

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Lewes, Delaware

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite II

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Lantana from *Plymouth Suite*

Percy Whitlock (1903–1946)

▲ HYMN IN PROCESSION

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

The Hymnal 1982, # 376

Celebrant ✙ Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

▲ 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.**

▲ HYMN OF PRAISE

All glory be to God on high

The Hymnal 1982, # 421

▲ THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of power and justice, like Jeremiah you weep over those who wander from you, turn aside to other gods, and enter into chaos and destruction. By your tears and through your mercy, teach us your ways and write them on our hearts so that we may follow faithfully the path you show us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 2:4–13

Reader A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? They did not say, "Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit. Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people

have changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 81:1, 10–16 *Exultate Deo*

Sing with joy to God our strength *
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

**I am the LORD your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, ***
“Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.”

And yet my people did not hear my voice, *
and Israel would not obey me.

So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, *
to follow their own devices.

Oh, that my people would listen to me! *
that Israel would walk in my ways!

I should soon subdue their enemies *
and turn my hand against their foes.

Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, *
and their punishment would last for ever.

But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat *
and satisfy him with honey from the rock.

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

D G A7 D Bm

1 Bro - ther, sis - ter, let me serve you, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, fel - low trav'l - lers
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll
 5 When we sing to God in hea - ven, we shall find such
 6 Bro - ther, sis - ter, let me serve you, let me be as

Em A G D G A7 D

Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each o - ther
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to - geth - er
 Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to

Em G A7 D

let you be my ser - vant too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 of Christ's love and a gon - y.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Capo 2 play D

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▲ GOSPEL

Luke 14:1, 7–14

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Kaeton

▲ 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

by The Rev. Dr. Fred Day

Deacon	Let us pray for the church, creation, and all in need.
Leader	We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us to make choices that are life giving. Give us the resolve and strength to confront forces of despair, evil, and death with a message of new life. God of grace,
People	Hear our prayer.
Leader	We pray for St. Peter's Church to be more and more united in love and faith. Inspire and equip the leaders in planning programs for the fall. Grant safe travel and life-changing experience to our pilgrims to Iona, Scotland. Bless teachers, administrators, and students preparing to return to school. May our living faith transform lives. God of grace,
People	Hear our prayer.
Leader	We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities. Shield coastlands from damaging storms, hurricanes, rising rivers and seas. God of grace,
People	Hear our prayer.
Leader	We pray for those in authority to have the wisdom of Solomon and the fruits of your Spirit; governing justly, with compassion and care for those on the margins. Inspire and equip them with actions that serve the common good. May we be active and fervent in prayer for those who lead us. Keep us vigilant in pleading for people in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti and other perilous places, for we may be one of the few voices they have. God of grace,
People	Hear our prayer.
Leader	"O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord's steadfast love endures forever." God, thank you for the joys and blessings of this life. <i>(The people may offer thanksgivings, silently or aloud.)</i>
	For your love and goodness, O God,
People	We give you thanks.
Leader	We pray for the sick, hungry, the unhoused, and lonely; especially _____, and those we now name silently or aloud. <i>(Pause)</i> May they find healing and hope through your love and the caring of those around them. Call and send us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,
People	Hear our prayer.
Leader	We thank you for those who have died ☩ and now dwell with the saints in light; especially [_____, and] those we now name silently or aloud. <i>(Pause)</i> Surround them with your mercy and grant your peace to those grieving loss. God of grace,
People	Hear our prayer.
Celebrant	Let us pray together in the words of St. Francis:
All	Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

▲ CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence is kept.* God of all mercy,
People **we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant 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

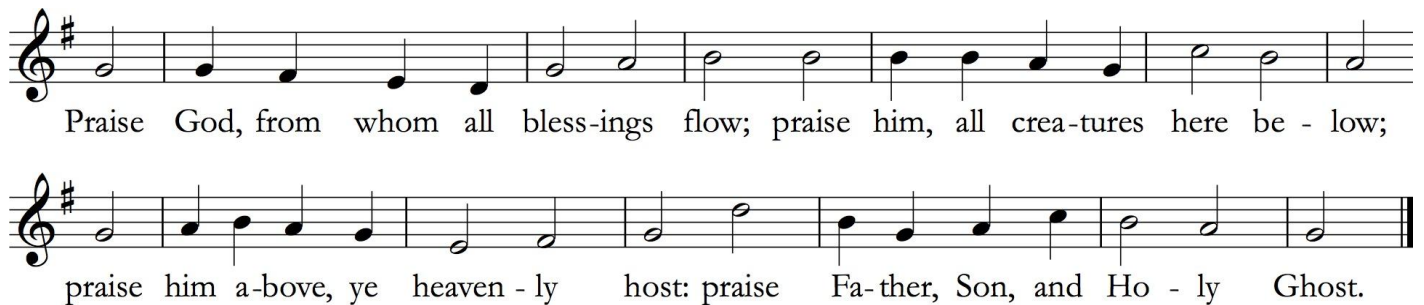
Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

BLESSINGS FOR BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

▲ PRESENTATION HYMN

Old 100th



▲ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer 3, *Enriching Our Worship*

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 our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.” And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

People **Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us ☩ and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

People **Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

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

▲ THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

Celebrant God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.
People **Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**

The Hymnal 1982, S 164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer-cy on us. Je - sus, bear - er
of our sins: have mer-cy on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er, re -
deem-er of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. (Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.)

The Sacrament is distributed at the communion rail; you are welcome to kneel or stand to receive. Please grasp the chalice at the base and guide it to your lips. Gluten-free wafers are available, please ask the priest if you need one. Communion is full and complete in either the host or the chalice. If you desire to receive a blessing instead of communion, please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.



1 All who hun-ger gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er stran-gers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mun-ion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



1,2,3 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955–1993) © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

Music: *Holy Manna*, from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835

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▲ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

▲ THE BLESSING

May the blessing of the God ☩ of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,
 and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;
 for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,
 at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:
 we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,
 we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Words: Michael Perry (1942–1996) © 1982, 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Co.

Music: *Thaxted*, Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

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▲ THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All are welcome to sit and enjoy the postlude.
If you wish to leave, please do so quietly in respect for others.

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

Fanfare

William Mathias (1934–1992)

Please note that this service is being live streamed on Facebook and YouTube. You might be visible on the video feed.

Prayer List:*(names usually stay on for about a month):* Helen Abrams, Mary Ellen Adams, The Alumno family, Brian Atchison, Frank & Vicki Ball, Bill Beihl, Sharon Bembry, Patty Bennett, Olga Brocco, Charles Brown, Brian Cahill, Tom Campione, Dave Canan, Tom Carlson, KC Carmine, Lorraine Carr, Rebecca Carr, Pat Casadei, Bill Chaney, Owen Cheevers, Diane Clark, Zeke Clark, Mike Clemmer, Guy Corriero, Rebekah Crager & Richard Sweeney, Mike Davitt, Carol Decatur, Angelique Devlin, Stephanie Donato, Jody Ebert, Jim Elsner, Paul Evanoff, Dean Ferris, Robert Fields, Olga Fitch, Susan Fortier, Ann France, Pere Yvan Francois, Pamela Gallamore, Carolyn Garrott, Al Gensch, Patty Gibler, Emily Gibson, Tanya Gilden, Bernie Gilmore, Paul Goebel, William Golding, Charles Graham & Ray Myrtle, Bill Granger, Nancy Grasing, Mary Beth & John Grau, Don Harlan, Alice Harris, Laurie Hawkins, Bruce Heisler, Ginny Holthaus, Beth Hoolehan, Bob Howard, Vernon Huber, Margaret Isaminger, Chloe Jackson, Rebecca Jackson, Brian Jenkins, Mary Kane, Almira Kikic, Charlotte King, Casen Kirk, Susan Kubler, Christine Layden, Kerri Layton, David Levin, Charles Lewis Jr., Joyce Lindsay, Charles LoPresto, Chris Long, Jack Lord, Ruth Macintire, Vince Marion, Eleanor Martchmont, Joseph Marcin, Greg Martin, Mary Alice Martus, Don Matthews, Penny McCaffrey, Kathy McClune, Gibson Alula McDade, Lindy McMillian, Brian McQuilkin, Bernadette Michaels, Jo Miller-Marcin, Dan Mulveny, Josey Mulveny, Tracy Mulveny, Helen Murphy, Heather Neal (Weitzel), Steve Nieblas, Brian North, Melissa Nowell, Michael Overbey, Debbie Padgett, Penny Pagano, Joe Parker, Steve Portalupi, Valerie Providenza, Theresa Pugh, Jim Ralston, Linda Reiter, Angie Rummel, Paul Rummel, Ed Ruperd, Vicky Satz, Pat Schofield, Julie Schonfield, Mary Shea, Levi Shorter, Linda Simeone, Beth Smith, Beth Snyder, Carolyn Snyder, Steve Spofford, Arthur Sutton, Andrew Taylor, Doug Thomson, Gary Tice, Pat Vallese, Myra Vanderwerker, Rebecca Vasan, Tom Waite, Irving Walls, Patty Warden, Tom Welch, Bob & Mary Ellen Werner, Don Wessel, Ken Wheeler, Louise White, Suzette Whiting, Marianne Wiedmann, Sara Wilkinson, Doug Williams, Jerry Williams, Andy, Anita and Hailey, Anne, Ben, Bill D., Bob, Bonnie, Brucie, Carol, Caroline, Charlie, Chase, Chris, Christa, Christopher, Clayton, Cynthia Jean, Daniel, Deb, Debi, Derek, Diane, Dina, Doug, Eleanor, Fran, Garrett, Gillian S., Hazel, Heather, Helen & Carol, Helena, Jacqueline C., Jason & Kim, Jaxon, John, Julian, Juliana, Karen K., Kathy W., Kerry, Larry, Leo & Donna, Liz, Lynn, Marje, Marjory, Mark, Mark Thomas, Maryann K, Mandy, Maverick, Nancy, Ned, Nicholas & Steve, Paul, Pierson, Raymond, Rowan, Ruth, Sam, Sarah, Sarah P, Stephanie, Susan, Tammy, Tara, Tess, Thomas, Tosha, Vicki, Wesley, William K. **Deaths:** Roberta Lindsay Williams, The Rev. George Woodward

CALENDAR

Morning and Evening Prayer are offered daily at 9 am and 5 pm on our Facebook page

Sunday, August 31

8 am Holy Eucharist
10 am Holy Eucharist

Monday, September 1

Labor Day - Office Closed

7 pm AA

Tuesday, September 2

Noon AA
Noon Stephen Leaders
4 pm Beginner Bells
5 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 3

9³⁰ am Clergy Group
10³⁰ am Centering Prayer
3 pm Eucharist at The Moorings
4 pm Eucharist at The Lodge
7 pm AA

Wednesday (continued)

7 pm Holy Eucharist
7 pm Dementia Caregivers

Thursday, September 4

9³⁰ am Bible Study
11 am Yoga
7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 5

10³⁰ am Women's Spirituality

Saturday, September 6

9 - 3 Insight Meditation
9 am Spiritual Companion Group (offsite)
5 pm Holy Eucharist

Sunday, September 7

8 am Holy Eucharist
10 am Holy Eucharist

Today's Servants

Acolyte

Shelly Souder &
Jackson Cohen

Lector

John Michael Sophos

Chalice Bearers

Jody Barbarulo &
Annie Freeman

Ushers

Gerald Adrian &
Chris Hoolehan

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED The second most important hour of our week together at St. Peter's (after Holy Eucharist) is our fellowship/coffee hour. **Sunday's Host:** Andy & Mary Beth Krytzer and Grace Lowe.

SAVE THE DATE : The St. Peter's Nurses will be sponsoring through Beebe's Out Reach, a Friends and Family non certification CPR class which will include learning about AED, care of choking victims and use of Narcan. The date is Saturday OCTOBER 11 from 9-12 noon in our Parish Hall. More information to come including a sign up sheet.

Mark Your Calendars! Join your St. Peter's Family for the "DING-DONG the meters are dead" Pot luck dinner! Friday, October 17 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Bring-your favorite pot luck dish, and a recipe for our St. Peter's Cookbook. Please sign up in the Parish Hall. (Look for the meter)

Staying Connected with Our Graduates As our high school graduates head off to college, trade school, or the workforce, we want them to know one thing: they are not alone. Keep in Touch is our church's way of staying connected with these young adults during this exciting (and sometimes overwhelming) new chapter. Through care packages, notes of encouragement, and reminders of God's love, we let them know their church family is still cheering them on — no matter how far they go. If you'd like to support this ministry or get involved, we'd love to have you on the team!

The Women's Spirituality Group at St. Peter's meets on the 1st & 3rd Fridays, 10:30 am in the Parish Hall. Women are welcome to attend any meeting. The group does not meet in August. Books are chosen by the women and discussion facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Carol Flett and the Rev. Rebecca Brenner. Women obtain their own copy of the book. September (September 5 & 19) is a good month to join the group since we will begin discussion of our next book, *See No Stranger* -a memoir and manifesto of revolutionary Love, by Valerie Kaur. We read a chapter or two at a time, so it takes us a couple of months to finish discussing a book. Come and see if this group is what you are looking for. Questions? Contact revflett@gmail.com

St Peter's Readers are continuing to meet in person in the church conference room. Our meetings are on the third Sunday of the month at 5 pm.

Upcoming Sessions:

- **September 21 - 5 pm** *Fiction* - "Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon

Come when you can, leave when you must.

Men's Breakfast The next monthly Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, September 13, at 8:30 am at the Lewes Diner, 1201 Savannah Street, Lewes. These monthly get-togethers are held on the second Saturday of each month, September through June. All St. Peter's men are welcomed to join these informal gatherings, regardless of which worship services they may usually attend. The breakfasts afford us the opportunity to establish and/or renew acquaintances, especially as the parish continues to grow. For further information and to RSVP (always helpful) contact Stu Brahs at sjbrahs@prodigy.net.

Join **St. Cecilia Music Guild** for our opening concert by the **Chivalrous Crickets** on Friday, September 12 at 5:30pm. Doors open at 5:00 for open seating, no tickets are required. Chivalrous Crickets' backgrounds, skills and passions combine in a unique sound centered on rich vocal harmonies, provocative instrumental blends, rousing arrangements and innovative programming of traditional, original and historical music from the Celtic, American roots and European early music traditions.

The Church with the Open Door

At St. Peter's, we are known for rarely locking our sanctuary doors. Offering a space of peace, prayer, and welcome has long been central to our ministry in Lewes. Whether someone is a tourist, a person in prayer, someone seeking safety after a night out, or a neighbor without shelter, we have tried to extend Christ's hospitality to all. We understand that with such openness comes a certain vulnerability—and we have embraced this as part of our call to be the Church. We ask all who enter to respect the space, care for others, and refrain from using alcohol or drugs inside. Most guests honor these expectations. When someone is unable to do so, we are sometimes faced with the hard decision to temporarily close the sanctuary for the safety and care of all.

We want to gently remind our community that while we strive to be a place of refuge, we are not equipped to be a long-term shelter. We do not have the resources, staff, or facilities to offer sustained support for those facing housing or mental health crises. Still, we do not turn away from their need—we pray for them, offer what we can, and work with others in our community who are better equipped to help.

Recently, we have had a couple on our property who are in significant distress. Their presence has raised concerns for the well-being of themselves and others. In response, and with heavy hearts, we will need to keep the sanctuary locked at night over the coming weeks. If you wish to enter, please stop by the office during open hours or see Kelley to borrow a key.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out. And above all, please join us in prayer for all who are unhoused, vulnerable, or suffering. May we continue to be a church of compassion, even when compassion calls us to set boundaries.

peace, +Jeff

CLERGY & PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Jeffrey Austin Ross, *Rector*

Kelley Mallon, *Parish Administrator*

Jessica Potter, *Family Ministry and Communications*

T. J. Thomas, *Minister of Music*



The Rev. Kathy Andonian, *Priest Associate*

Robert Reehorst, *Sexton*

Helen Waite, *Garden Manager*



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