

The Holy Friendship

of

St. James Episcopal Church

95 Route 2A | Preston, CT 06365
860-889-0150 | email: office@stjamespreston.org

&

Grace Episcopal Church

4 Chapel Hill Road | Yantic, CT 06389
860-887-2082



The Second Sunday in Easter Morning Prayer Service

April 11, 2021 at 9:00 am

The Rev. Kim J. Litsey, Priest in Charge

Robert Peck & Andreas Nicolaou, Officiants

MORNING PRAYER

Officiant: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Confession of Sin

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

Officiant 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.**

Officiant:

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant & People:

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

Christ our Passover

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, *

by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, *

so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Officiant: Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him. Alleluia!

Psalm 133

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

Officiant & People:

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

The Lessons

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Reader: Here ends the Lesson

Canticle 10 The Second Song of Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, *
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

The Epistle

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice

Reader: Here ends the Lesson

Canticle 11 The Third Song of Isaiah

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations Will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **Amen.**

The Lesson from the Gospel

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reader: Here ends the Lesson

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

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. Amen

Suffrage B

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.
V. Day by day we bless you;
R. We praise your Name forever.
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
R. For we put our trust in you.
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Officiant: As we celebrate the paschal mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, let us give thanks for the Risen Lord and lift up those following the way of the cross and all people everywhere.

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.

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

Leader: For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families, especially for the indigenous tribes of our region.
Lord, have mercy.

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

Leader: For the dying and the dead.
Lord, have mercy.

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

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

Leader: 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.

Leader: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant and People:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all

the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

Peace

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

Officiant: Alleluia, let us bless the Lord

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Officiant:

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Announcements

Pop-Up Drive-Thru Food Pantry: Distribution on Friday, April 9 from 10 to 11am at the Preston Senior Center, 42 Long Society Road, Preston. (weather permitting)

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 & Grill Hours: 9:30am - 12pm (Minimal wait)

Guided Healing Prayers: Fridays, 8am via Zoom.

Online & In-Person Chair Yoga Offered by the Preston Parks and Recreation. A complete yoga practice using the support of a chair. Classes are targeted for ages 60+ but are open to all adults and abilities. Fee: \$38 per 6-week session.

Online via Zoom class starts Monday, April 12 through May 17; 10-11:00 am.

The In-Person class starts Friday April 16 through May 21; 1-2:00 pm at the Preston Public Library held outside in their yard.

For more information please call 860-887-5581 x113 or Email at: recreation@preston-ct.org.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

**A special announcement from the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Ph.D.
Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut**

April 7, 2021

Wednesday of Easter Week

Dear Companions in Christ:

Alleluia, Christ is risen! May the joy and peace of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you this Easter and forever more.

I want to begin this letter by giving thanks. I thank God for you the good people of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, for your faithfulness, for your love of Jesus, and for your bold sense of adventure and willingness to “try things on” for the sake of the Gospel. As we begin to emerge from the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic, I trust that God’s providence and grace will continue to sustain us and make us the church God needs to serve God’s mission now and into the future. For you, and for God’s love and guidance, I am eternally grateful.

I write today to inform you that I plan to retire in the fall of 2022 in the 13th year of service as your bishop. More specifically, God willing and the Church consenting, the 16th Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut will be ordained on October 8, 2022, at which point I will resign.

My reasons for retiring are twofold. First, by the fall of 2022 it will be time for you to have a new bishop with fresh ideas and vision to lead you forward in the 21st century and who has other gifts and perspectives than I have. Second, while I have loved every minute of being your Bishop Diocesan, the work of a bishop is an arduous and nonstop vocation. I look forward to retiring with energy and in good health both to serve God’s mission in new ways and also to spend time with Kristin, our children, daughter-in-law and grandchild.

Over the next month the Standing Committee, Mission Council, and leadership of our Regions will work together to establish a Bishop Transition Committee as called for in Canon XVI of the canons of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. The Bishop Transition Committee will be responsible for overseeing the transition process, including discerning nominees for the election of the next Bishop Diocesan. To that end, according to Canon III.11.2 of The Episcopal Church and with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, I now call for a special meeting of the Convention of the Diocese to elect the 16th Bishop Diocesan on May 21, 2022. I will continue to function actively as your Bishop Diocesan and remain the Ecclesiastical Authority of the diocese until the consecration of the next Bishop Diocesan in October 2022.

Serving as your bishop has been the greatest blessing and honor of my ordained ministry. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we have embraced the challenges and opportunities of this new missional age. I am excited about the work before us, and I very much look forward to our next year and a half together in service to God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation.

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

In the love of Christ,
The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Ph.D.
Bishop Diocesan

*If you would like to hear the Bishop's personal message, here is the link: <https://www.episcopalct.org/>