

St. John's Episcopal Church
Arlington, Massachusetts

First Sunday of Lent

February 18th, 2024



Sunday Worship Service

We welcome you to St. John's Church!

Parish Office: 781-648-4819

Web Site: <http://www.saintjohns-arlington.org>

Office Email: admin@saintjohns-arlington.org

Treasurer Email: treasurer@saintjohns-arlington.org

Twitter: @StJohns02476

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsarlington>

Rector: The Reverend Diane Wong

Deacon: The Reverend Dawn Tesorero

Music Director & Organist: Henry Buck

Parish Administrator: Susan Brooks

Sexton: Erwin Rosales, Michael Axman

Nursery Assistants: Claire Dornin, Norah Mallam, Sandy Terenzi

VESTRY MEMBERS

Co-Warden: Christine Carney (2025); **Co-Warden:** Claire Walker (2026)

Treasurer: John Gibson (2025)

Clerks: Dorothy Mallam & David Wilcox (2025)

Kermit Argon & David Wilcox & Dorothy Mallam (2026)

Cate Barr & Dawn Shearer (2027)

DELEGATES

Alewife Deanery –Emelia Blankson (2025) & Jan Ford (2026)

Alewife Deanery Co-Convener – Anson Stewart (2024)

Diocesan Delegates – Frank Foster (2025); Joe Curro (2026)

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS
First Sunday of Lent
February 18th, 2024

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude: *“Aus Tiefer Not Lasst Uns Zu Gott (Out of Profound Misery We Cry to God)”*
Father Wilhelm Zachau (1663-1712)

Processional Hymn: *“Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”* #149 in 1982 Hymnal

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever.

Celebrant: 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.

(Please kneel if you are able.)

Silence

Litany of Penitence

Celebrant:

Most holy and merciful God:
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 you 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, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation
of other people,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those
more fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and
our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to
commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, 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, 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, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of
concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Celebrant: Almighty God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn
from their wickedness and live, and have given power and commandment to your ministers to
declare and pronounce to your people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their
sins. You pardon and absolve all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe the
holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech you to grant us true repentance and the Holy Spirit, that those things may
please you 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 eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Kyrie

S86 in 1982 Hymnal

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e -
le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

(Please stand.)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect for Today:

All: Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Readings

The First Lesson: Genesis 9: 8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25: 1-9

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Epistle: 1 Peter 3: 18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual: “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

#608 in 1982 Hymnal

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: Mark 1: 9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Deacon Dawn Tesorero

Celebrant: Let us now reaffirm our faith with the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

The Prayers of the People

In our prayers today we remember those on our parish prayer list: Emelia Blankson; Nancy Brown; Chris Capaldo; Claire & Ralph; Barbara Curro; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; Gene & Donna Downing; Alex Greenly; Jack; Jessica & Xiong (pron Hong); Lester; Connie McKinley; Bruce & Winnie Oliver; Lucy Pachter; Cale & Liz Putnam; Savannah; Dawn Shearer; David Sullivan; Phil & Pat; Tristan; Vivien; and Don Webb.

We remember also Military Families and Military Chaplaincies.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Pray for St. Mary’s Church in Barnstable; St. Peter’s-on-the-canal in Buzzards Bay; St. Christopher’s Church in Chatham; St. Andrew’s Church in Edgartown; and the Union of Black Episcopalians.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan.

Form II

BCP p. 385

Concluding Collect

The Peace

Announcements

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory: “*Communion Prelude on PICARDY (Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)*”

Gilbert M. Martin

Doxology #380, v. 3: (Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.)

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift 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.

(Please kneel if you are able.)

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth...

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.

Sanctus:

WLP 785

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

Words: Variation on a traditional liturgical text. Music: Composer of melody unknown; arr. based on a two-part version as taught by Pablo D. Sosa (b. 1933).

Phonetic Pronunciation:

San----to, san----to, san----to, mi cor---a---zon te a--dor---a!
Sahn-toh, sahn-toh, sahn-toh, mee koh-rrah-sohn tay ah-doh-rah!

Mi cor---a---zon te sa---be de--cir: san---to e---res Se---nor.
Mee koh-rrah-sohn tay sah-bay deh-seer: sahn-toh eh-rehs Se---nyohr.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious God: 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 Maker 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:

ALL:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant:
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, almighty God, 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 God, now and for ever. AMEN.

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

The Lord’s Prayer **BCP p. 364**

The Fraction **BCP p. 364**

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem: “Jesus, Lamb of God” **S161 in 1982 Hymnal**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant: (Communion invitation) The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion: (All are welcome at God’s Table. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please stand with your arms crossed. Gluten-free wafers and apple juice are available. Please let the clergy know if you need them.)

Communion Hymn: “We’ll Understand it Better By and By” **#207 in LEVAS**

Communion Prayer for People on Zoom: My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Election of the Presiding Bishop

Almighty God, source of all wisdom and understanding: Look graciously on your church, and so guide the hearts and minds of those who will choose our next presiding bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for all of your people, equip us for our ministries, and proclaim your word to us and to the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer Offered by Archbishop Hosam Naoum, head of the Anglican province of Jerusalem & the Middle East

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths, Jews, Muslims, and Christians, and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children for, to all of us, you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus’s name we pray. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Bishop Search Nominating Committee (Diocese of MA)

Loving and Living God, as we seek a Bishop for the Diocese of Massachusetts, we also seek you. Help us to listen deeply as you speak through the members of this committee; through the people of our Diocese; through our parishes, missions, ministries and institutions; through our neighborhoods, towns, and cities; through our past and our present; through word and sacrament. When we are distracted by other voices, other tasks, other pressures, call us back to you. Give us courage, vision, and an ability to see past the surface of things. May we be patient and compassionate, trusting always in your mercy and goodness to us and to all that you have made. We pray this in the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, one God. *Amen.*

Post Communion Prayer (*Please stand if you are able.*) **BCP p. 366**

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: *“The Glory of These 40 Days”* **#143 in 1982 Hymnal**

Dismissal

Deacon: (Dismisses the People)

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *“Redemption”* Bethany K. Smith

Liturgical Ministers

Lectors: Tirsa Moya & Frank Foster

Crucifer/LEM: Frank Foster

Choir: St. John’s Choir

Altar Guild: Mary Jo Larson & Frank Foster

Greeters/Ushers: Cate Barr & Vicki Ford

Nursery Assistant: Sandy Terenzi

Coffee Hour Hosts: Christine Carney & Tirsa Moya

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OUR MISSION: The mission of St. John's Episcopal Church is to be a vibrant Christian community where lives are transformed by a personal relationship with God; and where all adults and children experience the dignity and grace of God's unconditional love. We share the good news of God's love to all who worship with us, through fellowship with our neighbors, and through our service in partnership with the greater community.

OUR VISION: We seek to always grow in our understanding of God's plan for us as individuals, families, and as a Christian community. Together we will deepen our capacity to serve, to respond to God's call, and to grow our collective ability to be stewards of God's gifts.

MUSIC: The music for the day is listed in this booklet. Hymns are found in the 1982 Hymnal and LEVAS (Lift Every Voice and Sing). On the hymn board, blue next to the numbers indicates the 1982 Hymnal; red indicates LEVAS; and green indicates Wonder Love and Praise – usually there is an insert for that.

CHILDREN: Children are welcome in our worship services! Nursery care is also available for toddlers during the 10 a.m. service in the Nursery room to the right side of the Sanctuary.

COMMUNION: Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion. Those not receiving the sacrament may come forward with their arms crossed to receive a blessing. Both communion wine & juice are offered. If you desire to be baptized, or have questions about baptism, please see the clergy following the worship service.

RESTROOMS: To access the restrooms from the Sanctuary, exit through the door to the left of the altar, turn to your right, and go downstairs. There is also a handicap-accessible restroom on the same level as the Sanctuary, in the Library – exit through the door to the left of the altar, go through two sets of doors, and the restroom is straight ahead of you on the left.

WELCOME TO ALL WHO GATHER FOR WORSHIP TODAY: If you are visiting, please sign our guest book. We would love to get to know you a little better. Please join us after the worship service for refreshments and hospitality. If you would like to know more about this congregation please feel free to speak to the clergy, the Greeters/Ushers, or with any parishioners. In addition, there is printed material about the congregation at the rear of the Sanctuary.