

St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

Who do you say
that I am?

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PROPER 16

MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM

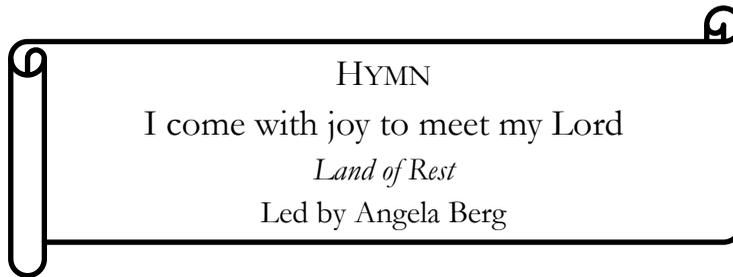
August 23, 2020

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

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. *PS 43:3*



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

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together

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.

The Priest says

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: The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

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

Psalm 124

1 If the Lord had not been on our side, * let Israel now say;

2 If the Lord had not been on our side, * when enemies rose up against us;

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive * in their fierce anger toward us;

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us * and the torrent gone over us;

5 Then would the raging waters * have gone right over us.

6 Blessed be the Lord! * he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; * the snare is broken, and we have .escaped.

8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, * the maker of heaven and earth.

Helper and Defender of Israel, rescue the peoples of the world from destructive anger, and set us free to love and serve each other in the peace of Christ our Lord.

A Reading from the Epistle to the Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to

everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we are many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Canticle:

a portion of Canticle 10, The Second Song of Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; call upon God when he draws near.

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 16: 13-20

Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others say Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

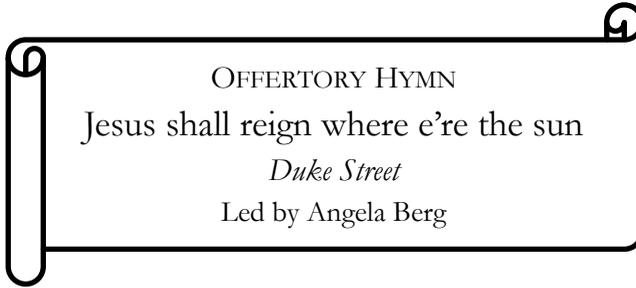
Deacon: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius

THE PEACE: MAY THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU.
AND ALSO WITH YOU.



THE OFFERTORY LET US WITH GLADNESS PRESENT THE OFFERINGS AND
OBLATIONS OF OUR LIFE AND LABOR TO THE LORD.

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.

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.

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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 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, Linda Hill, Ronald Garvey, Max, Anne, Cathy, Barbara, Ellie Ruvo, Steven Schubert, and Shlomo Teladano.** We pray for those who are homebound: **Esmerilda, Margaret Vaccaro, John & Lee Williams, Dorothy Dushin, Ronald Acheson, Jim, Marge, Joe Smith, Carolyn Damiano, Deanna Ammirato and Bill & Dorothy D'Amato.** We pray for those struggling with chronic illness, especially: **Liz & Jeff Daniele, Andrew Tom, Rena Kaplan, Rebecca, Vince Servio, Sarah Paruolo, Annaliese Haag, Martha, Gerald, Marilyn Griffin, Joyce, 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

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through

Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR MISSION

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS

Lord make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness joy;. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Parish Announcements

- ✦ Please join Deacon Lynn and Mother Mary+ for St. John's virtual **Coffee Hour** today at 10:30am! Note the change in time.
- ✦ **St. John's Thrift Shop** is closed for both shopping and donations during this pandemic.
- ✦ **Tuesday Parish Office Hours** from 10am to 1pm. Should you need to stop in or call for information, please do so during these hours.
- ✦ It is with regret that I share the news that St. John's has made the decision to lay off both Warren Blyden, our organist and Christopher Fasulo, our Parish Administrator. These decisions were not made lightly, nor does your Vestry believe these position eliminations will be permanent. However, in our effort to be good stewards of your financial participation in the life of St. John's we have determined these decisions to be prudent.
- ✦ **Offering:** During this time when we are not meeting together the church still incurs expenses. Please continue to support the St. John's. 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.!

✦ **Diocesan E-Pledge Plan being discontinued.** If you are a participant, please make other arrangements for the transfer of your kind and generous pledge.

✦ **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](#)

Some of your thoughts: Who do you say that I am?

Kurt McKinney: “Jesus is my Father, my guide, He’s with me always and we walk and talk through this life. I fail, but try to be like him.”

Byron Menegakis: This is an interesting question. For me, Jesus is a teacher, a guide, an example to live by, and one who keeps my conscience awake. I am working on knowing Jesus as a companion and source of comfort

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

