

# St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Stjohnspleasantville.org

914-769-0053

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector



*“Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” (MT 22:22)*

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PROPER 24

MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM

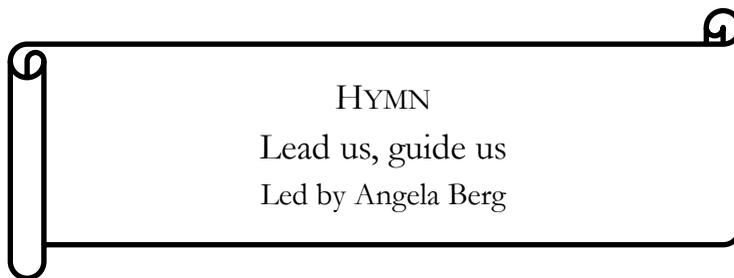
October 18th, 2020

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 96** *Cantate Domino*

1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \* sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

2 Sing to the Lord and bless the divine name; \* proclaim the good news of our salvation  
from day to day.

3 Declare the glory of the Lord among the nations \* and the wonders of God among all  
peoples.

4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, \* more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \* but it is you, O Lord, who made  
the heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of your presence! \* Oh, the power and the splendor of  
your sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \* ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the divine name; \* bring offerings and come into the  
courts of the Lord.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \* let the whole earth tremble before God.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord reigns! \* The Lord who made the world so  
firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord who is coming, \* who is coming to judge the earth.

13 The Lord will judge the world with righteousness \* and the peoples with truth.

## **A Reading from the Epistle to 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

*Read by Robbin Lery*

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

*Lector:* 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 22:15-22

*Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal*

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

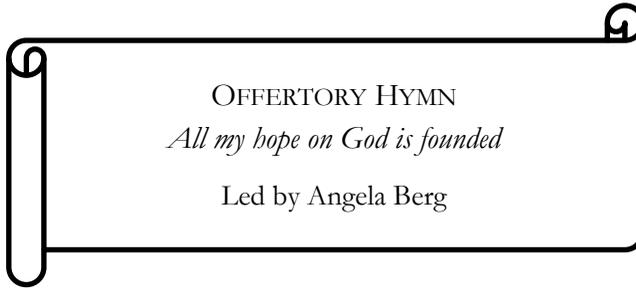
*Deacon:* The Word of the Lord.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

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.



OFFERTORY HYMN

*All my hope on God is founded*

Led by Angela Berg

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 our Nation as we prepare for our National election.

We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: Amity Currie, **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

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession 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* .

### Prayer Attributed to Sir Francis Drake — 1577

Disturb us, Lord, when  
We are too well pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we have dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when  
With the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst  
For the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eternity  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision  
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
To venture on wider seas  
Where storms will show your mastery;  
Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.

We ask You to push back  
The horizons 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** is open on Saturdays for limited service. 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.!
- ✦ **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 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

## **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 November 8th, 2020

### **Annual Stewardship Campaign 2021 Virtual**

Stewardship season is upon us! It is time to **focus on the future**, to 2021 and declare our 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 each of us 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** from each of our Vestry Members will be sent to you through email or embedded in the Sunday online Service as we kick-off of our Annual Stewardship Campaign.

**A series of Parish wide Town Hall type Zoom meetings, Sunday 10-18' Tuesday 10-20, and Thursday 10-22** will be held to enable joint conversation, entertain questions, and get answers to any questions you might have.

plans for next year. Please **look for the separate email and sign up genius** to participate.

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

A **virtual Consecration Sunday service will be on November 8**, where we will celebrate our joint commitment to our wonderful parish. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at out in person Service.

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

Respectfully,

Your Wardens and Vestry

Cindy Sullivan, Matt Ruvo, Ken Foley, Laura Simpson, Sarah Hoadley, Jim Dirlam, Philippa Seltzer-Muschko, Lynn Russell and Joan Scire-Vitkevich

### **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 provided** 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.

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

**Tuesday 10/20/2020 at 2pm** – with Jim Dirlam, Cindy Sullivan, and Mother Mary Gregorius+

**Thursday 10/22/2020 at 7 pm** – with Sarah Hoadley, Philippa Seltzer-Muschko, and our Treasurer Ken Foley

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