

# St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

Stjohnspleasantville.org

914-769-0053



**1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**  
**MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM**  
December 27th, 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:* In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (*Isaiah 40:3*)

## 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 147:13-21

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion,  
13 who has strengthened the bars of your gates, \*  
who has blessed your children within you.  
14 For the Lord has established peace on your borders \*  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
15 The Lord sends out a command to the earth, \*  
and this word runs very swiftly.  
16 The Lord gives snow like wool \*  
and scatters hoarfrost like ashes  
17 and hail like bread-crumbs; \*  
who can stand against such cold?  
18 The Lord sends forth the word and melts them, \*  
blowing with the wind and the waters flow.  
19 The Lord declares the word to Jacob, \*  
statutes and judgements to Israel.  
20 The Lord has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them these judgements have not been revealed. Hallelujah!

### A READING FROM GALATIANS 3:23-25; 4:4-7

*Reader: Pat Orlay*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.

But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

### **The Gospel According to John 1:1-18**

*Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Deacon:* The Word of the Lord.

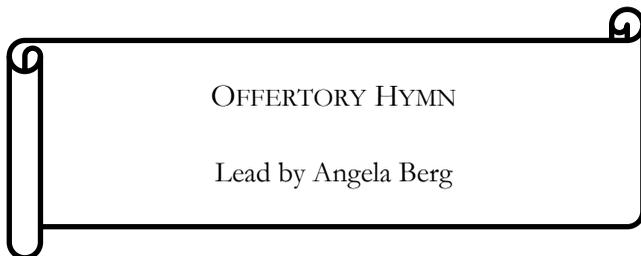
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## 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*

## 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. Especially Susan. We pray for all those struggling to find the light of Christ in this frequently forbidding world.

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.

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**

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **Announcements**

### **THE BLESSING**

THE REV MARY B. GREGORIUS

### **DISMISSAL**

*Deacon:* Let us bless the Lord!

*People:* **Thanks be to God!**

## **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**

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