

St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector



Parable of the Hidden Treasure, Rembrandt (c. 1630)

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PROPER 12

MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM

July 26, 2020

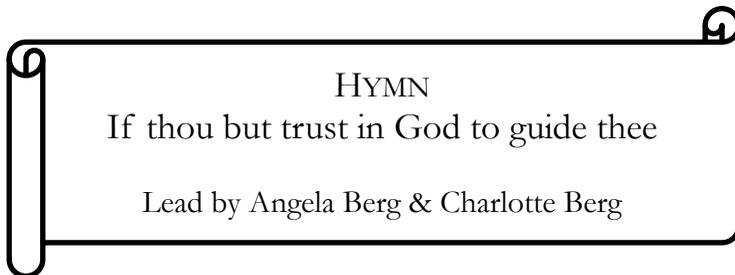
Our mission is to restore all people to unity with God and each other, in Christ. (BCP 855)

This morning we celebrate with an abridged service of Morning Prayer. This service is taken from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. **Words printed in bold are spoken by the congregation.**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Warren Blyden



THE OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Officiant: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

People: **Come let us adore our God.**

PSALM 105:1-11, 45b

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the divine name; * make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to the Lord, sing praises, * and speak of all the marvelous works of the Lord.
- 3 Glory in the holy name; * let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Search for the strength of the Lord; * continually seek the face of God.
- 5 Remember the marvels the Lord has done, * the wonders and the judgements of the mouth of the Lord,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham the servant of God, * O children of Jacob the chosen of the Lord.
- 7 The Lord is our God, * whose judgements prevail in all the world,
- 8 who has always been mindful of the covenant, * the promise made for a thousand generations:
- 9 the covenant made with Abraham, * the oath sworn to Isaac,
- 10 established as a statute for Jacob, * an everlasting covenant for Israel,
- 11 saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan * to be your allotted inheritance."
- 45 Hallelujah!

A READING FROM THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS 8:26-39

Reader: Ben Wike

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 11 The Third Song of Isaiah

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

**For behold, darkness covers the land; *
 deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
 and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light, *
 and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; *
 by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
 The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
 ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, *
 and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; *
 by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
 and your God will be your glory.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

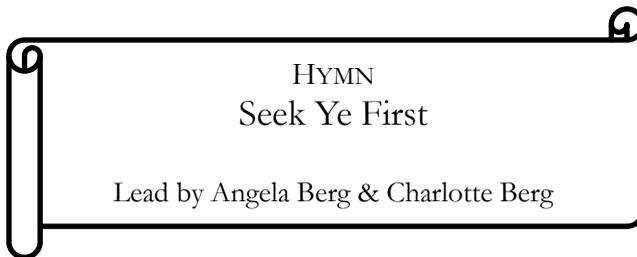
“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Deacon: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius



THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES: SET A

Show us your mercy, O Lord;

And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

For only in you can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care;

And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;

Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for all those suffering with COVID-19, those who are quarantined and those anxious in the uncertainty of this constantly evolving pandemic. We pray for all those struggling to overcome violence in their community, for peacemakers, peacekeepers, and peace seekers. We pray for all Police Officers who would never abuse their authority, may they be filled with hope and be kept safely in God's care. We pray for all those who have suffered, been injured or died from the violence overwhelming our Nation. We pray for peace and unity among us as we seek a new way forward as people of faith. We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **Yumi, Esmerilda, Ronald Garvey, Max, Anne, Cathy, Barbara, Ellie Ruvo, Steven Schubert, and Shlomo Teladano.** We pray for those who are homebound: **Margaret Vaccaro, John & Lee Williams, Dorothy Dushin, Ronald Acheson, Jim, Marge, and Bill & Dorothy D'amato.** We pray for those struggling with chronic illness, especially: **Liz Daniele, Andrew Tom, Rena Kaplan, Rebecca, Vince Servio, Sarah Paruolo, Annaliese Haag, Martha, Gerald, Marilyn Griffin, Joyce, Jeff Daniele, Paul Ruvo, Helene, Jason, and Jeff.** We pray for **Edwin Sanchez and the students at El Hogar School, and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.** We pray for those in our hearts whom we now name, either silently or aloud.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Warren Blyden

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✦ Please join Deacon Lynn and Mother Mary+ for St. John's virtual **Coffee Hour** today at 10:15am!

- ✦ **Offering:** During this time when we are not meeting together the church still incurs expenses. Please continue to support the church. You can mail your offering to the church office. If you would like to make an online pledge you can do so by going to our website stjohnspleasantville.org and clicking on the "Donate" button. Thank you for your continued generosity during this anxious time. You may also support the church by shopping with AmazonSmile, the link is also found on our website.

- ✦ **Lawn Care at St. John's:** Thank you to all who have sponsored a week or more of lawn care for St. John's, we now have approximately 14 weeks of care ready to go! We would still happily accept your donation of time and talent for hedge clipping, and pruning. Come at your convenience and remember physical distancing, no more than 5 people, wear masks and gloves! Great way to see one another and stay safely apart at the same time! Let Mother Mary+ know when you are coming! mothermarystjohns@gmail.com Thank you in advance!

- ✦ **St. John's Thrift Shop** is closed during this pandemic.

- ✦ **Tuesday Noon Zoom Prayers & Chat:** We will be reading the Psalm for the day, talking about our concerns, people we want to pray for especially, a little catch-up chat and a prayer to close our gathering. Keep an eye on your inbox, the Zoom link will be emailed Tuesday morning at 11AM.

- ✦ **Wednesday Bible Study Group Discussion at 11am:** The Epistle to the Ephesians has a lot to say about unity. We, too, are in a time that requires coming together to wrestle with what it means to be free and living in Truth. Keep an eye on your inbox, the Zoom link will be emailed Wednesday morning at 10AM.

✦ **The Pleasantville Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Please donate food: Cases of sterilized milk, soups, tuna, chicken, beans, peanut butter, coffee, etc. can be drop shipped to St. John's if that is easiest for you.

OR

Pick up ShopRite Gift Cards for distribution

OR

[Make a monetary donation through the Pantry's website](#)

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius	mothermarystjohns@gmail.com
The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal	lynn.werdal@gmail.com
Warren Blyden, Organist	quintiton@gmail.com
Christopher Fasulo, Parish Administrator	stjohnspleasantville@gmail.com
Megan Whalen, Parish Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@stjohnspleasantville.com
Cindy Sullivan, Warden	csullivan914@gmail.com
Matt Ruvo, Junior Warden	mattsunset@yahoo.com
Ken Foley, Treasurer	foleyken6@gmail.com

Vestry: Ken Foley, Laura Simpson, Jim Dirlam, Sarah Hoadley, Lynn Russell, Joan Scire-Vitkevich, Philippa Seltzer-Muschko
