

Welcome to St. John's Church



The Fourth Sunday In Lent:

Saturday, March 18, 2023
5:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

78 Green Hill Road

Washington, CT 06793

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527

Parish Office Hours: *Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

St. John's Email: stjohnschurch@snet.net

St. John's Website: <http://stjohnswashington.com/>

Masks are optional in the church, but available if desired.

Children's activity bags are available on the bench by the Baptistry.

Please return them after the Service.

*There is a furnished children's room downstairs with soft toys and rugs,
and audio of the Service, if parents wish to use it.*

There is a Reception for all in the Parish Hall, following the Service.

A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER

Prelude

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

All stand

Officiant O God, be not far from us.

People ***Come quickly to help us, O God.***

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Opening Hymn # 43 *All Praise To Thee My God This Night*

The choir will sing the fourth verse alone

1 All praise to thee, my God, this night, for
2 For - give me, Lord, for thy dear Son, the
3 O may my soul on thee re - pose, and
4 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
all the bless - ings of the light: keep me, O keep me,
ill that I this day have done; that with the world, my -
with sweet sleep mine eye - lids close; sleep that shall me more
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
King of kings, be - neath thine own al - might - y wings.
self, and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
vi - gorous make to serve my God when I a - wake.
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

This hymn may be sung unaccompanied as a four-part canon at the distance of one measure.

Psalm 23

the congregation is invited to join the refrain

Refrain

The Lord is my shep - herd; I shall not be in want.

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his 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 your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

The Readings

A Reading from the First Book of the prophet Samuel

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and get going. I’m sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have found my next king among his sons.” “How can I do that?” Samuel asked. “When Saul hears of it he’ll kill me!” “Take a heifer with you,” the LORD replied, “and say, ‘I have come to make a sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make clear to you what you should do. You will anoint for me the person I point out to you.” Samuel did what the LORD instructed. When he came to Bethlehem, the city elders came to meet him. They were shaking with fear. “Do you come in peace?” they asked. “Yes,” Samuel answered. “I’ve come to make a sacrifice to the LORD. Now make yourselves holy, then come with me to the sacrifice.” Samuel made Jesse and his sons holy and invited them to the sacrifice as well. When they arrived, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, That must be the LORD’s anointed right in front. But the LORD said to Samuel, “Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven’t selected him. God doesn’t look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the LORD sees into the heart.” Next Jesse called for Abinadab, who presented himself to Samuel, but he said, “The LORD hasn’t chosen this one either.” So Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, “No, the LORD hasn’t chosen this one.” Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD hasn’t picked any of these.”¹¹ Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Is that all of your boys?” “There is still the youngest one,” Jesse answered, “but

he's out keeping the sheep." "Send for him," Samuel told Jesse, "because we can't proceed until he gets here." So Jesse sent and brought him in. He was reddish brown, had beautiful eyes, and was good-looking. The LORD said, "That's the one. Go anoint him." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him right there in front of his brothers. The LORD's spirit came over David from that point forward. Then Samuel left and went to Ramah.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

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

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

Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

John Travers (c. 1703-1758)

*Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

A Reading from the Gospel of John

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed in him. While it's daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After he said this, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man's eyes. Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (this word means *sent*). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see. The man's neighbors and those who used to see him when he was a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," and others said, "No, it's someone who looks like him." But the man said, "Yes, it's me!" So they asked him, "How are you now able to see?" He answered, "The man they call Jesus made mud, smeared it on my eyes, and said, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and then I could see." They asked, "Where is this man?" He replied, "I don't know." Then they led the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus made the mud and smeared it on the man's eyes on a Sabbath day. So Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. The man told them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and now I see." Some Pharisees said, "This man isn't from God, because he breaks the Sabbath law." Others said, "How can a sinner do miraculous signs

like these?” So they were divided. Some of the Pharisees questioned the man who had been born blind again: “What do you have to say about him, since he healed your eyes?” He replied, “He’s a prophet.” The Jewish leaders didn’t believe the man had been blind and received his sight until they called for his parents. The Jewish leaders asked them, “Is this your son? Are you saying he was born blind? How can he now see?” His parents answered, “We know he is our son. We know he was born blind. But we don’t know how he now sees, and we don’t know who healed his eyes. Ask him. He’s old enough to speak for himself.” His parents said this because they feared the Jewish authorities. This is because the Jewish authorities had already decided that whoever confessed Jesus to be the Christ would be expelled from the synagogue. That’s why his parents said, “He’s old enough. Ask him.” Therefore, they called a second time for the man who had been born blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know this man is a sinner.” The man answered, “I don’t know whether he’s a sinner. Here’s what I do know: I was blind and now I see.” They questioned him: “What did he do to you? How did he heal your eyes?” He replied, “I already told you, and you didn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?” They insulted him: “You are his disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we don’t know where this man is from.” The man answered, “This is incredible! You don’t know where he is from, yet he healed my eyes! We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners. God listens to anyone who is devout and does God’s will. No one has ever heard of a healing of the eyes of someone born blind. If this man wasn’t from God, he couldn’t do this.” They responded, “You were born completely in sin! How is it that you dare to teach us?” Then they expelled him. Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, “Do you believe in the Human One?” He answered, “Who is he, sir?^[b] I want to believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you.” The man said, “Lord,^[c] I believe.” And he worshipped Jesus. Jesus said, “I have come into the world to exercise judgment so that those who don’t see can see and those who see will become blind.” Some Pharisees who were with him heard what he said and asked, “Surely we aren’t blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you wouldn’t have any sin, but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People Thanks be to God.

A Homily

Fr. Geoffrey, Priest-in-Charge

The Apostles’ Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

***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.

Offertory Anthem

It's a Great Day!

Tom Brand

During the singing of this anthem, an offering will be taken to support the work and ministries of St. John's. Please be generous in your support.

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For all bishops, priests, deacons, and lay ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

***Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Officiant: May Almighty God grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, but also time for true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of God's holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn LEVAS # 221 *This Little Light Of Mine*

1. This lit - tle light of mine, _____ I'm gon - na let it
 2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, _____ I'm gon - na let it
 3. Je - sus gave it to me, _____ I'm gon - na let it

Oh_____

1. shine, _____ This lit - tle light of mine,
 2. shine, _____ Ev - 'ry - where I go,
 3. shine, _____ Je - sus gave it to me,

Oh_____

1. I'm gon - na let it shine; _____ This lit - tle light of
 2. I'm gon - na let it shine; _____ Ev - 'ry - where I
 3. I'm gon - na let it shine; _____ Je - sus gave it to

Oh_____

1. mine, _____ I'm gon - na let it shine, _____ Let it
 2. go, _____ I'm gon - na let it shine, _____ Let it
 3. me, _____ I'm gon - na let it shine, _____ Let it

Oh_____

1. shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 2. shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 3. shine, let it shine, let it shine.

The image shows a musical score for a three-part setting of the words "shining". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, with three parts indicated by numbers 1, 2, and 3. The music ends with a double bar line.

Concluding Sentence

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

Postlude

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Celebrant*

Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Emily Souza, *Reader*

Fr. Geoff, *Veejay (VJ)*

MB Witt: *Altar Guild, Reception Hostess*

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, April 2nd, 10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday Service, with chanting of the Passion

Thursday, April 6th, 6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service, with foot-washing

Friday, April 7th, 12:00 noon

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

Sunday, April 9th, 6:15 a.m.

Ecumenical Sunrise Easter Service at the Old Stone Church, New Preston

Sunday, April 9th, 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday Festival High Mass

Sunday, April 9th, 11:30 a.m.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt