

SAINT PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

183 Rector Street
Perth Amboy, New Jersey, 08861

*A Historic Episcopal Community
Since 1685*

The Rev. Joseph Leigh, Supply Clergy
www.stpetersepiscopal.com * 732-826-1594

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 10, 2024 - 10:00 AM



The Mission of St. Peter's Parish is to know Jesus Christ and make Him known through our witness, worship, fellowship, and service.

The Purpose of the Diocese of New Jersey is to form people as Disciples of Christ so they can flourish as human beings, alleviate the world's suffering, and participate in God's mission of reconciliation.

CALL TO WORSHIP



THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

Simon Mulligan

THE GREAT LITANY

To be said or sung, kneeling, standing, or in procession; before the Eucharist or after the Collects of Morning or Evening Prayer; or separately; especially in Lent and on Rogation days.

Celebrant: O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

People: *Have mercy upon us.*

Celebrant: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

People: *Have mercy upon us.*

Celebrant: O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,

People: *Have mercy upon us.*

Celebrant: O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

People: *Have mercy upon us.*

Celebrant: Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us, for ever.

People: *Spare us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,

People: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Celebrant: From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

People: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Celebrant: From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

People: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Celebrant: From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,

People: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Celebrant: From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

People: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Celebrant: From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

People: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Celebrant: By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

People: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Celebrant: By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

People: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Celebrant: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

People: *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Celebrant: We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States (or of this nation), and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Celebrant: That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of [St. Peter) and all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

People: *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Clergy: Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

People: *Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.*

Clergy: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People: *Have mercy upon us.*

Clergy: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People: *Have mercy upon us.*

Clergy: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People: *Grant us thy peace.*

Clergy: O Christ, hear us.

People: *O Christ, hear us.*

KYRIE

Clergy: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Clergy: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

People: His mercy endures forever.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

THE LESSONS

**The people sit.*

THE FIRST LESSON

NUMBERS 21:4-9

Lector: A Reading from the Book of Numbers

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

We will say the appointed Psalm antiphonally by half verse, with the congregation saying the parts printed in bold.

PSALM 107:1-3,17-22

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.

- 19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
 and he delivered them from their distress.
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them *
 and saved them from the grave.
- 21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
 and the wonders he does for his children.
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
 and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

THE SECOND LESSON

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Lector: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ~ by grace you have been saved~ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God~ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Lector: The Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

What wondrous love is this (vs. 1&2)

Hymnal #439

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 3:14-21

**All standing, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying*

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People: **Glory to you Lord Christ**

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

**After the Gospel, the Reader says*

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you Lord Christ**

GRADUAL HYMN

What wondrous love is this (vs. 3)

Hymnal #439

THE SERMON

The Rev. Joseph Leigh

**On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing*

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; 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.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

Minister & People:

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,

have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant continues

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.
Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and
I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,
to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but
have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

THE PEACE

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

**Please remain in your pews for the peace. During this time, feel free to wave and/or nod.*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Celebrant: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

** St. Peter's is grateful for donations from our community; offerings support the mission and ministry of this parish. Offerings may be placed in the offering plates at the entrance to the church. Donations may also be made online at our website stpetersepiscopal.com.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas

by Maurice Duruflé

Performed by St. Peter's Choir

(ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

Where true charity is dwelling, God is present there.
By the love of Christ we have been brought together:
let us find in him our gladness and our pleasure;
may we love him and revere him, God the living,
and in love respect each other with sincere hearts.
So when we as one are gathered all together,
let us strive to keep our minds free of division; may there be an end to malice,
strife and quarrels, and let Christ our God be dwelling here among us.
May your face thus be our vision, bright in glory, Christ our God,
with all the blessed Saints in heaven: such delight is pure and faultless,
joy unbounded, which endures through countless ages world without end.

DOXOLOGY

All Praise to thee, my God

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 HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER 1

**The people stand and the celebrant says:*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

People: **It is right meet and right so to do.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS

S114

**Celebrant and People*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of Host,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh, in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.

**The people stand or kneel.*

**Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

The Celebrant continues

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

People: 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

** The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

FRACTION ANTHEM

S158

All: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world.
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world.
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world.
Grant us thy peace.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Minister & People

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

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.

*Communion will be administered in both kinds – wafer and wine at the altar rail.
If you do not want to receive, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are available.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM

I am the bread of life

Hymnal 335

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.
Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Love divine, all loves excelling

Hymnal #657

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Simon Mulligan

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barbara Jankowski	Phillip Smith	Colleen Murphy	Sean M.
Josephine Royce	Cathy DePow	Kathy Thorn	Elnando "Butch" Bryson
Eileen Yaremko	Joel Leiter	Franco Casentini	Donald King
Jerry Griggs	Denise Dube	Allen Egri	James T
Mary A.	Kathleen Pitiak	Helen Engerman	Eric Burzynski
Barbara Leigh	Betty Pappas	Mary	Karen Harrell
Hank Klausman	Joanne Dugas	Julia Gillies	Linda Benson
Karolina	Eileen Becker	Phil Hodge	Debi Leiter
Carol Rebovich	Joan Turner	Harito	John Carroll

BIRTHDAYS

March 11

Hailey Balewitz

March 12

Joseph Madona

March 14

Linda Hodge
Brandt Bannister
Sophie Bauer
Aaliya Suozzo

March 15

Kyle Ferlita
Eric Burzynski

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Celebrant: **The Rev. Joseph Leigh**

Acolytes: **Sophia Mercurio**

Lectors: **Chelsea Kowal** – 1st Reading & Psalm
Dorothy Grandjean Smith – 2nd Reading
– Prayers of the People

Altar Guild: **Pauline Hmieski & Rose Pennyfeather**

Organist: **Simon Mulligan**

Choir Director: **Jacqueline Mulligan**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME – Please remember to change your clocks ahead this weekend for daylight savings.

2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE – Sunday School classes will be held on the following dates:
March 17th & 24th.

ST. PETER'S WEEKLY CALENDAR (3/10 – 3/16)

Sunday, March 10, 10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite I – Church – Rev. Joseph Leigh

Sunday, March 10, 11:15 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Sunday, March 10, 7:30 p.m. – N.A. Meeting – Parish House – 3rd floor

Monday, March 11, 7:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts Meeting – Parish House – 3rd Floor

Wednesday, March 13, 7:30 p.m. – N.A. Meeting – Parish Hall – 3rd floor

Thursday, March 14, PANTRY CLOSED

Thursday, March 14, 12:00 p.m. – A.A. Meeting – Parish House – 3rd floor

Thursday, March 14, 5:30 p.m. – Coptic Church – Parish House – 3rd floor

FISH FRY AT ST. PETER'S



OPEN TO
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF ST. PETER'S

WHEN
March 24, 2024
Doors open at 11:30 am

WHERE
Parish Hall
183 Rector Street
Perth Amboy, NJ



THE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH



Welcomes You

ADMISSION COST

\$15 per person

**Tickets will be sold in
advance only**

MENU

Fried Fish

Salads

Rye Bread

Desserts

Coffee and Cold Drinks

HOSTED BY

**St. Peter's Parish
Council**

TICKET SALES

See Elaine Leiter

**at 732-710-3722 or the
Office at 732-826-1594.**

At spring House of Bishops meeting, connection and future church in focus

From: THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (EPISCOPAL)

Around 125 bishops gathered for The Episcopal Church's House of Bishops annual spring retreat from Feb. 28 to March 4 at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas. The Rt. Rev. Wendell Gibbs chaired the meeting while Presiding Bishop Michael Curry continued recuperating at home from [recent health procedures](#).

In preparation for the gathering, the bishops were given two questions to consider for deep discussion:

- What support in your ministry do you need from your bishop colleagues now?
- What are the marks of a healthy culture for the House of Bishops?

Themes that emerged in the discussion were needs for deepening friendships and fostering vulnerability within the house; studying Scripture together; greater transparency; and increased collaboration and information sharing on critical incidents within dioceses.

The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, responded to the question of what a healthy culture in the House of Bishops looks like, saying, "As bishops, we are at our best when we remember whom we serve: Christ and his mission. Friendship and collegiality are the fruits of our work, not the work itself."

Reflecting on the theme of church decline in context of diocesan leadership, the Rt. Rev. Brian Cole, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee and chair of the House of Bishops Planning Committee, said, "For me, it helps to think about this ministry as fragile because that lessens the feelings of isolation."

The bishops who served as emcee each day of the gathering offered brief online reflections, which are [available here](#) on Facebook.

While the spring gathering of the House of Bishops traditionally emphasizes retreat, Sabbath, and relationship building, the bishops held a business meeting on Feb. 29. The Rt. Rev. Diane Jardine Bruce, bishop provisional of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Missouri and secretary for the House of Bishops, noted at the start of the meeting that when she became a bishop 14 years ago, only 10% of the bishops were women; now, 36% of bishops in The Episcopal Church are women.

The bishops received an update from their colleagues appointed to the [constituting group](#) for the [Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice](#). The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, bishop resigned of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, reminded the group that under [Resolution A125](#), the coalition exists as an extra-ecclesial body, but it will have annual funding from the income of 10% of the unrestricted endowment of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. Douglas also informed the bishops that the coalition will soon have incorporation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

The Rt. Rev. Ann Ritonia, bishop suffragan for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, told the bishops that there are 104 Episcopal chaplains, including 94 in active military duty, seven ministering in Veterans Affairs, and three ministering in federal prisons. She emphasized the need to encourage vocations in military chaplaincy, particularly to ensure that LGBTQ+ service members have access to identity-affirming spiritual care. Ritonia also lifted up the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande as the pathway for chaplains from other denominations to become military chaplains in The Episcopal Church.

On March 1, the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, hosted a panel discussion on the role of bishop—in personal, diocesan, and whole-church context—with the Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, bishop of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota; the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis; and the Rt. Rev. Scott Mayer, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas.

The bishops observed a Sabbath on March 2 and reconvened for General Convention orientation on March 3. The House of Bishops has seen approximately 25% turnover since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this orientation provided an opportunity for bishops new to General Convention to learn more about House of Bishops procedures. The gathering concluded on March 4 with further reflection time and a closing reception.