

# St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector



**NINETYENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PROPER 23**

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

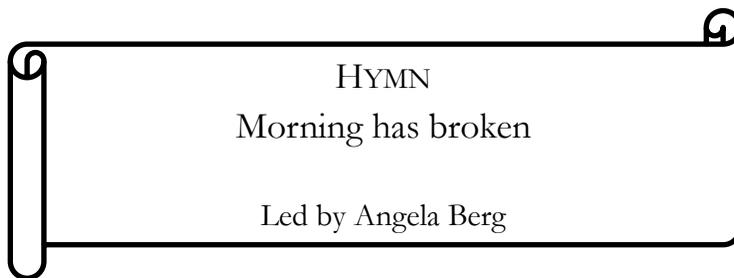
October 11th, 2020

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 PSALTERO

*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 23** *Dominus regit me*

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \* I shall not be in want.

2 You make me lie down in green pastures \* and lead me beside still waters.

3 You revive my soul \* and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, \*

I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; \* your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me \*

in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, \*  
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

### **A Reading from the Epistle to the Philippians 4:1-9**

*Read by Raphael Wong*

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers,

whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you

*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 22:1-14**

*Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal*

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who

was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

*Deacon:* The Word of the Lord.

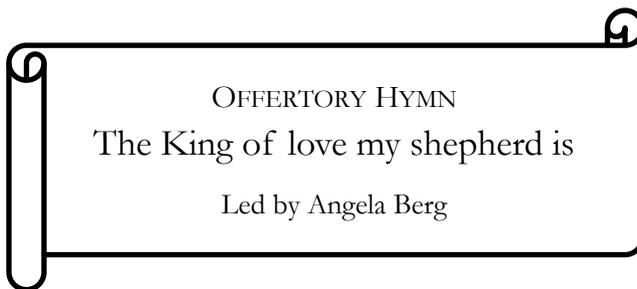
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

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) President Trump, Melania Trump and all those afflicted by the White House super spreader event,

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 our Nation as we prepare for our National election.

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**. We pray for those who have died, especially, 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

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## Prayer Attributed to Sir Francis Drake — 1577

Dis-turb us, Lord, when  
We are too well pleased with our-selves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we have dreamed too lit-tle,  
When we arrived safe-ly  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Dis-turb us, Lord, when  
With the abun-dance of things we pos-sess  
We have lost our thirst  
For the waters of life;  
Hav-ing fall-en in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eter-ni-ty  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision  
Of the new Heav-en to dim.

Dis-turb us, Lord, to dare more bold-ly,  
To ven-ture on wider seas  
Where storms will show your mas-tery;  
Where los-ing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.

We ask You to push back  
The hori-zons of our hopes;  
And to push into the future  
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

## VESTRY MOMENT ON STEWARDSHIP

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Blessing

Dismissal      *Deacon:* Let us bless the Lord.

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

**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** will be reopening for limited Service on Saturday October 17th, 2020. Stop in and welcome everyone back. Offer to help out with sales, donations or sorting!
- ✦ **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](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.!
- ✦ **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 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](mailto:mothermarystjohns@gmail.com) Thank you in advance!
- ✦ **Tuesday Noon Zoom Prayers:** Please join us for a quiet and restorative moment in the middle of the day, talking about our concerns, people we want to pray for especially, Keep an eye on your inbox, the Zoom link will be emailed Tuesday morning at 11AM.
- ✦ **Wednesday Bible Study Group Discussion at 11am:** Please join us as we delve into The Letter of James which has much to say about the companionship of faith and good works. 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

Megan Whalen, Parish Bookkeeper bookkeeper@stjohnspleasantville.com

Cindy Sullivan, Warden csullivan914@gmail.com

Matt Ruvo, Junior Warden matrsunset@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

## **FOOD INSECURITY AWARENESS CHALLENGE**

**THE GOAL:** cook for your family from the food provided in a typical Pantry distribution

**THE PROCESS:** Shop from the list below, this is for a family of four, adjust according to you situation.

Cereal, oatmeal packets, milk, granola bars, 2 cans of beans and 1 bag of beans, 1 baking item (cake mix/pancake mix), canned or dried fruit (this week it is a 6 pack of Sunmaid raisins), peanut butter, jelly, 2-3 soup, 2-3 pasta, canned tomatoes, jarred spaghetti sauce, fresh veggies (if we don't have then we give canned veggies), cookies, 2 lb. bag of rice, and 1 can of coffee. We also include a bonus item - last time it was juice, this week it is salad dressing. We always include a small package of meat-chicken thighs/drumsticks or ground beef 2 lb. bags of shredded cheese.

Please note the items this distribution does not include: soap of any kind, TP, toothpaste for example.

Please share, via video you experience as a family and share your recipes. What did you learn, how does this exercise inform your understanding of the challenge facing many of our neighbors? Does this exercise change your perceptions of gratitude, humility and repentance as a Christian practice? How might this exercise have planted seeds of blessing and grace in your life?

Challenge will conclude on Consecration Sunday, which is All Saints day, November 1st, 2020

## Annual Stewardship Campaign

### Parish Zoom Meetings

Please join your Vestry Members, Wardens and Rector at one of the following Parish Zoom meetings to discuss our Annual Stewardship Campaign. **Register through [Sign-Up Genius](#)** for your preferred date and time.

These brief ZOOM meetings will give you the opportunity to learn how Parish leadership has managed our Parish finances over this last 8 months of the COVID crisis and their proposal for 2021. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, offer your thoughts on process, progress, and planning.

**Tuesday 10/13/2020 at 2pm** – with Jim Dirlam, Cindy Sullivan, and Mother Mary Gregorius+

**Thursday 10/15/2020 at 7 pm** – with Sarah Hoadley, Philippa Seltzer-Muschko, Mother Mary Gregorius+ and our Treasurer Ken Foley

**Sunday 10/18/2020 at 4 pm** - with Joan Scire-Vitkevich, Lynn Russell, Laura Simpson, Mother Mary Gregorius+ and Matt Ruvo

Please keep your eyes and ears open for more information from the Vestry, all available on our website; [stjohnspleasantville.org](http://stjohnspleasantville.org)

## Annual Stewardship Campaign 2021 Virtual

Stewardship season is upon us! It is time to **focus on the future**, to 2021 and declare your willingness to **participate in the life of Christ here at St. John's. Pledging is the only way your Parish leadership has to plan our 2021 Budget.** St. John's depends on you to pay our bills and remain open. Paying those bills and being present in the community allows us to do God's work. It is only with the full participation of our parishioners that we can continue.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions this year's Annual Stewardship Campaign will be a virtual one. COVID-19 has kept us apart in so many ways, yet we continue our Worship and Service,

Remember, the Annual Stewardship Campaign is **about much more than money**, it is asking for **your full participation in supporting our Parish in Worship and Service.** We urge you to approach this Annual Stewardship Campaign with reflection and prayerful examination of God's blessings in your life. Gratitude, humility and repentance.

This year's stewardship campaign will take on the following format:

A **short video** will be sent to you through email and will be posted on our website as the kick-off of our Annual Stewardship Campaign.

A **Parish wide Town Hall type Zoom** meeting will be held to enable joint conversation, entertain questions, and get answers to any questions you might have about our plans for next year.

**Small group Zoom meetings** will be scheduled for a more intimate discussion of the talent, time, and treasure we can all bring to assist St. John's in its mission.

**Personal phone calls** will be made to reach out to those who have not been able to attend the abovementioned virtual gatherings.

A **virtual Consecration Sunday service will be on November 1**, where we present our pledge cards and celebrate our joint commitment to our wonderful parish.

We look forward to connecting with you during this Annual Stewardship Campaign!

Respectfully, Your Vestry and Wardens