St. George's Episcopal Church
TO BE AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

The Collect of the Day

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live, but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring and said, 'O Lord, God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

"May you, our sister, become
  thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
  of the gates of their foes."

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man, and the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field, and, looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into

his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm Song of Songs 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved!
Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.
Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.
My beloved speaks and says to me:
"Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away,
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

The Second Lesson Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but 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. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

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

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the 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."

At 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; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All 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.

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

Next week's readings

Our readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A, and we are using the NRSVUE translations. The readings for next week are:

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Important Upcoming Dates

Saturday, July 11

- Lunch Serving at Christine's Kitchen

Wednesday, July 15

- Newcomers Ministry Meeting

Saturday, July 18

- Ice Cream making class

Sunday, July 19

- Ice Cream Sunday

JAM's Weekly Action for Justice

Visitors to Delaney Hall are again being made to wait outside in 100-degree weather. And one of the units housing detainees was reported to lack air conditioning on Thursday. Meanwhile, ICE raids are increasing across NJ & NY. Call our representatives and urge them to contact GEO Group (the for-profit firm that runs Delaney Hall) to insist that they allow visitors to enter the air-conditioned gym when they come for visitation. For phone numbers and a script, scan the QR code:

Monthly Prayer Vigil at Delaney Hall

On the fourth Sunday of each month at 3 PM, our diocese will hold a brief prayer vigil outside the Delaney Hall ICE detention facility.

The next prayer vigil will be:

3 PM on Sunday, July 26.

Scan the QR code, or go to

https://dioceseofnewark.org/event/prayer-vigil-at-delaney-hall

for details, and guidelines for attendees, If you are not able to join us in person, we will do our best to live stream the vigil to the diocesan Facebook page. You can also pray at the same time from wherever you are, in solidarity with us.

Lunch Serving at Christine's Kitchen

On **Saturday, July 11,** We will be providing 180 packed lunches for Christine's Kitchen at Holy Trinity Church. Your help is needed, go to https://bit.ly/Christine0711 for more information and to sign up. Participating teens will meet in the kitchen at 9:30am. A smaller group will transport and distribute the prepared lunches to Holy Trinity in West Orange.

Monthly Food Pantry Collection

In the month of July we are directing our collection to the food pantry at St. Joseph's Church. They always welcome regular sized, non-perishable donations. Drop off donations in the Narthex food barrel or in the storage container in the vestibule off the parking lot. Food insecurity remains critical! Please pick up a few extra supplies when you go to the store.

Interested in supporting our Newcomers' Ministry?

Join us **Wednesday, July 15** at 7:30 pm to discuss our current Newcomers' Ministry and plans to foster radical hospitality at St. George's Church. We invite members new to St. George's as well as our more senior members to participate in the conversation. Email Denise Brown-Allen (dbateach123@gmail.com) for the agenda and Zoom link. If you are interested in the ministry and unable to attend the meeting. Please let us know.

Ice Cream Sunday

On **Sunday, July 19**, we will host our annual Ice Cream Social. On **Saturday, July 18, 12-4 PM**, we will have an ice cream making class in our kitchen. You will be able to taste a variety of flavors and each family or individual adult can choose to take some ice cream home (from a limited selection of flavors!). **Parishioners must register by July 6; the class will be offered to the community after that date**.

Minimum age for participation is 6; note that the class includes tree nuts, peanuts, and dairy items. For parishioners, the class is $40 (up to 2 kids under 12 are free per adult).
Email mofun@stgeorges-maplewood.org for more details, and to register. Please put Ice Cream Class in your subject!!

School Uniform Vouchers and Supplies Drive
This summer we are supporting the Diocesan Prison Ministry's School Uniform Voucher and Supplies drive. We are collecting donations of backpacks and school supplies, as well as donations to purchase school uniform vouchers. Checks must be made payable to the Diocese of Newark with "Prison Ministry" in the memo line. **Bring in your donations on Sunday, July 19.**

EfM
This EfM group has been an active part of Christ Church in Short Hills' commitment to lifelong education and Christian formation since Fall 2000.

EfM is a 4-year program of study to which participants commit one year at a time – the Hebrew Scriptures (Year 1), the Christian Scriptures (Year 2), Christian History (Year 3) and Christian Ethics and Spirituality (Year 4). This is a safe, fun environment in which to deepen your experience and understanding of your own faith and religious tradition while working with others on applying it to your life experiences and challenges.

The current group meets in person on Monday evenings from 7:30 – 10:00 pm from mid-September to Memorial Day. There is a Zoom option available for those times when travel and weather make it more practical!

Several fellow St Georgians are active in this EfM chapter. If you'd like to find out more, please reach out to Anthony Zuco, Magaly Roman, or Lindsay McHugh. Contact Anthony Zuco at anthony_zuco@yahoo.com for more information
Group size is required to be 6 – 12 so we are actively recruiting for the Fall 2026.

Giant Church Picnic at Cross Roads: August 16th, 2pm-6:30pm
Join St. George's on August 16 for an afternoon of camp fun, connection, and community as we celebrate the end of another amazing season at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center!
From classic camp activities to a brand new Community Variety Show, there is something for everyone whether you are a longtime camper or visiting for the first time. Food trucks will be on site or bring your own picnic, and enjoy free treats while making memories with friends old and new. Bring a lawn chair, invite your people, and do not miss it.

To attend with the St. George's group, please complete the signup form here; we will then register with Cross Roads as a group:
https://forms.gle/ox2cPWg8dbx15m1XA

Help Host Coffee Hour!
We're inviting every St. Georgian to host at least one Coffee Hour each year!
Please sign up here: https://bit.ly/CoffeeHourNov-Jun or scan the QR code.

We're also seeking:
• **Coffee Hour Hospitality Team**: A small team (5 ideally) is forming to maintain the online signup and send reminder emails. Interested? Email Mark Popham at markpopham@gmail.com.
• **Coffee Hour Baking Team:** Love to bake? Share your delicious gifts by preparing occasional treats for Coffee Hour through a fun quarterly

baking party here at St. George's! Interested? Email Tina Kelly at tinakelleywriter@gmail.com

Support the St. Cecilia Music Fund

At St. George's, music is one of the central languages of worship. The St. Cecilia Fund is an endowment dedicated to restoring our section leader program, bringing professional singers into our choir as mentors and musical anchors. Every contribution, large or small, brings us closer to sacred music that can lift our hearts more fully toward the glory of God. Scan the QR code, or go to https://bit.ly/StCeciliaMusicFund to give.

Altar Flower Tributes - Say it with flowers!

Schedule your altar flower tributes in thanksgiving for, or in memory of a loved one by scanning the QR code. Payments can be made online, details are included on the signup form.

Stay Connected with St. George's!

Are you new to the parish? Are you excited to learn about the amazing ministries and activities happening at St. George's? Be sure to sign up for our weekly online newsletter so you don't miss out! To sign up, please email our Parish Administrator, Ruth Deane, parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org.

Stay Connected with the Diocese of Newark!

As a part of the Diocese of Newark, St. George's contributes to and participates in the larger mission of our diocese– Join us in following Jesus Christ with bold acts of justice, peace, and love. Sign up to receive The VOICE Online (our diocesan digital newsletter) and

check out the amazing things going on in our Diocese. It includes a link to The VOICE Digest, a printable PDF of VOICE highlights, to share with parishioners who are not online.

In Our Prayers this week

Rita Paolillo; Craig Henderson; Sarah Ligon & her family; Jeff Hou & his family; Rev. Craig Burlington; Rev. Robert Morris; Meredith Borrelli; for the soul of Deborah Blue & for her family; Michael Mankowski; Stacy, Kashna, & Everett; Candy & Borin; the soul of Ann Maxwell Grant & her family; the soul of Kevin Sparks & his family; Katelynn Smalley; for the soul of Rev. Tanya Lynn Bennett & her family & friends; Raymond Cabrera; Joan Hoffs; Richard Berggren; the Notari family; Shaunille McDonald; Leo..

If you wish to request special prayers, please email your request to st-georges-healing@googlegroups.com. Include the name or names (preferably both first & last) and what we should be praying for. NOTE: After one month names are routinely removed from the list unless we receive a request to continue the prayer.