

St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

Stjohnsppleasantville.org 914-769-0053



ADVENT I

MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM

November 29th, 2020

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

This morning we celebrate a 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: Watch, for you know not when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning; lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. *Mark 13:35, 36*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

Come and save us, * O Lord God of Hosts.

Come and save us, * O Lord God of Hosts.

Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Come and save us, * O Lord God of Hosts.

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord.

R. And grant us your salvation.

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: Our King and Savior now draws near.

People: **Come let us adore him.**

Psalm 80:1-7,16-18 *Qui regis Israel*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 They burn it with fire like rubbish; *
at the rebuke of your countenance let them perish.

17 Let your hand be upon the one at your side in honor, *
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

A READING FROM 1ST CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

Read by: Raphael Wong

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 10 The Second Song of Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, *
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;

But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.

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 MARK 13:24-37

Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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 always with you.
And also with you.

The Offertory Sentence

I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

OFFERTORY HYMN

Stay Awake

Lead by Angela Berg

Stay awake, (clap, clap) be ready. (clap, clap)
You do not know the hour when the Lord is coming.
Stay awake, (clap, clap) be ready. (clap, clap)
The Lord is coming soon!
Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord is coming soon.

Change your lives, (clap, clap) he's coming. (clap, clap)
The one who is the light of the world is coming.
Change your lives, (clap, clap) he's coming. (clap, clap)
The reign of God is near!
Alleluia, alleluia!
The reign of God is near.

Go back, (clap, clap) tell John (clap, clap)
all that you have heard and have seen me doing,
Go back, (clap, clap) tell John (clap, clap)
the wonders that you see.
Alleluia, alleluia!
The wonders that you see.

By the pow'r (clap, clap) of the Spirit (clap, clap)
Mary will give birth to a son called Jesus.
By the pow'r (clap, clap) of the Spirit (clap, clap)
Emmanuel is near.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Emmanuel is near.

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 B

- R. We praise your name for ever.
- V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
- R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.
- V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
- R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

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 our communities, 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 peace and unity among us as we seek a new way forward as people of faith. We pray for our Nation as we move forward after our National election. May we work to build harmony within our nation.

We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **Laura O'Malley** (John & Clare McAndrew's niece), **Amity Curry**, **Yumi**, **Linda Hill**, **Ronald Garvey**, **Max**, **Anne**, **Cathy**, **Barbara**, **Ellie Ruvo**, **Steven Schubert**, **Martha Thornley** 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 230,000 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 God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ

came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

A COLLECT FOR THE FUTURE OF THE HUMAN RACE

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR YOUNG PERSONS

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Announcements

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Stewardship Update

We are approaching \$89K, from 32 families. If you have not yet sent in your pledge, please consider doing so today. The work of God here at St. John's depends on your gracious recognition of the importance of God's presence in your life.

The Pleasantville Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry NEEDS YOUR HELP

The pantry needs to move from the Methodist Church, building is being closed down, to a site in which they will need to pay rent. Either donate funds through St. John's, through the Pantry website or through their GoFundMe page

- ⌘ Please continue to 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. 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 stjohnsppleasantville.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,
- ⌘ **St. John's Thrift Shop:** open for Christmas Shopping on Saturdays from 10a-2p

Volunteers Needed

Thank you to all helped get our church transformed for Advent! Matt May, Tommy McPhee, Mary Lincoln, Deacon Lynn and her able friend Ronnie, Laura Simpson, Hal Gregorius and Mother Mary+! The switch to Christmas will be a snap come Christmas Eve.

Don't forget our **Christmas Pageant**, if your children are not yet signed up, please contact MM+ right away, recording will happen December 5th at 1pm. mothermarystjohns@gmail.com..

All planning and performing of the Pageant has been designed with COVID safety in mind.

Families are encouraged to work together . Pageant characters will be recorded one at a time, the video editor will put all the film clips together

Do not let COVID-19 Steal our Christmas Celebrations and Pageant

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