



## **Welcome to St. John's Church**

**Ash Wednesday Liturgy**

*February 17, 2021*

*11:00 a.m.*

*The health and safety of our congregation and community is the highest concern of St. John's. While closed to the public in the midst of this pandemic, we continue to 'live stream' our 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship each week on both our [St. John's YouTube Page](#) and our [St. John's Facebook page](#)*

## Organ Prelude

### Opening Hymn # 142

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

*1 Lord, who throughout these forty days  
for us didst fast and pray,  
teach us with thee to mourn our sins,  
and close by thee to stay.*

*2 As thou with Satan didst contend,  
and didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in thee to fight,  
in thee to conquer sin.*

*3 As thou didst hunger bear and thirst,  
so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live  
by thy most holy word.*

*4 And through these days of penitence,  
and through thy Passiontide,  
yea, evermore, in life and death,  
Jesus! with us abide.*

*5 Abide with us, that so, this life  
of suffering overpast,  
an Easter of unending joy  
we may attain at last!*

## The Word of God

*On this day, the Celebrant begins the liturgy with the Salutation and the Collect of the Day.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and

forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lessons**

*INTRODUCTION: The reading from the Hebrew Bible is a denunciation of the injustices of those who only act at their religion. There is a promise of the Lord's favor for those who genuinely repent and care for the needy.*

### **A Reading from the Scroll of the Prophet Isaiah:**

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.  
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.  
If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*  
The Word of the Lord.

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

*Silence may follow.*

*A Psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.*

## **Psalm 103**

***1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \****  
***and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.***

***2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \****  
***and forget not all his benefits.***

***3 He forgives all your sins \****  
***and heals all your infirmities;***

- 4 He redeems your life from the grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;*
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.*
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.*
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses \*  
and his works to the children of Israel.*
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.*
- 9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.*
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.*
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.*
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.*
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.*
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.*
- 15 Our days are like the grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower of the field;*
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.*
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who fear  
him, \*  
and his righteousness on children's children;*
- 18 On those who keep his covenant \*  
and remember his commandments and do them.*
- 19 The LORD has set his throne in heaven, \*  
and his kingship has dominion over all.*

**20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, \*  
and hearken to the voice of his word.**

**21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, \*  
you ministers of his who do his will.**

**22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; \*  
bless the LORD, O my soul.**

*INTRODUCTION: In this reading, Paul urges the new disciples to be reconciled to God in this time of deliverance, and reminds them of all the hardship that he has patiently endured for their sake and for the gospel.*

### **A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians:**

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*  
The Word of the Lord.

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

### **Gradual Hymn # 152**

*Kind Maker Of The World*

**1 Kind Maker of the world, O hear  
the fervent prayer, with many a tear  
poured forth by all the penitent  
who keep this holy fast of Lent!**

***2 Each heart is manifest to thee;  
thou knowest our infirmity;  
now we repent, and seek thy face;  
grant unto us thy pardoning grace.***

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

*INTRODUCTION: In our gospel reading, Jesus describes genuine charity, prayer, and fasting.*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Matthew**

*People            Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

*People            Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**The Sermon**

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, Priest-in-Charge

*After the Sermon, all stand, and the Celebrant or Minister appointed invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying*

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.*

*If ashes are to be imposed, the Celebrant says the following prayer*

Almighty God, thou hast created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be unto us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by thy gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*The ashes are imposed with the following words*

Remember, O man, that dust thou art, and unto dust thou shall return.

## **Psalm 51**

***1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.***

***2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.***

***3 For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.***

***4 Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.***

***5 And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.***

***6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.***



*7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.*

*8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.*

*9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.*

*10 Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.*

*11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.*

*12 Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.*

*13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.*

*14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.*

*15 Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.*

*16 Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

*17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.*

*18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

## **Litany of Penitence**

*The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling*

***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 by what we have left undone.***

*The Celebrant continues*

We have not loved thee 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.

***Have mercy on us, O Lord.***

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

***Have mercy on us, O Lord.***

We confess to thee, O Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

***We confess to thee, O Lord.***

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

***We confess to thee, O Lord.***

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

***We confess to thee, O Lord.***

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

***We confess to thee, O Lord.***

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

***We confess to thee, O Lord.***

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,

***Accept our repentance, O Lord.***

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

***Accept our repentance, O Lord.***

For our waste and pollution of thy creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

***Accept our repentance, O Lord.***

Restore us, good Lord, and let thy anger depart from us;

***Favorably hear us, for thy mercy is great.***

Accomplish in us the work of thy salvation,

***That we may show forth thy glory in the world.***

By the cross and passion of thy Son our Lord,

***Bring us with all thy saints to the joy of his resurrection.***

*The Bishop, if present, or the Priest, stands and, facing the people, says*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, hath

given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolveth 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. *Amen.*

## **The Peace**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*      ***And with thy spirit.***

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **The Holy Communion**

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences of Scripture.*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,  
an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

### **Offertory Hymn # 674**

*Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

- 1 “Forgive our sins as we forgive”  
you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.*
- 2 How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let  
old bitterness depart?*
- 3 In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew,  
how small the debts men owe to us,  
how great our debt to you.*
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, reconciled to God and man,  
our lives will spread your peace.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The Celebrant faces the congregation and sings or says*

The Lord be with you.

*People*     ***And with thy spirit.***

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People*     ***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People*     ***It is meet and right so to do.***

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

*Celebrant and People*

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:***

***Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.***

***Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.***

***Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

*The people kneel or stand.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant,

which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

*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**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
***Therefore let us keep the feast.***

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **A Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*Celebrant and People*

***In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer our praise and thanksgiving. We present to thee our souls and bodies with the earnest desire that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive thee physically, we ask thou to comest spiritually into our hearts. We embrace thee with all the affections of our souls, confident that nothing can ever separate us from the love God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.***

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The People may join in saying this prayer*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. ***Amen.***

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

**Closing Hymn # 143**

*The Glory Of These Forty Days*

- 1 The glory of these forty days  
we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, through whom all things were made,  
himself has fasted and has prayed.*
- 2 Alone and fasting Moses saw  
the loving God who gave the law;  
and to Elijah, fasting, came  
the steeds and chariots of flame.*
- 3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,  
delivered from the lions' might;  
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became  
the herald of Messiah's name.*
- 4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be  
full oft in fast and prayer with thee;  
our spirits strengthen with thy grace,  
and give us joy to see thy face.*
- 5 O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,  
to thee be every prayer addressed,  
who art in threefold Name adored,  
from age to age, the only Lord.*

*The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

**Organ Postlude**

**Ash Wednesday**, in the Christian church, the first day of Lent, occurs six and a half weeks before Easter (between February 4 and March 11, depending on the date of Easter). Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season. It is commonly observed with ashes and fasting. In the early Christian church, the length of the Lenten celebration varied, but eventually it began 6 weeks (42 days) before Easter. This provided only 36 days of fasting (excluding Sundays). In the 7<sup>th</sup> century, 4 days were added before the first Sunday in Lent in order to establish 40 fasting days, in imitation of Jesus Christ's fast in the desert. It

was the practice in Rome for penitents and grievous sinners to begin their period of public penance on the first day of Lent in preparation for their restoration to the sacrament of the Eucharist. They were sprinkled with ashes, dressed in sackcloth, and obliged to remain apart until they were reconciled with the Christian community on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter. When these practices fell into disuse (8th–10th century), the beginning of the penitential season of Lent was symbolized by placing ashes on the heads of the entire congregation.

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**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**78 Green Hill Road**  
**Washington, CT 06793**

**Worship Ministers Today:**

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Celebrant*

Jon Lafleur, *Organist*

Melissa Schipul, *Soloist*

The Reverend Dr. Robyn Gray, *Reader*

Laura Daly, *Psalmist*

Larry Littlefield, *Veejay*

Susie Markert *Altar Flowers*

MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

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