

# St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

[Stjohnspleasantville.org](http://Stjohnspleasantville.org)

914-769-0053



**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PROPER 25**

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

October 21st, 2020

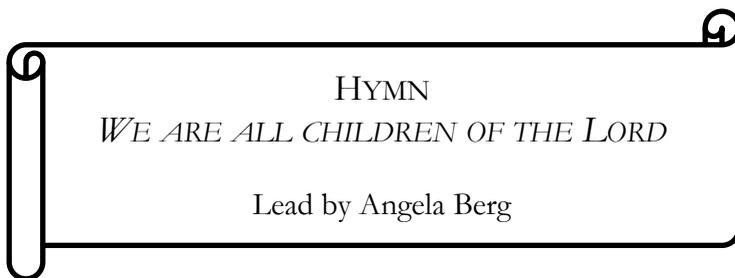
Our mission is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. (BCP 855)

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:* From Leviticus 2 we hear; “You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. ...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”



### CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

*Officiant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept*

*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:* Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

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

### **Psalm 1** *Beatus vir qui non abiit*

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, \*  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

### **A READING FROM THE EPISTLE 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8**

*Read by: Nate Wood*

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but

just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

*Reader:*           The Word of the Lord.

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

## CANTICLE 11 The Third Song of Isaiah

**Arise, shine, for your light has come, \***  
    **and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.**  
**For behold, darkness covers the land; \***  
    **deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.**  
**But over you the Lord will rise, \***  
    **and his glory will appear upon you.**  
**Nations will stream to your light, \***  
    **and kings to the brightness of your dawning.**  
**Your gates will always be open; \***  
    **by day or night they will never be shut.**  
**They will call you, The City of the Lord, \***  
    **The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.**  
**Violence will no more be heard in your land, \***  
    **ruin or destruction within your borders.**  
**You will call your walls, Salvation, \***  
    **and all your portals, Praise.**  
**The sun will no more be your light by day; \***  
    **by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.**  
**The Lord will be your everlasting light, \***  
    **and your God will be your glory.**

**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 22:34-46**

*Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

"The Lord said to my Lord,  
"Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

*Deacon:*           The Word of the Lord.

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

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius

*Please kneel as you are able*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God, our Creator to set forth God's praise, to hear the holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of

others, those things necessary for our life and salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart, and in mind to Worship God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

*A period of silence will be kept*

The Peace            May the peace of the Lord be always 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 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, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## A COLLECT FOR PEACE

**O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

**Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

## **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 or join in person at after Worship in the Cloister. BYOC! (bring your own coffee!)
- ✦ **Offering:** Thank you for your continued support of 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. You may also support the church by shopping with AmazonSmile, the link is also found on our website.
- ✦ **St. John's Thrift Shop** has reopened with limited hours on Saturdays from 10a to 2p Stop in and welcome everyone back. Offer to help out with sales, donations or sorting.
- ✦ **Tuesday Noon Zoom Prayers:** We will be reading the Psalm for the day, keep an eye on your inbox, the Zoom link will be emailed Tuesday morning at 11AM.
- ✦ **Wednesday Bible Study Group Discussion at 11am:** Great day to join, we will be choosing which Book to delve into next! Keep an eye on your inbox, the Zoom link will be sent Wednesday morning.
- ✦ **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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## 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 .
- **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 about our plans for next year.
- **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