

St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

Stjohnspleasantville.org

914-769-0053



2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM
January 3rd, 2021

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



What Child is This

Hymn #115

Lead by Angela Berg

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant: Behold the dwelling of God is with humankind. God will dwell with them, and they shall be God's people, and God Godself will be with them, and be their God.
(Revelation 21:3)

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: Alleluia. To us a child is born.

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

Jubilate Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, *
all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness
and come into the divine presence with a song.
Know this: the Lord, Godself, is God; *

the One made us and to whom we belong;
we are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.
Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving;
go into these courts with praise; *
give thanks to God and call upon the name of the Lord.
For the Lord is good, whose steadfast love is everlasting; *
and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

PSALM 84:1-8 *Quam dilecta!*

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, *
O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; *
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
2 The sparrow has found her a house *
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, *
my Sovereign and my God.
3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
They will always be praising you.
4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you, *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way!
5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
6 They will climb from height to height, *
and you, the God of gods, will reveal yourself in Zion.
7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your anointed.

A READING FROM EPHESIANS 1:3-6, 15-19A

Read by: Raphael Wong

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

The Gospel According to Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

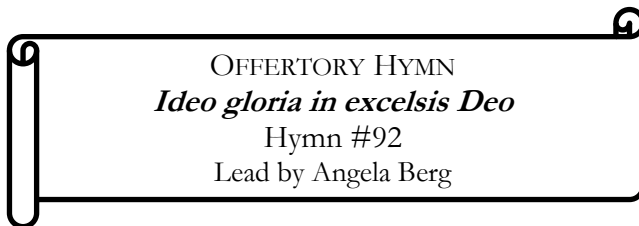
Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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*



On this day earth shall ring
with the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King,
Born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us.

Refrain

Ideo, Ideo,

Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

His the doom, ours the mirth;
When he came down to earth Bethlehem saw his birth;
Ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him.

Refrain

God's bright star, o're his head,
Wise men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,
Lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him.

Refrain

On this day angels sing;
With their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven's King,
Born on earth to save us.

Refrain

Words: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; tr. Jane Joseph (1894-1929)

Music: *Personent hodie*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 15682

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, Especially Susan.

We pray for all those struggling to find the light of Christ in this broken 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 330,000 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

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; 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

To quote our reading from Ephesians this morning, “...glorious grace has been bestowed upon you. ...May God give you a spirit of wisdom, ...the eyes of your heart an enlightened, that you may know the hope and the riches into which God has called you.” May the comprehension of all God’s goodness, given freely to you, inspire you to contribute generously to the work of spreading God’s good news through the work of St. John’s. Please pledge today.

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