

# St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

## Conflict ties us in useless knots



## Reconciliation binds us in love

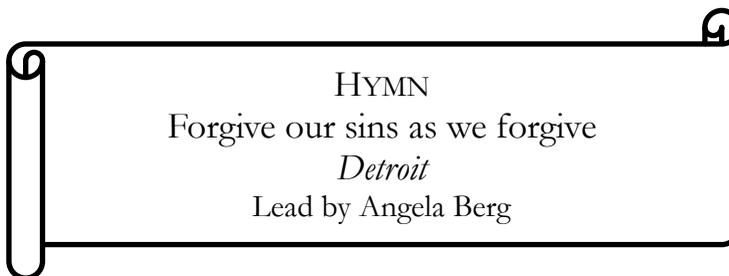
**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PROPER 18**

**MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM**

September 6th, 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. *Psalm 43:3*

### 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:* The Lord has shown forth his glory:

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

### PSALM 119:33-40

He

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, \* and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; \* I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, \* for that is my desire.

36 Incline my heart to your decrees \* and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; \* give me life in your ways.

38 Fulfil your promise to your servant, \* which you make to those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, \* because your judgements are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; \* in your righteousness preserve my life.

### A READING FROM ROMANS 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery

and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## JUBILATE

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \* serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. Know this: The Lord himself is God; \* he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \* give thanks to him and call upon his Name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \* and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**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 18:15-20

*Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal*

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

*Deacon:* The Word of the Lord.

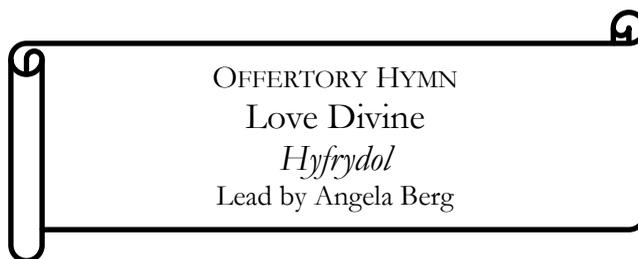
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

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: **Deacon Lynn, 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.** And we offer our prayers for Deacon Lynn as she prepares for a surgical procedure. We pray for those in our hearts whom we now name, either silently or aloud.

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

**Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.***

#### A PRAYER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

**Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us;**

**granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

*Deacon:* Let us bless the Lord!

*People:* **Thanks be to God!**

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

We hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well during this pandemic. We continue to pray for the more than 180,000 Americans who have lost their lives to this horrible disease and for their families who continue on in grief. We are thankful that only a handful of our parishioners have contracted COVID-19, and no one in our parish has succumbed to it.

However, the disease has profoundly impacted our parish finances. We have lost approximately 35% of our revenue stream due to the thrift shop closure, loss of parish rentals, and the inability to hold fundraising events. When we wrote to you this past spring, several of you answered our call by paying pledges in advance, increasing the amount, or sending in the funds we need for specific items such as lawn care. We are eternally grateful for the outpouring of support you have provided. Your generosity has enabled us to pay our operating expenses thus far. Unfortunately, without a robust response to this appeal letter, we will not be able to meet our obligations in this final quarter of the year.

The Vestry, the Finance Committee, and the Diocese have worked diligently to keep our parish open and functioning. We have renegotiated contracts and services with Robison Oil, Verizon, and Pitney Bowes. We have applied for and received government loans. The Diocese lowered all parishes' assessments and waived two months of the Rector's pension contribution. As the government PPP funds have been exhausted, we have had to take the unfortunate step of laying off our parish administrator and our organist. To say we are badly limping toward this last quarter of the year is not an exaggeration. We need your help

and come to you now with this appeal for assistance in closing the year.

So, as your wardens, we request that you respond to this appeal as generously as possible. Again, we thank those of you who have already increased pledges, or taken on lawn care expenses, or paid pledges in advance. As Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can accomplish so little; together we can accomplish so much.” Let us all work together to support this appeal and keep St. John’s solvent.

With sincere appreciation of your help, we remain ever faithful in your commitment to our church.

Gratefully,

Cindy Sullivan and Matt Ruvo  
Wardens

### **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ✦ Please join Deacon Lynn and Mother Mary+ for St. John’s virtual **Coffee Hour** today at 10:30am!
  
- ✦ **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](http://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.
  
- ✦ **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.
  
- ✦ **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 Letter of James 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](#)

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

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