

St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

Stjohnsppleasantville.org 914-769-0053



ADVENT II

MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM

December 6th, 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



Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him
and the hills bow down to greet him.

3 Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” (*Mark 40:3*)

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

Deacon: 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 85:1-2, 8-13 *Benedixisti, Domine*

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven all the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.

8 I will listen to what you, Lord God, are saying, *
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

9 Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, *
that your glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 Lord, you will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before you, *
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

A READING FROM 2 PETER 3:8-15A

Read by: Elaina Vietz

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15, The Song of Mary: *Magnificat*

Online, will be sung by Angela Berg, Mother Mary + & Warren Blyden

Setting: Cathedral of the isles, Betty Carr Pulkingham

1. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
2. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and Holy is his Name.
3. He has mercy on those who fear him I every generation. (Ant)
4. He has shown the strength of his arm. He has scattered the proud in their conceit.
5. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and he has lifted up the lowly. (Ant.)
6. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.
7. He has come to the help of his servant Israel. For he has remembered his promise of mercy,
8. The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever. (Ant.)
9. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
10. As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. (Ant.)

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK 1:1-8

Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal

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 65
DECLARE THE WAY OF ZION

Lead by Angela Berg

- 1 Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.

*Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy Name.*

- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.

Refrain

- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.

Refrain

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

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

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 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 260,000 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 at the Prayers: Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen*.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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.*

Announcements

THE BLESSING

THE REV MARY B. GREGORIUS

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Stewardship Update

Our pledges are now approaching \$90,000 with 34 pledgers, we need to be at \$120K to sustain our Parish through 2021. While this may seem to be a substantial gap for us to close in it is our customary threshold of congregational participation.. Please, if you have not yet made your 2021 Pledge to St. John's please do so at your earliest convenience. Pledge cards available on our website, stjohnspleasantville.org.

The Pleasantville Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry NEEDS YOUR HELP

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

✦ 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 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,
- ✦ **St. John's Thrift Shop:** open for Christmas Shopping on Saturdays from 10a-2p
- ✦ Today we welcome the Korean Presbyterian Congregation to share our space on Sunday's from 11:30 to 1:30p each Sunday. Pastor Minyoung Lee will also be live streaming Morning Prayer weekday mornings at 6:30am from our Chapel. May God bless this new relationship.
- ✦ **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
- ✦ **Wednesday Bible Study Group Discussion at 11am:** Please join us as we study the second book of John—Chapter 5 Keep an eye on your inbox, the Zoom link will be emailed Wednesday morning. This week

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have helped with the decorating of the church and preparations for our Christmas Pageant! Jeff Wood, Caroline Wood, Tommy McPhee, Matt May, Mary Lincoln, Laura Simpson, Deacon Lynn and her friend Ronnie, Hal & Mother Mary+, the Wike Family. You made it possible for our young actors to once again delight us with the pageant!

We are especially grateful to Tommy McPhee, Riley Vavolizza, Angela Berg and Warren Blyden for extra effort to pre-record the narratives & music.

And lastly, for the magical video editing of Raphael Wong, which you will see at the Pageant Premier on Christmas Eve at 6pm!

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