

# Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 23

October 10, 2021

Holy Eucharist 9:30<sup>AM</sup>



## St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570  
(914) 769-0053 [www.stjohnspleasantville.org](http://www.stjohnspleasantville.org)

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

*Eye of the Needle—Vladimir Kush*

## AN INVITATION TO THIS SERVICE

This service is taken from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. **Words printed in bold are spoken by the congregation.** All are welcome at Christ's table. We welcome baptized

Christians of any tradition to share in the bread and wine. If you have not yet been baptized, or would prefer to receive a blessing from the Priest, indicate this by crossing your arms over your heart.

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

### *PRELUDE*

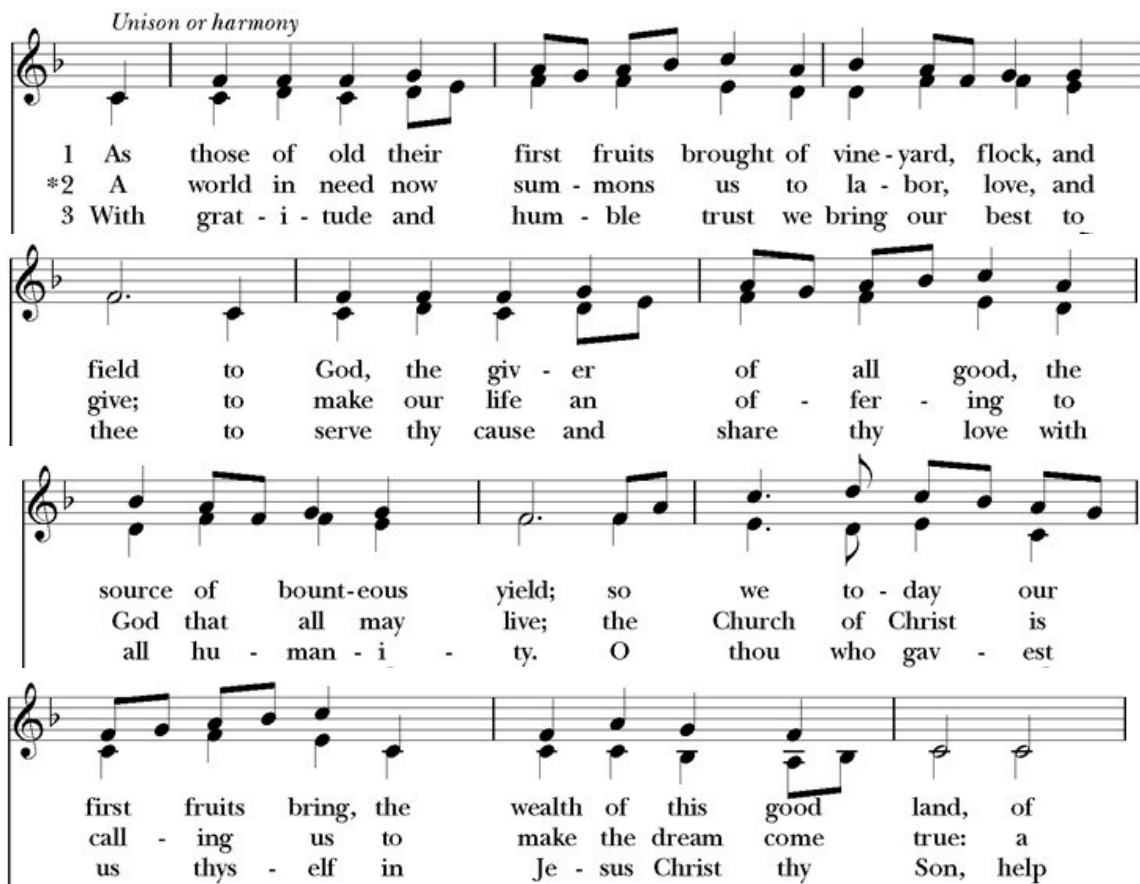
### THE WORD OF GOD

✦ *Please stand as you are able and join in singing:*

### OPENING HYMN #705

“As those of old their first fruits brought”

*Unison or harmony*



1 As those of old their first fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and  
\*2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la-bor, love, and  
3 With grat-i-tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to  
field to God, the giv-er of all good, the  
give; to make our life an of-fer-ing to  
thee to serve thy cause and share thy love with  
source of bount-eous yield; so we to-day our  
God that all may live; the Church of Christ is  
all hu-man-i-ty. O thou who gav-est  
first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land, of  
call-ing us to make the dream come true: a  
us thy-self in Je-sus Christ thy Son, help

farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind, and heart, and hand.  
 world re - deemed by Christ - like love; all life in Christ made new.  
 us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest,  
 and peace to God's 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.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

**Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

✠ *Please be seated for The Lessons.*

### A READING FROM THE HEBREW TESTAMENT

Amos 5:6-7,10-15

*Read by: Brian McPhee*

Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. them!"

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 90:12-17

*Led by: Brian McPhee*

**12 So teach us to number our days \*  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

**13 Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry? \***

**Be gracious to your servants.**

**14 Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; \***

so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.  
**15 Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us \*  
and the years in which we suffered adversity.**  
**16 Show your servants your works \*  
and your splendor to their children.**  
**17 May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; \*  
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

A READING FROM HEBREWS

Hebrews 4:12-16

*Read by: Brian McPhee*

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ *Please stand as you are able and join in singing:*

SEQUENCE HYMN MHSO #20

*Celtic Alleluia*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! \_\_\_\_\_

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**People: Glory to you Lord Christ.**

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord.

**People: Praise to you Lord Christ.**

✠ *Please be seated for:*

THE SERMON

The Rev. Garrett Mettler

✠ *Please stand as you are able and say:*

## THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM IV)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for peace and unity among us as we seek a new way forward as people of faith.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for **Edwin Sanchez and the students at El Hogar School, and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem**. We offer prayers of thanksgiving for all those who celebrate birthdays this week

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for all those suffering with COVID-19.

We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **Frederic, Peter, Bob** Gowen, **Yumi, Ronald** Garvey, **Ed** Meddaugh, **Max, Anne, Cathy, Barbara, Howard** Flemming, **Hudson** Beauregard; **Ellie** Ruvo, **Joyce** Makimi, **Rosemary** Recine, **Robert** Lynch, and **Angela** Carrozzo.



We pray for those who are homebound: **Esmerilda Hastings, Margaret Vaccaro, John & Lee Williams, Dorothy Dushin, Roberta Darrigrand; Jim, Marge, Joe Smith, Carolyn Damiano, Deanna Ammirato** , and **Bill & Dorothy D'Amato**.

We pray for those for whom our prayers are asked, especially: **Liz & Jeff Daniele, Andrew Tom, Rebecca, Vince Servio, Sarah Paruolo, Annaliese Haag, Gerald, Marilyn Griffin, Joyce, Paul Ruvo, Helene, Jason, Joe Smith, Peter, Hannelore, Linda Hill, Carol White, Steven Schubert, Paul Seltzer, and Jeff**.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially the over 700,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19 that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*Officiant:* Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*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**

✠ *Please greet one another with:*

## THE PEACE

**Celebrant:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you**

## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Storyteller this week**

**Mother Mary Gregorius**



## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

### DOXOLOGY

*Old Hundredth*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, you heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Priest inserts Proper Preface*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant Continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory again.**

*Celebrant Continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever . **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**All: 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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People:** **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

✠ *Please join in singing:*

## THE COMMUNION HYMN #318

Here, O my Lord



1 Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;  
2 Here would I feed up - on the Bread of God;  
3 I have no help but thine; nor do I need  
4 Mine is the sin, but thine the right - eous - ness;



here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;  
here drink with thee the roy - al Wine of heaven;  
an - oth - er arm save thine to lean up - on;  
mine is the guilt, but thine the cleans - ing Blood.



here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,  
here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,  
it is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;  
Here is my robe, my re - fuge, and my peace;



and all my wea - ri - ness up - on thee lean.  
here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - given.  
my strength is in thy might, thy might a - lone.  
thy Blood, thy right - eous - ness, O Lord, my God.

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

Music: *Nyack*, Warren Swenson (b. 1937) Copyright ©1970 Warren Swenson. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

✠ *Please stand as you are able*

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**All:** Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** 2 Corinthians 13:14

✠ *Please join in singing:*

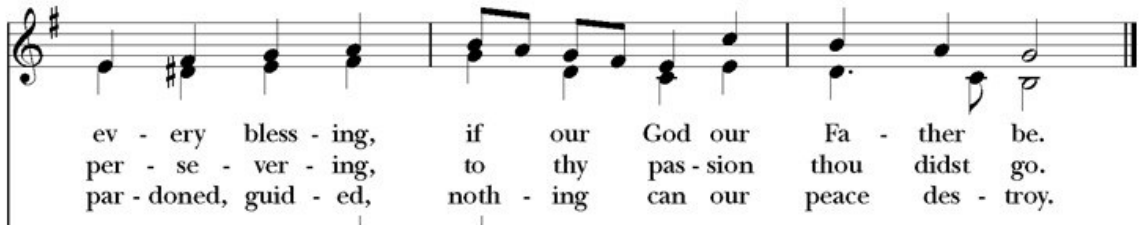
## THE CLOSING HYMN #559

“Lead us heavenly Father”

1 Lead us, heaven - ly Fa - ther, lead us o'er the world's tem -  
2 Sa - vior, breathe for - give - ness o'er us; all our weak - ness  
3 Spi - rit of our God, de - scend - ing, fill our hearts with

pes - tuous sea; guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
thou dost know; thou didst tread this earth be - fore us;  
heaven - ly joy; love with ev - ery pas - sion blend - ing,

for we have no help but thee, yet pos - ses - sing  
thou didst feel its keen - est woe; yet un - fear - ing,  
plea - sure that can nev - er cloy; thus pro - vid - ed,



## THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

### STEWARDSHIP

But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Then who indeed can be saved? Is our money a tool we work with? Or is money a slave driver exerting control over us? We each decide for ourselves. Denying money its power over us is the path to freedom. May God grant us the strength to break the chains keeping us in bondage to this cruel and unrelenting master.

### MIDNIGHT RUN DONATIONS:



We are collecting Men’s socks, underwear and T-Shirts (average size L) for the October Midnight Run. Please put them in the bin at church

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONFIRMATION:** Confirmation Classes are up and running for those in 7th grade and above. Classes are held the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month; from 5:45PM-7:45PM. Our next class meets on Oct 12th. Please contact Mother Mary+ for more information

**ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS READY:** Be sure to see St. John's NEW On-line Sunday School lessons every week located at our [website](#) They include videos from the Sparkhouse Curriculum, activities kids can do at home, and a video of a bible story read by one of St. John's wonderful Volunteers. Contact Mother Mary+ if you are interested in being a Bible Story Reader—we would love to have you!

**THRIFT SHOP:** The thrift shop is open Saturdays from 10-2. We are seeking volunteers for 2 hour shifts to help out our regular staff. We have had staff changes since Covid-19 and have a smaller pool to draw from. Here is a link to our updated [Sign Up Genius](#).

**GENERAL VOLUNTEERS:** St. John's needs your help! Contact Warden Matt Ruvo; [mattsunset@yahoo.com](mailto:mattsunset@yahoo.com) or The Rev Mary B. Gregorius, [mothermarystjohns@gmail.com](mailto:mothermarystjohns@gmail.com) to volunteer

**TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER 8:00AM** Please consider beginning your day in prayer together. ZOOM link in TW@SJ or [click here](#). Meeting ID 847 0590 3160

**THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY: 11:00AM;** meet us in the Pleasantville Diner. We have started 1 Samuel.

### ST. JOHN'S STAFF:

Rector: The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius [mothermarystjohns@gmail.com](mailto:mothermarystjohns@gmail.com)  
Deacon Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal [lynn.werdal@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.werdal@gmail.com)  
Organist: Warren Blyden [quintiton@gmail.com](mailto:quintiton@gmail.com)  
Parish Administrator: [stjohnspleasantville@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnspleasantville@gmail.com)  
Parish Bookkeeper: Megan Whalen [bookkeeper@stjohnspleasantville.com](mailto:bookkeeper@stjohnspleasantville.com)  
Administrative Warden: Debbie Paruolo [dparuolo@aol.com](mailto:dparuolo@aol.com)  
Property Warden: Matt Ruvo [mattsunset@yahoo.com](mailto:mattsunset@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer: Ken Foley [foleyken6@gmail.com](mailto: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