

# St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

Stjohnspleasantville.org

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## ADVENT IV

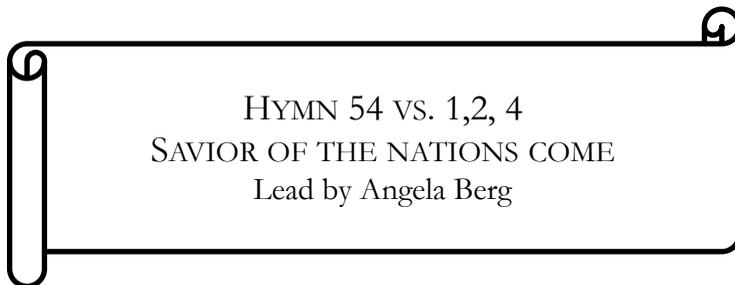
**MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM**

December 20th, 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



### *Prelude*

- 1 Savior of the nations, come!  
Virgin's Son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, both heaven and earth,  
that the Lord chose such a birth.
  
- 2 Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child  
of the Virgin undefiled!  
Mighty God and Mary's son,  
eager now his race to run!
  
- 4 Come, O Father's saving Son,  
who o'er sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall your kingdom be;  
grant that we its glories see.

## 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 Romans 16:25-27**

*Read by: Brian McPhee*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 1:26-38

*Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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.

*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 265  
THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

Lead by Angela Berg

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!
- 2 “For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,  
“my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.”  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say-  
“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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**, **Hannelore**, 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 285,000 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**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, 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, [stjohnsplesantville.org](http://stjohnsplesantville.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.

- ✦ **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](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.
  
- ✦ **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 as we move into John's 2nd Letter

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

Our Gabriel window  
with the evening sun  
pouring through,  
taken Tuesday  
12-8-2020 at 3:30pm

