

St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector



Is that really the question?

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PROPER 21

MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM

September 27th, 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 25:1-8 *Adte, Domine, levavi*

1 To you, O Lord, * I lift up my soul;

2 my God, I put my trust in you; *

let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

3 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

4 Show me your ways, O Lord, * and teach me your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

6 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, * for they are from everlasting.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *

remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

8 Gracious and upright are you, O Lord; * therefore you teach sinners in your way.

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

Reader: Laura Simpson

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but
much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for
it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good
pleasure.

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 21:23-32

Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father^a went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Deacon: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

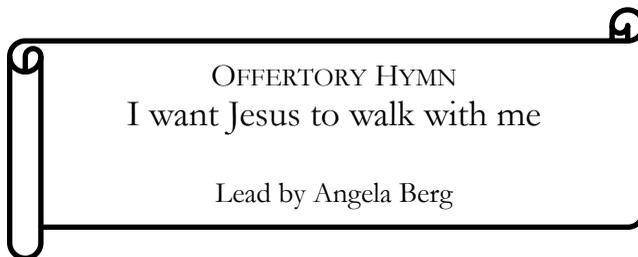
THE HOMILY

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, especially **Maria Lamorgese-Gibbons** (from Holy Innocents), 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: **Laura O'Malley** (John & Clare McAndrew's niece), **Yumi, Linda Hill, Ronald Garvey, Max, Anne, Cathy, Barbara, Ellie Ruvo, Steven Schubert,** and **Shlomo Teladano**. We pray for those who are homebound: **Esmerilda Hastings, 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.** I ask your prayers on the 100th birthday of Howard C. Flemming. We pray for those who have died, especially, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and the over 200,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19. We pray for those in our hearts whom we now name, either silently or aloud.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 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.

Vestry Moment of Stewardship:

Cindy Sullivan, Warden

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Annual Stewardship Campaign Kick-off Sunday Today 9-27-2020 Watch for messages from your Vestry

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✦ Please join Deacon Lynn and Mother Mary+ for St. John's in person **Coffee Hour** today immediately following the 9:30am Service! Bring your own coffee and snacks and we will appropriately distance and celebrate a chance to get together after all these months.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **St. John's Thrift Shop** is closed for both shopping and donations during this pandemic. Hoping for an October limited opening. Watch for announcements.
- ✦ **Parish Office Hours** are discontinued for the moment.

✦ **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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