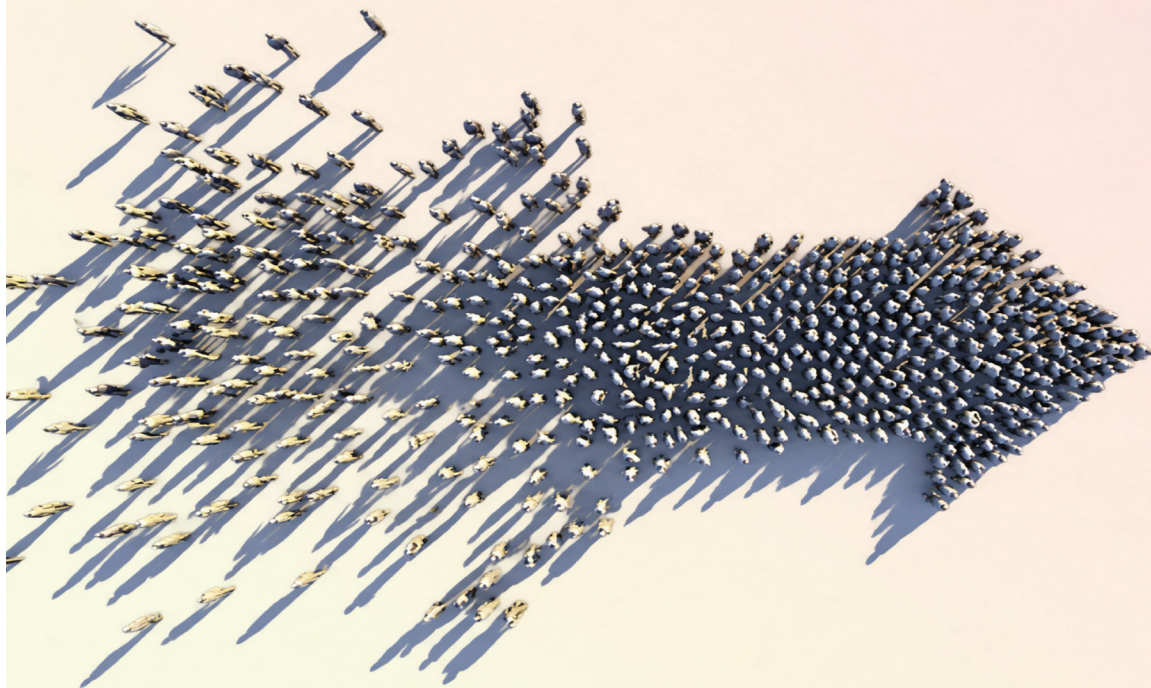


Countercultural **FAITH**

FAITH THAT REFUSES TO FIT IN



MODERN WORSHIP
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 | 11:15 AM



THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE | HOUSTON, TX

WELCOME



Welcome to St. John the Divine. We want to get to know you! Take your first step by completing a welcome card and placing it in the offering plate or scan this QR code to introduce yourself online.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Songs and Prayers

Holy Scripture and Sermon

Prayers and Peace

Offerings and Holy Eucharist

HOLY SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (ESV)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

The Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22 (ESV)

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

[illegible]

HOLY EUCHARIST

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People (said):

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat. This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Celebrant and People: AMEN.

- *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*
- *If you are not baptized, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*
- *Gluten-free wafers are available upon request from the clergy.*
- *Please be guided by our ushers for Communion.*
- *Prayer Ministers are always present on either side of the stage for personal prayer.*
- *Interested in baptism, have questions about the faith, or want to connect with the clergy?
Email the Rev. John Sundara at jsundara@sjd.org.*

Giving Sunday is the culmination of our annual stewardship season. You may submit your pledge in one of two ways:

- *By placing your completed pledge card in the plate during the Offertory or*
- *By scanning the QR code with your phone.*



Please note, for those who already turned in pledges, the “I’ve Pledged” cards are available in the pews for today’s Blessing of the Pledges.

WHY DOES THE CHURCH ASK FOR MONEY?

Churches operate on the giving of its members. There is no money coming in from another source. The donations of money go towards the building, the staff, the programs, and the church’s own giving. But our financial gifts are not just about keeping the lights on, paying salaries, keeping a full calendar of activities, or even sharing with those in need. It is also an act of faith, showing that we trust that the Lord has provided everything we have in the first place. We only give what we have already received from God.

CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill, *Rector*
The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke, *Senior Vice Rector*
The Rev. John D. Sundara, *Vice Rector*
The Rev. Louise Samuelson, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Trent Pettit, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Libby Garfield, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Lars Skoglund, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow, *Priest Associate*
The Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, *Bishop in Residence*
The Rev. Dr. Charles M. Stiernberg, *Deacon*

RUNNELLS FELLOWSHIP SUMMER SEMINARIANS

Jonathan Blackham

MUSIC AND WORSHIP STAFF

Sarah Gividen, *Director of Modern Music*
Nick Gividen, *Associate Director of Modern Music*



THE CHURCH OF
ST JOHN THE DIVINE

CHANGING LIVES FOR GOD IN CHRIST

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