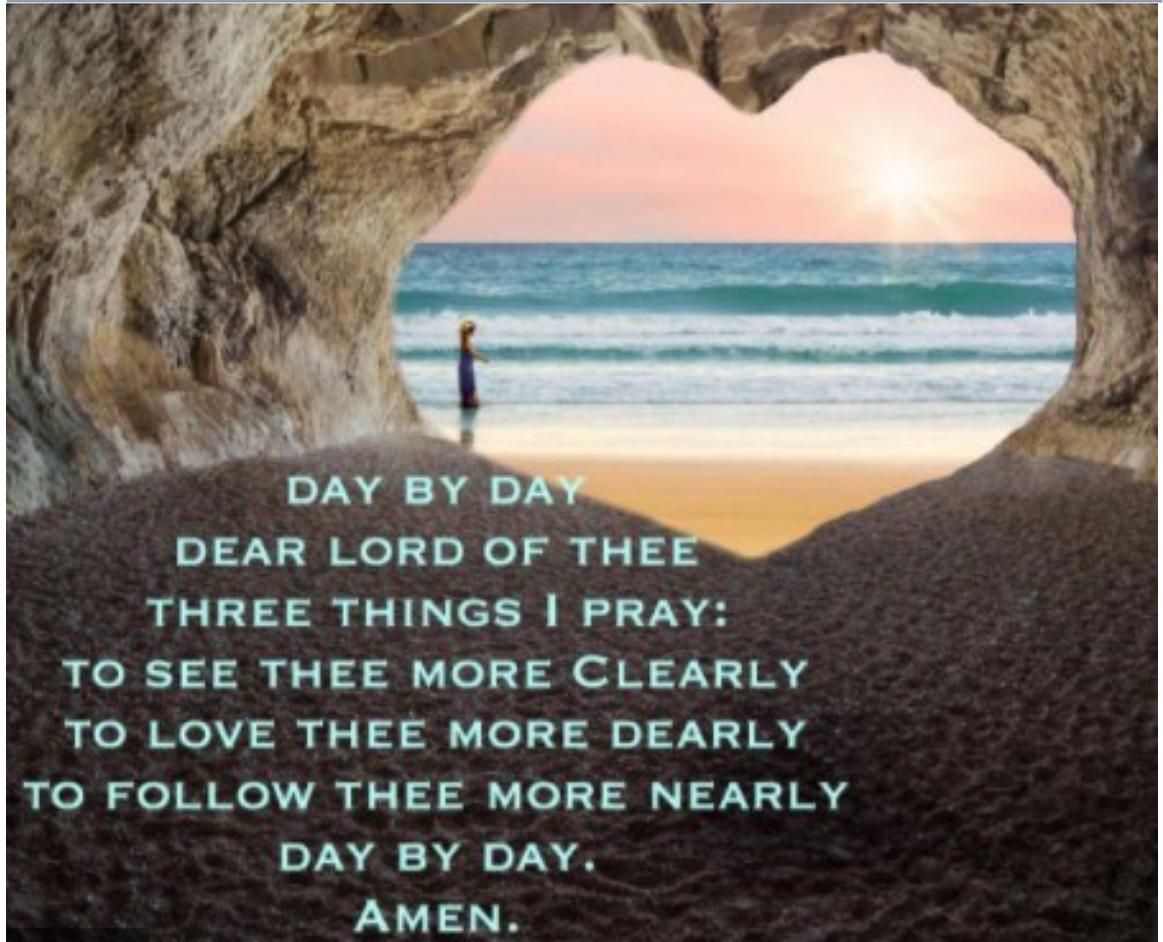


# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570  
The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector  
Stjohnspleasantville.org 914-769-0053



**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**28 FEBRUARY 2021**  
**MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM**  
ONLINE SERVICE

Our mission is to restore all people to unity with God and each other, in Christ. (BCP 855)

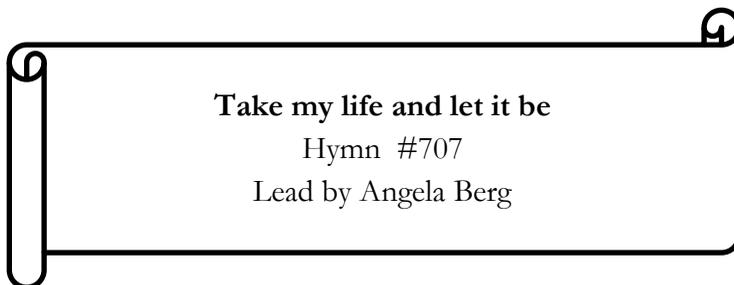
This morning we celebrate a Service of Morning Prayer. This service is taken from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. **Words printed in bold are spoken by the congregation.**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

GEISTLICHE LIEDER

THE GLORY OF THESE FORTY DAYS



1 Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

2 Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.  
Take my will, and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## AN EXHORTATION

*Officiant:* Let us Pray

Beloved in the Lord: Our Savior Christ, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood as a sign and pledge of his love, for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of his death, and for a spiritual sharing in his risen life. For in these holy Mysteries we are made one with Christ, and Christ with us; we are made one body in him, and members one of another.

Having in mind, therefore, his great love for us, and in obedience to his command, his Church renders to Almighty God our heavenly Father never-ending thanks for the creation of the world, for his continual providence over us, for his love for all mankind, and for the redemption of the world by our Savior Christ, who took upon himself our flesh, and humbled himself even to death on the cross, that he might make us the children of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, and exalt us to everlasting life.

Examine your lives and conduct by the rule of God's commandments, that you may perceive wherein you have offended in what you have done or left undone, whether in thought, word, or deed. And acknowledge your sins before Almighty God, with full purpose of amendment of life, being ready to make restitution for all injuries and wrongs done by you to others; and also being ready to forgive those who have offended you, in order that you yourselves may be forgiven. And then, being reconciled with one another, come to the banquet of that most heavenly Food.

And if, in your preparation, you need help and counsel, then go and open your grief to a discreet and understanding priest, and confess your sins, that you may receive the benefit of absolution, and spiritual counsel and advice; to the removal of scruple and doubt, the assurance of pardon, and the strengthening of your faith.

To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory in the Church evermore. Through him let us offer continually the sacrifice of praise, which is our bounden duty and service, and, with faith in him, come boldly before the throne of grace.

## LITANY OF PENITENCE

*All:* **Most holy and merciful Father we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done and what we have left undone.**

*Officiant:* We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

*People:* **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*Deacon:* We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

*People:* **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*Officiant:* We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

*People:* **We confess to you, Lord**

*Deacon:* Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

*People:* **We confess to you, Lord**

*Officiant:* Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

*People:* **We confess to you, Lord**

*Deacon:* Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

*People:* **We confess to you, Lord**

*Officiant:* Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

*People:* **We confess to you, Lord**

*Deacon:* Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

*People:* **Accept our repentance, Lord**

*Officiant:* For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

*People:* **Accept our repentance, Lord**

*Deacon:* For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

*People:* **Accept our repentance, Lord**

*Officiant:* Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

*People:* **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great**

*Deacon:* Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

*People:* **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

*Officiant:* By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

*People:* **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Officiant*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People:* **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.**

### PSALM 22 :22-30

22 I will declare your name to my kindred; \*  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

23 Praise the Lord, you that fear God; \*  
stand in awe of God, O offspring of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

24 For God does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither turns away from them; \*  
when they cry to the Lord, they are heard.

25 My praise is of God in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Lord.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall give praise: \*  
“May your heart live for ever!”

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.

28 For sovereignty belongs to the Lord, \*  
who rules over the nations.

29 To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before God.

30 My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve God; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever .

*Officiant:* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy;  
*People:* **Come let us adore God.**

### **A READING FROM ROMANS 4:13-25**

*Read by: Elizabeth Hoadley*

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be

guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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



Surely, it is God who saves me; \*  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, \*  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;  
Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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..

### **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 8:31-38**

*Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal*

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

*Deacon:*           The Word of the Lord.

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

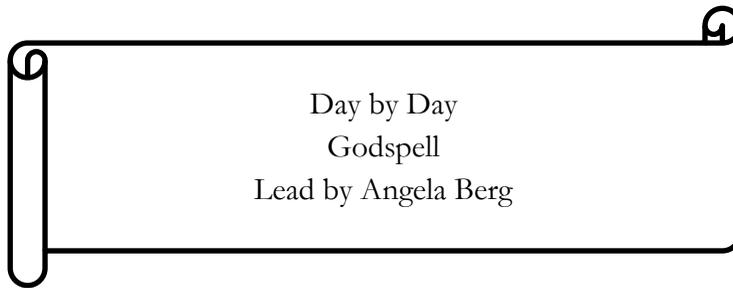
**THE HOMILY**

THE REV. MARY B. GREGORIUS

**THE PEACE**

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.  
And also with you.

**THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE:** Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalms 50:1-4*



Day by day  
Day by day  
Oh Dear Lord  
Three things I pray  
To see thee more clearly  
Love thee more dearly  
Follow thee more nearly  
Day by day  
*(Repeat)*

## **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.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## PRAYER FOR THE RENEWAL OF LIFE

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

## Announcements

### THE BLESSING

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius

### DISMISSAL

*Deacon:* Let us bless the Lord!

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

### POSTLUDE

*CHARLES WINFRED DOUGLAS    ETERNAL LORD OF LOVE*

### STEWARDSHIP

**God establishes a Covenant with Abraham and Sarah, promising they will be**

“...exceedingly fruitful.” Such is God’s promise to us, the descendants of Abraham and Sarah. As God has blessed us, may we be a blessing to those around us.

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, [stjohnsppleasantville.org](http://stjohnsppleasantville.org).

Please keep these beloved folks in your private prayers this week, contact Mother Mary+ if you would like to add anyone to our Prayer list

We pray for all those suffering with COVID-19, especially **Cindy and Dave**.

We pray for all those struggling to find the light of Christ in this skeptical 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), **Yumi, Linda Hill, Ronald Garvey, Max, Anne, Cathy, Barbara, Hudson** Beaugard; **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 in thanksgiving for the safe delivery of **Ivy Claire Gregorius** to her parents and big brother.

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 450,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19.

## **The Pleasantville Emergency Food Pantry NEEDS YOUR HELP**

The pantry has moved to a site on Commerce St. in Hawthorne for which they need to pay rent. Please, 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.

### **CALENDAR:**

**NEW—Wednesday 7pm-8pm Lenten Program This week's Topic—Meditation:**

Look, a squirrel!! Please join us via Zoom for the Lenten Program based on the book *Flunking Sainthood* by Jana Riess. Click [here for the sign up genius](#) or call the office if you are interested in attending one or more session.

**Tuesday** Noon Prayers, via ZOOM, watch for link

**Thursday** Bible Study, we are taking up Paul's Letter to the Romans, via ZOOM

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