Countercultural FAITH

FAITH THAT REFUSES TO FIT IN



MODERN WORSHIP
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 11:15 AM

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



Bishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon *joined the SJD team in November 2022 having just completed a seven-year ministry as the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. Prior to that, he served as the first Bishop of Sokoto; fourth Bishop of Kaduna dioceses, and the first Archbishop of Kaduna Ecclesiastical Province. Here at SJD, his job description is Bishop in Residence for Evangelism, Mission and Global Partnerships. It finds it such a joy to be a part of a strong and committed team of minsters in an exciting parish.*

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 5:1-11 (ESV)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

The Gospel **Matthew 25:14-30 (ESV)**

[Jesus said] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents;

here, I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

NOTES

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.*

Your financial offerings help us be a light for the city. You may make your Sunday offering in one of two ways:

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

WHO WROTE 1 THESSALONIANS AND WHY?

1 Thessalonians is a letter written by the apostle Paul to the early church in Thessaloniki (or Thessalonica.) In Acts 17 we hear of Paul and his coworker, Silas, going to visit this city in Greece to tell them the good news of Jesus. Their visit is cut short by raging mobs who opposed their message and they must leave the city overnight. In this letter, Paul is checking in on these new Christians who would have been facing a lot of persecution. His letter is full of love and encouragement.

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
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