

**The Holy Friendship
of
St. James Episcopal Church, Preston
&
Grace Episcopal Church, Yantic**

The First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021 at 9:00 am



Livestream Sunday's worship service on Facebook:
St. James Episcopal Preston *or*
Grace Episcopal Church Yantic

The Reverend Kim J. Litsey, Provisional Priest in Charge
The Reverend Deacon Ronald Steed
Musicians: Mike LaFleur, Guitar & Peter Leibert, Concertina

The Word of God

Welcome

Opening Hymn #448 Oh Love How Deep

Celebrant: Blessed the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures for ever.

The Decalogue

Deacon: Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession of Sins

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

~ Silence ~

Celebrant and People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

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.**

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect

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.**

The Lessons

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.

Psalms 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.

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.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Rev. Kim J. Litsey

~ A short silence will be kept ~

The Nicene Creed

BCP

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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

Deacon: God gave our ancestors a land flowing with milk and honey. Let us pray for all peoples on this bountiful earth.

Leader: For the Holy Catholic church throughout the world, sharing the death and resurrection of Christ.
Lord, have mercy.

For Michael our presiding bishop, Ian and Laura our bishops, for presbyters and deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.
Lord, have mercy.

We hold in prayer the communities of St. James and Grace: continue to guide and nurture, oh God, this holy friendship.
Lord, have mercy.

For all nations, cohorts, tribes, clans, and families, and especially for the indigenous people of our region.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who are oppressed, afflicted, or in need.
Lord, have mercy.

For the dying and the dead, especially we lift to you those with COVID.
Lord, have mercy.

For our families, friends, and companions, and for all those we love.
Lord, have mercy.

Are there others who need our prayers this day?
Lord, have mercy.

Remembering the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.
To you, O Lord.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, whose glory is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all those we hold in prayer so that they will know the healing power of your love 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.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

† THE HOLY COMMUNION †

Offertory Hymn #142 Lord Who Thought Out These 40 Days

The Presentation of the Gifts: The Doxology

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 C

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.**

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: **By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the names of Lord.

Hosanna in highest.

Celebrant: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the

Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sara, Rebecca, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, 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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

The Prayer after Communion:

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Deacon: Bow your heads before the Lord.

Lenten Blessing †

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #99 LEVAS **Go Tell It On the Mountain**

The Dismissal

Announcements

Rooted in Hope in a Time of Anxiety | Are you growing weary of life in “Covid-time”? Would you benefit from a Lenten Retreat? Join our bishops and laity from across ECCT on Saturday, February 27 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM for a day of spiritual refreshment and learning. Living in the midst of chronic anxiety impacts all of us and our relationships with our children, spouses/partners, family, friends, colleagues and faith communities. Together we will learn about the predictable ways humans react to chronic anxiety from D. David Olsen, a nationally recognized expert on the impact of anxiety on families and churches. We will explore patterns of behavior that can help alleviate stress and anxiety. Interspersed throughout the day our chaplains from the Bethany House of Prayer will offer opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer. Note: This is a free event open to all laity in ECCT; preregistration is required in order to receive the Zoom link.

Rooted in Hope Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rooted-in-hope-in-a-time-of-anxiety-registration-138801179063>

Lenten Quiet Day at Camp Washington, 190 Kenyon Rd, Lakeside, CT on Saturday March 27, 9am -1pm
Join for a time of reflection and renewal in the midst of your Lenten journey. Your time together will be held outside in the chapel (weather permitting) while observing all physical distance guidelines. The day will consist of 4 sections: reflection/meditations, journaling/discussion, walking & hands on activities. You're welcome to bring a lunch to enjoy afterwards. There is no charge to the program. Please call 860-567-9623 or register online at campwashington.org

Free CT Food Bank Drive-Thru Food Distribution

Every Monday in Norwich (until further notice)

Address: 28 Stonington Road, Norwich, CT 06360 - in the parking lot across from Pistol Pete's Bar And Grill

Hours: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Minimal wait (less than 10 minutes)

Let's get the word out!

The 8th Annual “Clean Up the Streets” will be held March 27, from 9am to 11am. Meeting at the Norwich YMCA parking lot on Main Street, Norwich. Last season they collected 20,520 pounds of trash from the streets of Norwich. This would not be possible without the dedicated volunteers, who brave the weather, whether hot or cold, to come work! They appreciate you so much and are looking forward to another fantastic season, working together to clean up the streets! Supplies will be available and asking everyone to please wear masks.

Stations of the Cross & Evening Prayer: Thursdays, 7:pm -Zoom.

Guided Healing Prayers: Fridays, 8:00 am via Zoom.

Our Work Anti-Racism Discussion Group will meet on Monday, February 22; March 8 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

The conversation will be centered on" ***The Black Church: This is our story, this is our song.*** The program is hosted by Henry Louis Gates Jr. and is now streaming at PBS.org.