

St. John's Episcopal Church
Arlington, Massachusetts

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25th, 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
Second Sunday of Lent
February 25th, 2024

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude: *"How Firm a Foundation"*

Gilbert M. Martin

Processional Hymn: *"New Every Morning is the Love"*

#10 in 1982 Hymnal

(Sing vs. 1&2 and 5&6)

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: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Readings

The First Lesson: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22: 22-30

- 22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord'S for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Epistle: Romans 4: 13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual: “I Call on Thee, Lord Jesus Christ”

#634 in 1982 Hymnal

(Sing before and after the Gospel reading.)

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: Mark 8: 31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Diane Wong

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; Jack; Jessica & Xiong (pron Hong); Lester; Rick Miller; Connie McKinley; 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. Barnabas’ Church in Falmouth; Christ Church in Harwich Port; St. Andrew’s Chapel in Hyannis Port; St. Paul’s Church in Nantucket; and Congregations: Wardens, Treasurers & Clerks.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Anglican Church of Tanzania.

Remembrances: In celebration of the birthday of Norman Towle, by William F. & Marion C. Towle, brothers Barry and Garry, and sister Sharon.

Form II **BCP p. 385**

Concluding Collect

The Peace

Announcements

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory: “Tis So Sweet (TRUST IN JESUS)” Bethany K. Smith

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**

The musical score for the Sanctus is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score consists of two systems of staves. The first system covers the first two lines of the Sanctus, and the second system covers the last two lines. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line and a final chord.

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**

The image shows the musical notation for the Fraction Anthem "Jesus, Lamb of God". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:". The second staff continues with "have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the". The third staff continues with "sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,". The fourth staff concludes with "you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

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 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. 365

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

#675 in 1982 Hymnal

Dismissal

Deacon: (Dismisses the People)

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “Christe, du Lamm Gottes (Christ, Lamb of God)”

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Liturgical Ministers

Lectors: Andrew Nyamekye & Cate Barr

Crucifer/LEM: Andrew Nyamekye

Choir: St. John's Choir

Altar Guild: Louie Steptoe & Dorothy Mallam

Greeter/Usher: Mary Jo Larson

Nursery Assistant: Sandy Terenzi

Coffee Hour Hosts: Dawn Shearer & Emelia Blankson

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.