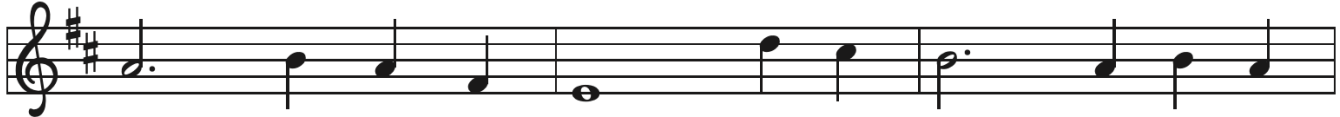
The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 1017 Come to Me, O Weary Traveler



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
fore you; do not run from me in fright."
side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: AUSTIN, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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Music © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc., selahpub.com. All rights reserved.

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

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC In Christ Alone

Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend

Terrance Rindler, guitar

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand:
till he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ, we'll stand.

Please stand.

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

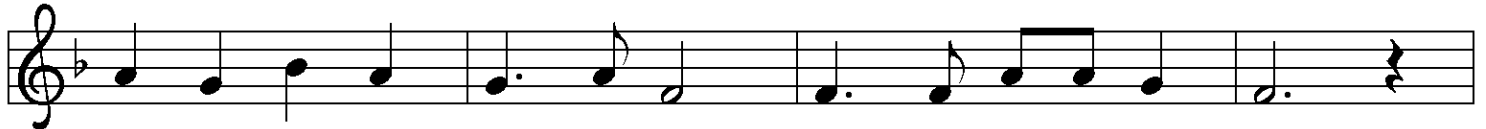
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

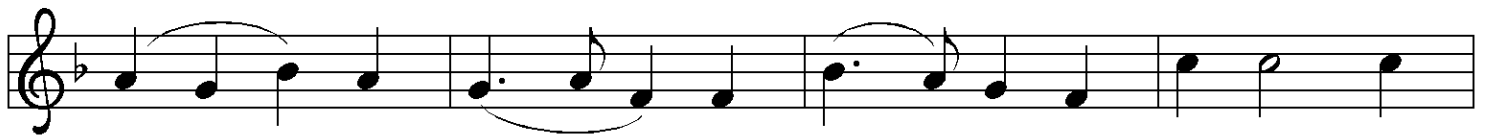
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

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.



Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.

Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

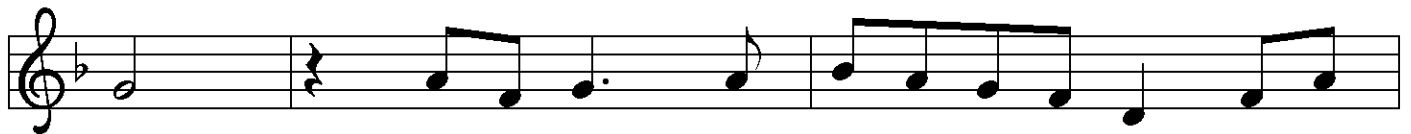
All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



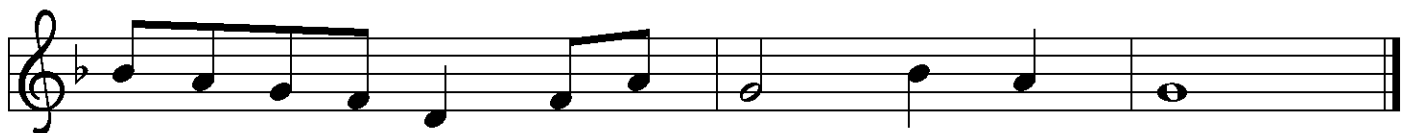
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

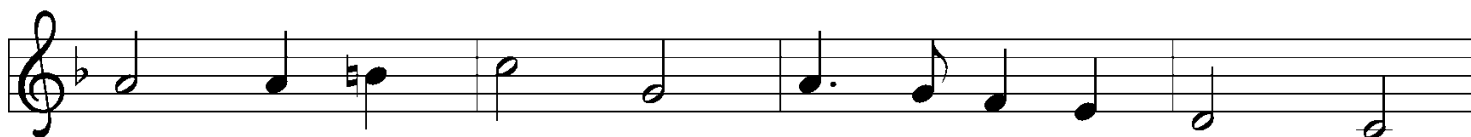


take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 342 There in God's Garden



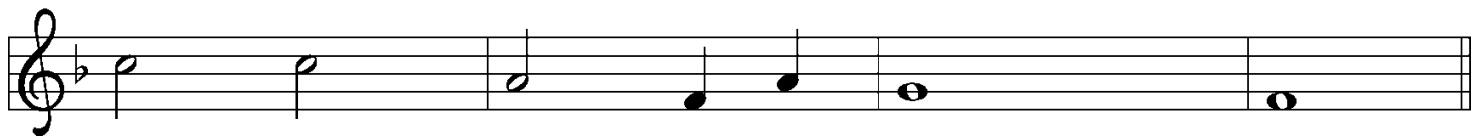
1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!"



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drills of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

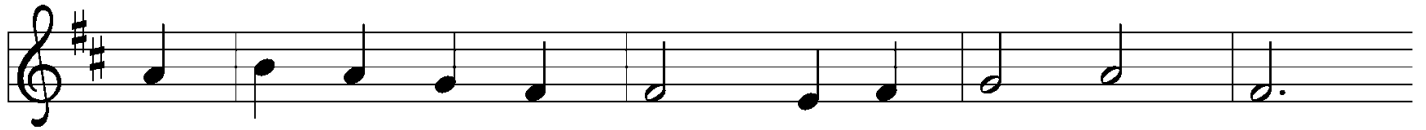
Sending

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

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 767 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en and night has come,



di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.
for you, the Rock of A - ges, are al - ways near.
I know that you will strength - en my steps toward home,



With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!



so take my hand, O Sav - ior, and lead the way.
for when your hand is guid - ing, in peace I go.
So, take my hand and lead me un - to the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: SO NIMM DENN MEINE HÄNDE, Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Postlude on “Old Hundredth”

Fred Bock

July 9, 2023

We welcome Wayne Dietterick as our guest organist today.

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Irma Gahan's birthday by the Gahan family.

Rummage Sale, July 14 & 15 to support Youth Missions. Donations accepted starting **TODAY**.

Family Movie Night, July 23: Join us to watch the children's documentary "1000% Me: Growing Up Mixed." With humor and sensitivity, filmmaker and comedian W. Kamau Bell tackles the joys and challenges of growing up mixed-race through conversations with kids and families in the San Francisco Bay Area, including his own. Dinner will be served at **5:30 PM** and the movie will begin at **6:00 PM**.

LSMNJ BACKPACKS due August 6: We are once again collecting school items for students in the LSMNJ's affordable housing program. This year the physical collection of backpacks at church has returned. Please shop for the supplies and return filled backpacks to St. John's by **Sunday, August 6**. Contact Helen Dachowicz if you have any questions. See the weekly email for more details.

ASP Stock Sale: On behalf of the adult and youth Appalachia Service Project volunteers, many thanks to everyone who "took stock in our youth" and the ASP program by purchasing ASP stock. Together with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glen Rock, who sent us four volunteers and held a stock sale at their church, St. John's was able to raise **\$4,860 for our trip**. This covers the cost of renting two vans plus a whole lot more! Thank you, everyone!

At Cross Roads Summer Camp, your child will have the opportunity to explore nature, build new friendships, and create In addition to a wide range of activities, Cross Roads believes in the importance of community and teamwork and the programs are designed to build confidence, foster leadership skills, and promote social skills. This is a fantastic way to give your child the gift of adventure, friendship, and fun this summer. Visit crossroadsretreat.com to register.

A Thank You from Psomi: Dear St. John's Community, Thank you all so much for that lovely luncheon, and for the beautiful stole that you got me for my ordination and installation. The stole is simply beautiful, and I've been wearing it with all of you in mind. The quilt-like pieces are really nice, and they are complimented by the gold border. You all have really good taste. Needless to say, this is going to be my "go to" for the post-Pentecost season of green! And that luncheon was just so special! It is such an honor to have been welcomed by all of you, and "grown" in my first Lutheran family. I truly feel like a daughter of the church, a daughter loved and nurtured by a wonderful loving community. Thank you so much!

We are hiring a Livestream Coordinator for Sunday services from 7:45–Noon, including religious holidays, approximately 5 hours a week. Open to high school and college students with TV production experience. Contact Linda Mesenbrink at 973-202-2773 or Linda.mesenbrink@verizon.net.



SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Reconciling in Christ

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