

November 8, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that we announce that the Rev. Dr. Leigh Spruill has accepted the call to be the sixth rector of The Church of St. John the Divine. The search committee, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has been led to a priest who is equipped with the gifts outlined in our Parish Profile. The grace of God was evident in many ways throughout our search, but most powerfully in that Leigh was the unanimous choice of the search committee and his call was made through a unanimous vote of the vestry.



Leigh and Susalee Spruill

Leigh joins us from St. George's Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tennessee, where he has been rector since 2005. Prior to that, he served as rector of St. Mark's Episcopal in Jacksonville, Florida, and as associate and assistant rector at parishes in Birmingham, Alabama and Richmond, Virginia. He is a native of Virginia and a graduate of the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee). He is married to Susalee Cain Spruill, and they have three adult children. Susalee is active in ministry as well, and serves as St. George's pastoral care coordinator.

We have posted information about Leigh and his ministry, including an overview of his past experience and a video greeting from him to St. John the Divine at [sjd.org/rector](http://sjd.org/rector).

Bishop Doyle has expressed his excitement over Leigh's call saying, "Leigh will bring a tremendous amount of gifts and joy and hope and leadership to your congregation. I give thanks for his ministry and willingness to come to Texas and join our family here because as you and I well know, Texas is a good place and St. John's is a fantastic church."

We appreciate the patience, support, and faithfulness of our church family throughout this search process. We give thanks for the steadfast commitment, leadership, and perseverance shown by our clergy and staff and the many lay leaders of our parish. Throughout this time, they have continued to live into the promise of St. John the Divine.

In God's perfect timing, we are grateful that the Holy Spirit has now brought Leigh and Susalee to St. John the Divine, and we most joyfully welcome them to Houston! We look forward to getting to know them when they begin their ministry at SJD in mid-January, 2021. This timing will allow them to finish well at St. George's and ensure a smooth transition for Leigh's beloved flock. More details about how and when we will welcome Leigh will be shared closer to his start here. **If you would like to send well wishes to Leigh and Susalee, please email [rector@sjd.org](mailto:rector@sjd.org). Your messages will be collected and passed on.**

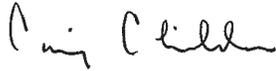
Your prayers and support have encouraged us during our search. We have called the priest that God has anointed to lead St. John the Divine into the next phase of our life together. Leigh will confidently lead us into the future God has in store for St. John the Divine. We are sure that your prayers and your friendship will support Leigh and Susalee and their family as they join our church family.

With God's Grace and Peace,

**The Wardens and Vestry of the Church of St. John the Divine**



James Lloyd Loftis  
Senior Warden



Craig Childers  
Junior Warden

Andy Boyd

Andy Breckwoldt

Drew Burgoyne

Craig Childers

Cheri Fossler

Elizabeth Galtney

Ted Gobillot

Chap Hutcheson

Carolyn Kirklin

Larry Lawyer

Stephen Loftin

George McDaniel III

Ann Rogers

John Rosson

Patty Shepherd

Sharon Snowden

Elizabeth Toedt

Leslie Wade

**The Sixth Rector Search Committee**



Eric Wade  
Chair

Andy Breckwoldt

Drew Burgoyne

John Butler

Virginia Evans

Melissa Grobmyer

Philip Grove

Brett Hamilton

Herschel Hamner

Calvin Harris

Alecia Lawyer

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