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

All Saints Day

November 1, 2026

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

> "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

> "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
> and thanksgiving and honor
> and power and might
> be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,

for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

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

The Psalm

Psalm 34:1-10,22

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant,
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried and was heard by the LORD
and was saved from every trouble.

The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him and delivers them.
O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.
O fear the LORD, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

The Second Lesson 1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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

The Gospel Lesson Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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:

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Important Upcoming Dates

Sunday, November 1

- All Saints’ Day Fauré’s Requiem

Saturday, November 7

- ‘Fill the Truck’ for Holy Trinity Thrift Shop
- Fall Clean Up Day

Saturday, November 14

- Lunch Hosting at Christine’s Kitchen
- Sages of All Ages Friendsgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 22

- Thanksgiving Brunch & Parishwide Dialogue, 9.30AM
- Prayer Vigil at Delaney Hall

2027 Stewardship Campaign:
"Plenty Good Room"
Reflection on St. George's

In our second week of Fall Stewardship season, two more members of St. George's told their stories of sharing in God's abundance and experiencing St. George's as a community with "plenty good room" for all.

At the 8 am service, Shawn Grain Carter shared a story of a young 12-year-old named Sloan who had contacted her – a professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology – for an interview about fashion history. Shawn actually visited the girl at her school, engaged with her in exploring the work of women in fashion, and came away from the encounter grateful for the opportunity both to give of her wisdom and experience – and to learn and receive joy in her unique exchange with Sloan.

Shawn shared her gratitude for the welcome she received at St. George's when she began attending during COVID, in the difficult period following her daughter's death. Shawn reminded us that, while life holds tragedy, we also enjoy a bounty of plentiful gifts from God. She expressed thanks to God for such gifts – and to all the St. Georgians who welcomed her in that moment. She encouraged us each to reach out to newcomers – as we never know what they may bring when they come to our doors.

Tanya Harper Thornhill - dressed in her Halloween witch costume! – shared her reflections at the 10 am service. Tanya is a lifelong Episcopalian, having been born in Barbados and a member of church communities both there and in Queens, where she grew up. In a remarkable coincidence, when asked to review the written reflection (inserted in last week's bulletin) by the Rev. Debra Q. Bennett, Tanya

exclaimed, "I know her; we grew up together in Queens!" Indeed, sharing their homes, their table, and their community with family and neighbors visiting from "back home" or elsewhere were core to their shared experience.

Tanya's first Sunday at St. George's was Pajama Day, so her daughter Caleigh, who was three at the time, learned early that all are welcome – however we might show up. It is that community that Tanya and her family support – with the artistic decorative crosses that the children carry for our recessional each week, with Caleigh's service as a young lector and acolyte, and with their financial pledge that is given to support our ministries, even in challenging times.

Nov. 1st will be our final week to enjoy fellow members' reflections on what St. George's means to them and to **discuss the season's themes at 9am** in the Mary Room. Please join us – and reflect upon your own experience of abundance and of our unique community. On Nov. 8th, we'll **celebrate Gratitude Sunday** and the ingathering of pledges. Please prayerfully consider how you might be called to support our community and our many ministries with your time, talent and treasure.

JAM's Weekly Actions for Justice

As Election Day approaches - this Tuesday, Nov. 3rd - we have an opportunity to help **make sure that ALL votes are received, counted, and respected**.

Action #1: If you have a Vote-By-Mail ballot, return it to a drop box. If voting in person, consider voting EARLY in person (by 6 pm on Sunday). The intention is to get all votes logged as received *before* Election Day. For New Jersey residents, scan the QR code to confirm locations and track your ballot.

Action #2: Contact friends & family in other states and encourage them to do the same. They can go to www.iwillvote.com to get their local voting information.
Action #3: Find a way you can volunteer to protect everyone's vote – at https://wearegroundcontrol.org/

Monthly Food Pantry Collection
In the month of November, we are directing our collection to the food pantry at Holy Trinity Church. They are asking for donations of **soup, peanut butter and jelly**. They also 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.**

Fifth Sunday collection to help feed and diaper babies and toddlers
In November, St. George's is coordinating a Fifth Sunday collection for North Porch, an organization that provides emergency baby supplies to needy families in North Jersey with children under age three. The need right now is particularly acute among immigrant families, who are afraid to access government aid and are foregoing federally funded WIC nutrition programs.

The most needed essentials are large-size diapers (sizes 5 & 6), baby wipes, and Enfamil formula (yellow). Help us gather supplies by picking up a package of large-size diapers or a can of formula the next time you shop. Donations can be left in the food barrel or bin marked "North Porch" at the church entrances throughout the month.
For more information, contact Lindsay McHugh at mchugh.lindsay@gmail.com.

All Saints' Day Fauré's Requiem

The choirs of St. George's and Morrow Church are collaborating again! We will be offering a joint service for All Saints' Day **today at 5:00 p.m.** at Morrow Methodist Church. The service will feature Gabriel Fauré's beautiful Requiem in D Minor. All are warmly invited.

Join us for an incisive overview of the Bible.

You don't have to be seeking Adult Confirmation to join these final three sessions. We meet in the Mary Lounge 15 minutes after the end of the 10 a.m. service. You'll leave with a sense of how the whole Bible fits together, and three simple practices for reading and reflecting on Scriptural passages—a great tool to read the lessons for each coming Sunday. Led by The Rev. Robert Morris

1. The Old Testament: Human Origins and Holy Community. How the writings of the Hebrew Bible form the fundamental background and context for the Jesus Movement.
2. The Gospels: The Ministry of Jesus from Four Perspectives: Jesus as Jewish Messiah, Jesus as "Son of Man", Jesus as Storyteller and Healer, Jesus as the Incarnate Word
3. The Apostolic Letters and the Book of Revelation: The birth, formation and challenges of the Jesus communities.

Each session will include a brief Scripture-reading practice.
Robert Corin Morris, Founder, Interweave
rcvmorris41@gmail.com

Nov. 7th Fall Cleanup Day

We all know how easy it is to collect things in our homes and need to do periodic purging. This is no different for our church. Your help is needed on **Saturday, November 7th from 9am to noon** to fill a

20-yard dumpster of unwanted items. All carrying abilities are needed. Contact Dan Mitchell or George Gay for more information.

Fill the Truck for the Holy Trinity Thrift Shop
Saturday November 7, 12 noon - 1.30 p.m.
Household Goods and Winter Coat Collection
Now is the time to search through your closets and share unwanted or unused items. Come fill a truck with household goods and coats for the Holy Trinity Thrift Shop which serves West Orange and the surrounding community. They accept kitchenware, glassware, silverware, bed and bath linens, lamps, tools, and clothing (good condition only). Drop off in the St. George's parking lot between 12.00 noon and 1:30 p.m. only on **Saturday, November 7**. For more information contact Marymae Henley at marymae.henley@gmail.com.

Lunch Hosting at Christine's Kitchen
On **Saturday, November 14,** We will be providing 180 packed lunches for Christine's Kitchen at Holy Trinity Church. Your help is needed, scan the QR code or go to https://bit.ly/Christine11-14 for more information and to sign up.

Participating teens will meet in the kitchen at 9:30 a.m. A smaller group will transport and distribute the prepared lunches to Holy Trinity in West Orange.

Thanksgiving Brunch & Parishwide Dialogue
November 22, 9:30 AM single service, parishwide dialogue, Thanksgiving potluck brunch. Along with a survey we will build information for distillation by the Profile Team and use by the Discernment Team and Vestry. Please see our last two Snapshot issues if you missed our description of the clerical roles and the transition

process. If you are interested in helping with any of the Transition teams, please reach out to Lindsay McHugh. We ask that you keep your hearts open as we need people for all phases.

We are inviting parishioners to bring sides/desserts/drinks to share, with the men of the parish signing up to take charge of the meat (turkey, ham, etc.). Sign up here to cook a turkey or a ham, which St. George's will provide; or to bring a side, beverages or dessert. Ham and turkey cooks, please sign up by October 31; everyone else by November 13 .
https://bit.ly/StGThanksgivingBrunch

Christmas Card Orders
Beginning today, Christmas cards will be available for order at coffee hour. Our Minister of Music, Megan Coiley, will be taking orders at coffee hour until the start of Advent. Cards come in packs of 10 and packs of 25.

Sages of all Ages Upcoming Event - 6PM on November 14, 2026
Friendsgiving dinner at the home of Sharon McSorley & Cheryl Notari If you plan to attend, please RSVP to sharon.mcsorley@aol.com or chnotari@verizon.net by November 9th.

Coffee Hour
We are in need of a Coffee Hour Ministry Leader to coordinate the set-up, clean-up, and host assignments after the 10:00 am service. Interested? Contact Denise Brown-Allen. In addition, we invite every St. Georgian to co-host at least one Coffee Hour each year! Detailed instructions are provided so that all is as simple as possible. Please sign up here: https://bit.ly/StGeorgesCoffeeHour or scan the QR code.

UBE Clara Horsley Leadership Award Breakfast

The Diocese of Newark Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians proudly sponsors The Sixteenth Annual Clara Horsley Leadership Award Breakfast on **Saturday, November 7, 2026** at 9:00 am. We are very proud to share that our own **Dylan Graham** is among those being honored. For tickets and more information, contact Bob Simmons at (862) 321-2556. **Congratulations Dylan!** We are so proud of you!

Have you considered a gift from your IRA?

If you are age 70½ or older and have a traditional IRA, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) may be one way to support the ministry of St. George's. If you are age 73 or older, your gift may also count toward your required minimum distribution. To count for 2026, the gift must be completed by December 31.

To arrange a QCD, contact your IRA administrator or custodian and ask about making a direct charitable distribution to the church. Please allow sufficient time for processing. Thank you for the many ways you sustain the life and ministry of our congregation.

Notes from the October Vestry Meeting

Aleeda Crawley opened the meeting in prayer. The September P&L indicated are income is ahead of budget with 2026 pledges and the capital campaign continuing positively. The Vestry approved repairing stained glass windows, painting the sanctuary and repaving the parking lot with surplus funds. The Vestry discussed anticipated expenses related to the rector transition, communication with Canon Clark regarding the transition, and the upcoming Appreciative Inquiry exercise scheduled for November 22. The Vestry reaffirmed Saint George's commitment to Brigid Dwyer's studies at VA Theological Seminary. The Nominating committee will convene to nominate three members of the congregation to serve 3-year terms on the Vestry. The

Vestry also discussed ministry initiatives, including Communications, Confirmation, Aging Gracefully, and Coffee hour. Anthony Zuco closed in prayer.

Are you being called to serve?

The Nominations Committee of the 152nd Annual Diocesan Convention invites you to prayerfully consider serving on one of the many Boards, Committees, and Councils of the Diocese. There are opportunities that appeal to a broad variety of gifts, interests, and availability. Some deal with governance, others deal with grant making. Some meet monthly, others less frequently than that. Some meet in person, others meet virtually or in a hybrid setting. All of them are looking for members who desire to be part of a diocese known by God's love, mercy, and justice. For more information, go to:
https://dioceseofnewark.org/convention/elections/

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, November 22.**

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.

St. George's Property issues

Help us to maintain our building! You can inform us of any property or maintenance issues that need attention by completing an online "Report of Property Issues" found on the Contact Us page of our website (https://stgeorges-maplewood.org/contact/) Describe the issue as fully as possible. If you would like to include a picture of the problem, please email it to the office.

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, and 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, at 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; Rev. Craig Burlington; Rev. Robert Morris; Stacy, Kashna, Everett & Borin; Katelynn Smalley; Joan Hoffs; Richard Berggren; Louie Camargo; for the souls of Inilda Denis Rivera & Wilfred Denis and for their families; for the soul of Danny Hudson and for his immediate & extended family; Josh Simmons; Shaunille McDonald; Andrew Limanowka; George Colon & his children; Ron Garner; David A. Black; Ellen; Edith; Ray Leone; Elaine McCauley & her family; Carol, Rhonda; Harmony; Magaly Roman; for the soul of Joan Hoffs & for her family; for the soul of Helen Macioce & for her family; for the soul of Mary Frances Mazeikas Owen & for her family; for the soul of Jeff Hou & for his family; Matthew; the Lauder family.

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.