

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

Stjohnspleasantville.org 914-769-0053



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

14 MARCH 2021

MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM

ONLINE SERVICE

Charles B. S. Nkosi (South African, 1949–)

Marching in the Light of God

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

Sing my soul his wondrous love

Hymn #467

Lead by Angela Berg

1 Sing, my soul, his wondrous love,
who, from yon bright throne above,
ever watchful o'er our race,
still to us extends his grace.

2 Heaven and earth by him were made;
all is by his scepter swayed;
what are we that he should show
so much love to us below?

3 God, the merciful and good,
bought us with the Savior's blood,
and, to make salvation sure,
guides us by his Spirit pure.

4 Sing, my soul, adore his Name!
Let his glory be thy theme:
praise him till he calls thee home;
trust his love for all to come.

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 107: 1-3, 17-22

1 Give thanks to the Lord who is good, *
and whose mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe. .

3 The Lord gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south

17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.

18 They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.

19 Then they cried to you, O Lord, in their trouble, *
and you delivered them from their distress.

20 You sent forth your word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.

21 Let them give thanks to you, O Lord, for your mercy *
and the wonders you do for your children.

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of your acts with shouts of joy.

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

A READING FROM EPHESIANS 2: 1-10

Read by: Elaine Veitz

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the

immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life

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 JOHN 3:14-21

Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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*



1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

2 "Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

4 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *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

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. (EPH 3:20,21)

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

STEWARDSHIP

God's son came into the world that we might be saved, to light our way, that we might return to God. May we choose to do what is true, basking in the light of God.

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.

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.

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** Beauregard; **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, 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 Rena Kaplan and Frederick Giloth and the over 500,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19.

Holy Week 2021

Palm Sunday: 3-28-2021, 1 9:30am; In person Service will be Live Streamed through our Facebook Page. Space for In Person attendance is limited to 30 persons, please use [Sign-Up Genius](#) to reserve a spot in the church.

Maundy Thursday: 4-1-2021, 7pm; ZOOM Service only. 6pm, Gather with your family/friend's pod Wash each other's feet and follow with a simple Agape Meal and then join the Zoom at 7pm

Good Friday: 4-2-2021; 12n to 3pm the church will be open for prayer. The Liturgy for Good Friday and Passion Gospel will unfold through out the 3 hours A schedule will be sent and the service will be accessible via Zoom

Easter Sunday: 4-4-2021, 9:30am; In person Morning Prayer Service will be Live Streamed through our Facebook Page and will be followed by Holy Eucharist.

Space for In Person attendance is limited to 30 persons, please use [Sign-Up Genius](#) to reserve a spot in the church.

Easter Cut Outs—For those not yet ready to attend in person, please send or drop off pictures for use in the church by Thursday April 1st and we will be sure you and yours are in joyful attendance!

Peep Golf—Enjoy the days celebrations with feasting and frozen Peep Golf Instructions available upon request—prizes will be awarded!

CALENDAR:

Tuesday Noon Prayers, via ZOOM, watch for link

Wednesday 7pm-8pm Lenten Program This Wednesday, St. Patrick's Day our discussion will focus on feasting and hospitality! What joy! How appropriate as we all gather as we can for our version of the Irish feast of corned beef and cabbage. God does love a good party, come join in the conversation! See you at 7pm.

[Click here](#) for the sign up genius or call the office if you are interested in attending
Thursday Bible Study, 11am. We are in Paul's Letter to the Romans, via ZOOM

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