# THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(YEAR B - PROPER 23)
10 OCTOBER 2021



THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM—EDWARD HICKS

# The Holy Eucharist with the Blessing of Pets 10:00 am

St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church
500 South Country Road • Bay Shore, New York 11706
Phone 631-665-0051 Fax 631-665-0052

ne 631-665-0051 Fax 631-665-0052 www.stpetersbayshore.org



### WELCOME TO ST. PETER'S BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We extend a warm welcome to everyone, and especially any visitors who may be worshiping with us today. If you do not already have a church home, please feel welcome to join this Parish family.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized persons are welcomed to the table to receive Holy Communion.

Our Services begin with the Opening Voluntary. You are invited to enter quietly into the spirit of worship as the music is played.

# — PARISH NOTICES —

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES ON TUESDAYS AT 10:30AM AND SUNDAYS AT 9AM. All are invited!

In Preparation for Sunday Worship, all are encouraged to read the Bible study presented in Preparing for Worship available by clicking the picture at the upper right of the Home Page on our website: www.stpetersbayshore.org

**OUR STEWARDSHIP SEASON HAS BEGUN!** We continue the weekly meditation from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship 2021 series "Every Perfect Gift." The second of these installments, printed on on facing page, focuses on the Gift of Sharing. Each meditation this season will focus on the many gifts that we receive from God and how me might respond in thanksgiving. Commitment Sunday will be on November 21st, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

**NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17**, we will have a visitation with Mother Joanne Izzo, a Diocesan Consultant for parishes in discernment for new Clergy. Immediately following the 10am service, we will have a parish brunch in the parish hall, and Mother Izzo will join us following the brunch. PLEASE PLAN TO BE WITH US, as this is an important step in our process.

THE PARISH CHOIR WILL RETURN TO THE CHANCEL NEXT SUNDAY following all established norms for singing during this pandemic period. Anyone who has not sung with the choir, but would like to give it a try should speak with Mark.

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN:** ECW is planning a fall luncheon and meeting on Tuesday, 2 November, at 12 noon in the Parish Hall. A box lunch will be served at a cost of \$12 per person and reservations may be made by calling the Treasurer, Linda Brady at 631-665-8330. Luncheon reservations are a must and the deadline is Thursday, 28 October. All Covid-19 restrictions will apply. Tuesday, 2 November is Election Day—remember to vote before the meeting or on your way home. All women are invited to attend. Please call the President, Joan Derle, at 631-499-8234 with questions or further information.

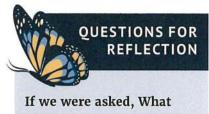
DIOCESAN ECW BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE AND ANNUAL MEETING: The Book of Remembrance Service will be held at the Cathedral of the Incarnation on Friday, 5 November at 10am. The book of Remembrance, maintained by the Diocesan ECW, is a permanent record in memory of a relative or friend whose faithful service has furthered the work of the church. St. Peter's has submitted the names of Angela Becker, Ellen Jung, Jeanette Emory, and Nancy Rusch for their devoted service. Immediately following, the Diocesan ECW Annual Meeting with election of officers, Information and Lunch will be held located diagonally across the street at the Garden City Casino Due to Covid-19 restrictions a box lunch will be served at a cost of \$20 per person. For further information and/or lunch reservations, please call Joan Derle at 631-499-8234.

MUSIC AT ST. PETER'S IS BACK! SEE THE POSTER FOR THE FALL PROGRAM ON PAGE 14.



Jesus looking at him and loved him – Mark 10:17-31

Some years ago there was a Cracker Jacks commercial. In it a grandfather is enjoying a box of the popcorn snack. He hears his grandson enter the house and hurriedly hides the box. He asks his grandson, "What did you learn in school today?" The grandson responds with an expectant look on his face, "sharing". Grandpa who is not quite ready to share his snack then asks, "Did you play any games at school today?" The grandson repeats "sharing". Grandpa reluctantly shares the box with grandson who then pours some into his own hand and turns to leave until Grandpa asks "sharing?" and extends his hand. Grandson happily shares.



If we were asked, What did you learn in Christ today?, would our answer be "sharing?"

When I was a child, this was just one example of what it looks like to consider the needs of others and our response to them. No matter where we lived, our home was a haven of rest or refuge for those with varying degrees of need. It could have been giving food to Miss Florene to assist her in feeding her family; or serving as a temporary home for Miss Alice's children when their parents were engaged in domestic abuse situations; or caring for newborn twins experiencing narcotics withdrawal due to a mom who struggled with addiction. It could have been providing our living room as a guest room for someone in need. Or it could have been ensuring there was always a place at our table for the unexpected guest. How often do we look at another and love them?

The love of God comes to us in various and sundry ways. When we look at our neighbors, family and friends through eyes of compassion and love and act with a spirit of gratitude and generosity, we recognize with God all things are possible. When we acknowledge the personhood of the other, particularly those who society would deem the least or the last person one would offer a place at one's table, then that person becomes the first to receive an invitation. We experience God's love most fully when we are able to give of ourselves for the good of others.

The Rev. Debra Bennett is rector of Our Saviour, Akron, Ohio and serves on the TENS Board of Directors.

#### — PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK —

We pray for those for whom are prayers have been asked: Abigail, Andrea, Ann, Annakutty, Anthony, Autumn, Ben, Betty, Betty C., Bill, Caroline, Chris, Cindy, Deborah, Diane, Donna, Elinor, Felix (Sr.), Gary, Greg, Hannah, Jackie, Jim, Joe, Joel, Joy, Joyce, June, Kamryn, Lorraine, Mark, Matthew, Michelle, Mike, Muriel, Roger, Sarah Grace, Shanti, Sister Joy, Steve, Sue, Vincent, and William;

We pray for those who have died; remembering especially Jeremy Napoleon, a friend of Angel Fowler,; and all those grieving the death of a loved one, that they may find comfort and peace;

We pray for those in military service, and especially for Christian, Eileen, John, Matt, Robert, and Stephen;

We pray for the unemployed and underemployed; for all who suffer from addictions; for all who suffer chronic illness, and for all caregivers;

We pray for our companion dioceses of Torit & Ecuador-Central; and for mercy, peace, and justice among all peoples, especially those whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters, terrorism, war, famine, tyranny, or injustice;

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. John's, South Ozone Park; Trustees of the Estate Belonging to the Diocese of LI; St. John's, Springfield Gardens; Grace Church, Whitestone; The Deans of the Diocese; Commission on Addiction & Recovery; St. Paul's, Woodside;

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Church of the Province of West Africa; and these Dioceses of Churches of the Anglican Communion: Georgia (USA); Gippsland (Australia); Gitega (Burundi); Gloucester (England); Gogrial (South Sudan).



# THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

#### THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Voluntary Trumpet Tune in D Major

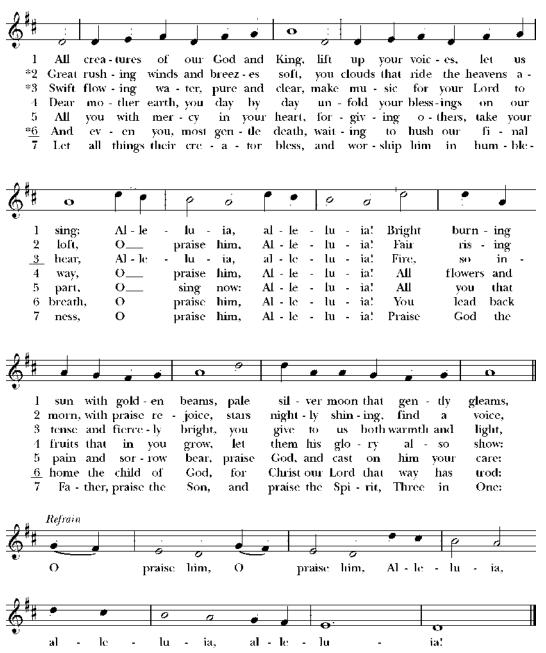
David N. Johnson

#### **Opening Hymn**

The Hymnal 1982, #400 (stz. 1-4)

All creatures of our God and King

Lasst uns erfreuen



The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

Words: Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Copyright ©1985 by G. Schrimer, used by arrangement of G. Schrimer, Inc Music: Lassi uns erfrenen, melody from Auserlesene Catholische Gentliche Kirchengeseng, 1623; adapt, and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission

#### The Greeting

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever Amen.

The Celebrant says the 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.* 

The Song of Praise: A Song of Creation (Said by all)

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord,\*
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord,\*
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let the earth glorify the Lord,\*
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O moutnains and hills,
and all that grows upon the earth,\*
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams,\*
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord,\*

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord,\* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild,\* and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord,\* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;\* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord,\* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

The Collect of the Day (The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost—Proper 23)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.* 

#### The Lessons

The First Lesson: Job 23:1-9, 16-23

Lector A reading from the Book of Job

Job said: "Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning.

Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling! I would lay my case before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.

I would learn what he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me.

Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?

No; but he would give heed to me.

There an upright person could reason with him, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

"If I go forward, he is not there;

or backward, I cannot perceive him;

on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;

I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.

God has made my heart faint;

the Almighty has terrified me;

If only I could vanish in darkness,

and thick darkness would cover my face!"

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 90:12-17

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.

The Second Lesson: Hebrews 4:12-16

Lector A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

**The Gospel:** Mark 10:17-31

Celebrant 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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Right Reverend Johncy Itty

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 (BCP, p. 388)

Intercessor

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 nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for those in the Armed Forces: Christian, Erik, John, Matt, Robert, and Stephen;

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.

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 especially for Abigail, Andrea, Ann, Annakutty, Anthony, Autumn, Ben, Betty, Betty C., Bill, Caroline, Chris, Cindy, Deborah, Diane, Donna, Elinor, Felix (Sr.), Gary, Greg, Hannah, Jackie, Jim, Joe, Joel, Joy, Joyce, June, Kamryn, Lorraine, Mark, Matthew, Michelle, Mike, Muriel, Roger, Sarah Grace, Shanti, Sister Joy, Steve, Sue, Vincent, and William;

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

#### Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; we remember especially Jeremy Napoleon, a friend of Angel Fowler; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

#### Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

For the unemployed and underemployed; for all who suffer from addictions; for all who suffer chronic illness, and for all caregivers;

For our companion Dioceses Torit & Ecuador-Central; and for mercy, peace, and justice among all peoples, especially those whose lives have been devastated by the COVID-19 Pandemic, natural disasters, terrorism, war, famine, tyranny, or injustice.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

#### Hear our prayer.

Silence

The Bishop says

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.* 

#### The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Bishop Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Bishop Most merciful God,

All 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.

Bishop 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 Peace

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you.

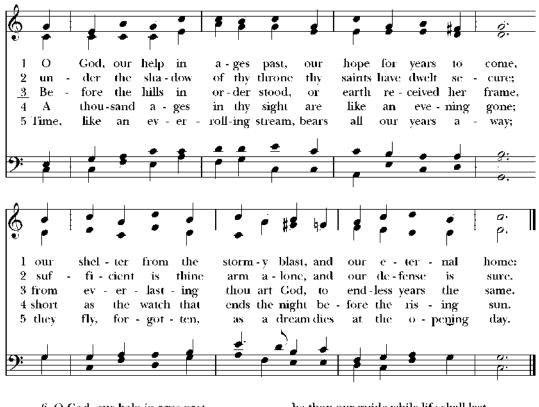
People And also with you.

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### Hymn at the Offertory

O God, our help in ages past

The Hymnal 1982, #680 St.Anne



6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para, of Psalm 90:1-5 Music: St. Anne, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt., harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

#### The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A (BCP, p. 361)

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 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.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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*.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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 Breaking of the Bread

Bishop Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

In the Episcopal Church, Baptized Christians from any denomination may receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

#### The Postcommunion Prayer

Bishop Let us pray.

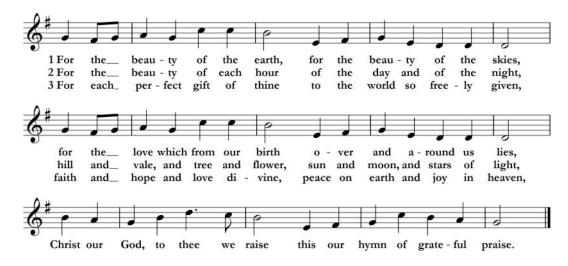
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### The Postcommunion Hymn

The Hymnal 1982, #416

For the beauty of the earth

Dix



#### The Blessing of Pets

#### The Blessing and Dismissal

The People's Response Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary Postlude in D (Maestoso e con vivo)

Healey Willan

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE 86TH BIRTHDAY OF ELIZABETH HALLETT.

#### — FOR THE SERVICE —

Officiant and Preacher
Lector
Lay Eucharistic Minister and Intercessor
Acolyte
Organist
Usher
Altar Guild

The Right Reverend Johncy Itty
Nancy Maia
Bob Birch
William Logan
Mark Engelhardt
Theresa Macario, Irene Feola
Kathy Birch, Joan Derle, Laura McLaughlin

# MUSIC AT ST. PETER'S FALL & WINTER 2021

## CONCERTS AND SPECIAL SERVICES

#### — SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 AT 7 PM — THE MAGICAL ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

CLOSE TO THE EDGE SYMPHONIC

Note-for-note recreations of 14 legendary progressive rock classics from the '60's and '70s including the Close to the Edge album by YES performed live by a 50-piece orchestra, and special guests Wonderous Stories, Mostly Moptop, Tommy Bowes and harpist Erin Hill.

TICKETS: \$50VIP/\$30 ADULTS/\$20 CHILDREN

#### — SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AT 4 PM — A PIANO RECITAL IN MEMORIAM

MARK ENGELHARDT, PIANO

Performed within the Octave of All Saints' All Souls' this concert is offered to give thanks for the lives of several parishioners who died during the past two years. The program will feature works by J. S. Bach and Claude Debussy.

SUGGESTED: \$20/\$15 STUDENTS AND SENIORS

#### — SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 7:30 PM — THE HOFSTRA CHORALE SEASONAL CONCERT

DR. DAVID FRYLING, DIRECTOR

#### — SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 4 PM — LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

THE PARISH CHOIR

The traditional Candlelight service of Nine Lessons and Carols in the style of that sung at King's College, Cambridge

FREE WILL OFFERING

#### — SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 AT 2 PM —

#### ISLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BACH FESTIVAL CONCERT

Dr. Eric R. Stewart, Music Director and Conductor

FREE WILL OFFERING



# St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

631-665-0051

500 S. Country Rd. Bay Shore, NY 11706 www.stpetersbayshore.org



Pentecost 20 Proper 23 (B) October 10, 2021 This Bible study, written by **Daniel Woods**, originally ran for Proper 23B in 2018.

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

In this reading, we find the ever-faithful Job trusting in his God but nonetheless turning bitter and confused as the realities of life begin to torment him. As his pitiful situation drags on with his friends and family adding to his problems instead of en-

couraging him, he wakes up heavily burdened with a new set of complaints for his God. He seems to say, "Where is this mighty God in whom I trust? Show yourself so that I may present my case of injustice that has been handed to me." Is this situation familiar to us? Do our friends and family watch and ridicule the suffering of the faithful in their midst and even encourage us to give up? "What kind of God would allow you to suffer that way? Why even bother believing?" they may say. But in the end, we know that Job's heart remains faithful, his life eventually becomes even better than before, and those who tried to discourage him are humiliated. Let us, therefore, learn the lesson of Job and remain steadfast in our faith, trusting that the worst will soon be over and that our lives may even be better once the storm has passed.

Have you experienced this kind of situation before? How did you feel about God?

What were the effects on your life after weathering the storm?

How would you encourage others who are suffering in this kind of situation?

#### Hebrews 4:12-16

In this section of a letter written to those in danger of abandoning their Christian faith because of outside pressures, the writer tells us of the power of the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God, in awakening our consciousness to our true faithfulness to Jesus. The writer encourages us to be courageous in remaining faithful to him. As Episcopalians, it seems that sometimes we try to avoid engaging meaningfully with Scripture. It can intimidate us, and we are sometimes afraid to be challenged by it, preferring to be ignorant of its messages. It can be painful to imagine how far we really are from being true followers of Jesus. If we want to grow in faith and find a new confidence in being his followers in these days of merciless attacks against the Church from both inside and out, let us learn to enjoy actively engaging with the Word of God, and as the catechism of this church tells us, allow him to speak to us through it, so that we may be more faithful in knowing his will for us both as a Christian community and in our own daily lives.

Do you feel or know others who feel pressure to abandon their Christian faith?

Reflecting on the "Holy Scriptures" section of the catechism found in the Book of Common Prayer, how is your own understanding of the Bible confirmed or challenged?

What can we do to encourage more Episcopalians to engage with the Holy Scriptures?

#### Mark 10:17-31

In this story, we are confronted by the reality of our dependence on the mercy of God for our salvation. It is not intended to tell us that the rich cannot be saved. The story tells us of a good and faithful man who is loved by Jesus, but there is one problem: he is more attached to the cares of this world than he is to following Jesus. Instead of being willing to give up his possessions, the things that stood between him and the freedom to follow, it was easier to walk away. If we are honest, many of us are like the rich man, unwilling to pay the cost of truly following Jesus. If too much sacrifice is involved, we would often prefer to walk away. While we must always strive to be the most faithful followers of Jesus that we can, we are assured that we have a merciful God who does love us, just as Jesus still loved the rich man. This is also a humble reminder that even the richest of the rich cannot save themselves even with all the possessions in the world, but our faithful God through our faith in him has the power to save us.

How would you feel if Jesus asked you to sell all your possessions and follow him?

What have you sacrificed in your life to be a follower of Jesus?

How has this story been presented to you in the past? How has your understanding of it been confirmed or changed after reading it for yourself?

# St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

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A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry Presiding Bishop The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano, DD Diocesan Bishop The Right Reverend Geralyn Wolf Assistant Bishop The Right Reverend Daniel Allotey Assisting Bishop The Right Reverend R. William Franklin Assisting Bishop The Right Reverend Johncy Itty, DD Bishop-in-Residence Mark Engelhardt Associate for Administration, Liturgy, and Music Financial Administrator Linda Ruggieri

#### The Wardens and Vestry of the Parish

Brian Clark, Senior Warden Joe Goncalves, Junior Warden

Class of 2022 Stephanie Campbell Lisa Hallett Class of 2023

Marc Johnston Bill Kern Class of 2024

Roger Burmeister Clyde Payne



#### Praising God, Serving Neighbor

We seek to worship the Lord as one loving family by serving our parish and community through prayer, music, education, and outreach