

St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570
stjohnspleasantville@gmail.com (914) 769-0053
www.stjohnspleasantville.org

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

Morning Prayer: Rite Two 9:30^{AM}

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

This morning we celebrate with an abridged 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

OPENING HYMN: 645

The King of Love, my Shepherd is

Baker



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness
 2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed
 * 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 * 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear
 5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion
 6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
 2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant
 3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der
 4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my
 5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port
 6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.
 2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-less-tial feed-eth.
 3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.
 4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.
 5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!
 6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

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.

PSALM 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

2 You make me lie down in green pastures *
and lead me beside still waters.

3 You revive my soul *

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, *

I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; *
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5 You spread a table before me *
In the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, *
and my cup is running over.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

ANTIPHON

Officiant: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed:
People: **Come let us adore him. Alleluia!**

CANTICLE: *Gloria in excelsis*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 4: 5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had

made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is `the stone that was rejected by you, the builders it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE: CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion over him.
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, *
so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE FIRST EPISTLE OF JOHN 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?
Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we

will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People: **Thanks be to God**

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 10:11-18

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God.



1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me



is his Name; _____ in pas - tures fresh he
 is my stay; _____ one word of thy sup -
 all my days; _____ oh, may thy house be



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.____
 port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.____
 mine a - bode and all my work be praise.____



He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -
 Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my
 There would I find a sett - led rest, while o - thers



sake his ways, _____ and leads me, for his
 ta - ble spread; _____ my cup with bless - ings
 go and come; _____ no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.____
 o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head.____
 or a guest, but like a child at home.____

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES: SET A

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

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 seek justice and work to build harmony.

We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **Bob** Gowen, **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, **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, **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, in the violence enslaving the world and the over 550,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19

Officiant: Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR PEACE

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your

dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant and People

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

CLOSING HYMN 708

Savior, like a shepherd lead us

Sicilian Mariners

1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us

ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;
learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,

for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!
with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!

Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

DISMISSAL

Deacon:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us bless the Lord!

People:

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

STEWARDSHIP

We frequently wonder how to witness to God's love to the world, John address that wondering in his Letter read this morning. "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." (1JN 3:16-17) Truth and action define the Christ followers as builders of the Kingdom of God.

Please join St. John's work to build and repair in a broken world. If you have made a financial pledge and partnership commitment to St. John's, thank you. If you have not yet, please see our website for pledge information.

ANNUAL BRENDA LAWLOR MIDNIGHT RUN NEW SOCKS AND UNDIES DRIVE:

Everybody needs a little change now and then! Join us !Don't be the one who forgets to contribute in honor of one of our most dedicated Mid-Night Run supporters! Please bring **NEW** socks, T-shirts & underwear to St. John's by May 15th. Primarily size large, but a few XL and M would be appreciated as well. Get out there and shop!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS—The Thrift Store is asking those previous and interested volunteers to contact Linda or Joan with their availability. We are currently open on Saturdays from 10am-2pm. We need help as follows: 1) Outside of the store to assist with the inflow of customers and 2) Inside the stores to assist with customer questions, sorting and pricing. The Thrift Store operates within NYS guidelines for PPE precautions. Please email Linda Spione at spionelinda@gmail.com or Joan Scire at joanscire@aol.com with your availability.

COMMUNITY GARDEN OPEN HOUSE—SATURDAY MAY 1 10AM-1PM. Take a tour of the garden, learn about what we do, plant something to take home with you, bring some fresh food: donation drive. MASKS REQUIRED **please [register in advance](#) to insure social distancing ~Drop-ins WELCOME too~

TUESDAY NOON ZOOM PRAYERS: Join us via ZOOM for a brief moment of calm in your all to hectic day.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY: at 11am; ZOOM link sent out in This Week @ St. John's. We are working our way through Paul's Letter to the Romans. You are welcome to join us.

ST. JOHN'S STAFF:

Rector: The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius mothermarystjohns@gmail.com

Deacon Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal lynn.werdal@gmail.com

Organist: Warren Blyden quintiton@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: stjohnspleasantville@gmail.com

Parish Bookkeeper: Megan Whalen bookkeeper@stjohnspleasantville.com

Administrative Warden: Debbie Paruolo dparuolo@aol.com

Property Warden: Matt Ruvo mattsunset@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Ken Foley foleyken6@gmail.com

Videographer Hal Gregorius Video Editor Raphael Wong

Cantor Angela Berg Web Master Jonathan Pytell

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