

St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

Stjohnspleasantville.org 914-769-0053



ADVENT III

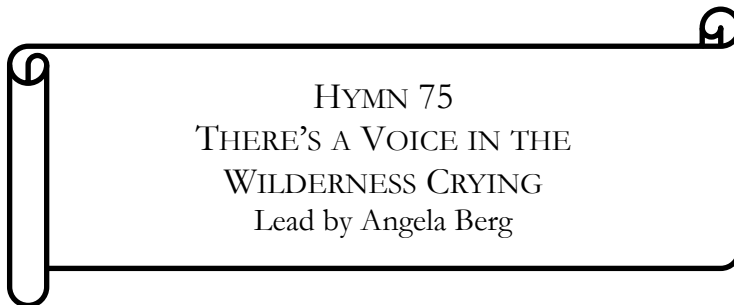
MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM

December 13th, 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



- 1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord our God may go!
- 2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away;
- 3 but the word of our God endureth,
the arm of the Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations,
and he will right the wrong.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
the lambs he'll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he'll lead them,
and bring them safe to his fold.

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight
in the desert a highway for our God. (*Isaiah 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.**

Canticle 15, The Song of Mary: *Magnificat*

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 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Read by: Ryan Fannon

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF John 1:6-8,19-28

Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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 76
ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST CRIES

Lead by Angela Berg

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.
- 3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.
- 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more

1THE 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**, **Peter**, **Hannalore**, 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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer for those who Influence Public Opinion

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that

they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of 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!**

Christmas Eve 2020

In person Service will begin at 4pm. This will be a spoken only Service. We will celebrate Holy Eucharist. All COVID precautions apply..

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 stjohnsplesantville.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, please think about continuing your support as we move into Snow Removal Season

- ✦ **St. John's Thrift Shop:** open for Christmas Shopping on Saturdays from 10a-2p

- ✦ **Tuesday Noon Zoom Prayers:** Will resume after the New Year.

- ✦ **Wednesday Bible Study Group Discussion at 11am:** Will resume after in the New Year. Please join us to choose our new Book.

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!

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius mothermarystjohns@gmail.com

The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal lynn.werdal@gmail.com

Parish Administrator stjohnspleasantville@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

