

SAINT PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

183 Rector Street
Perth Amboy, New Jersey, 08861

*A Historic Episcopal Community
Since 1685*

The Rev. Martin Lavengood, Supply Clergy
www.stpetersepiscopal.com * 732-826-1594

THE 2nd SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY- JANUARY 14, 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

PRELUDE

Simon Mulligan

Opening Hymn

Immortal, invisible God only wise

Hymnal #423

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

(Book of Common Prayer, p.355)

**The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

(Book of Common Prayer, p.355)

All: 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.*

GLORIA

S280

** When appointed, the following hymn or some other song of praise is sung or said, all standing*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

**Please be seated for the readings.*

THE FIRST LESSON

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

Lector: A Reading from the First Book of Samuel

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

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

We will say the appointed Psalm responsively by half verse.

PSALM 139:1-5, 12-17

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; *
they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; *
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

Lector: A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Church in Corinth

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

I Want to walk as a child of the light (vs. 1&2)

Hymnal #490

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 1:43-51

**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 decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

**After the Gospel, the Reader says*

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you Lord Christ

GRADUAL HYMN

I Want to walk as a child of the light (vs. 3)

Hymnal #490

THE SERMON

The Rev. Martin Lavengood

**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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form V

Book of Common Prayer p. 389

**Deacon or other leader - In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."*

Leader: For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Sally our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For those in positions of public trust [especially _____], that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this congregation [for those who are present, and for those who are absent], that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Rejoicing in the fellowship of [the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, (*blessed Luke*) and] all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

People: **To you, O Lord our God.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

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.**

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.

People: **Amen.**

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.**

**The ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord. Zoom attendees will be unmuted at this time and after the service so we may greet one another.*

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

Let There be Peace on Earth

by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

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 INVITATION TO GOD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER "A"

**The people stand and the celebrant says:*

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: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

S130

People: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full - full of your glory.
Hosana in the highest, Hosana in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosana in the highest, Hosana in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.
He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

**At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or 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.*

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.**
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **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: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM

S164

All: Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace, give us your peace.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God

Communion will be administered 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

Let us Break Bread Together on Our Knees

Hymnal 325

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: 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.

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Blessed Assurance

LEVAS #184

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Simon Mulligan



BIRTHDAYS

January 14

Deborah Leiter
Dale Boyd

January 16

Aidan Jung

January 18

Patricia Pfaeffle
Karen Sofield

January 19

Riley Aponte

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	Victoria Balewitz	Denise Dube	Allen Egri
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			

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Celebrant: **The Rev. Martin Lavengood**

Acolytes:

Lectors: **Veronica Meyer**– 1st Reading & Psalm

Debi Leiter – Second Reading

Debi Leiter – Prayers of the People

Altar Guild: **Donna Pemberton, Rose Pennyfeather, Debbie Vineyard & Pauline Hmielecki**

Organist: **Simon Mulligan**

Choir Directress: **Jacqueline Mulligan**

ST. PETER'S WEEKLY CALENDAR (1/14 – 1/20)

Sunday, January 14, 10:00 a.m. – *Eucharist Rite II – Church – Rev. Martin Lavengood*

Sunday, January 14, 11:15 a.m. – *Choir Practice – Choir Room – Church –*

Sunday, January 14, 7:30 p.m. – *N.A. Meeting – Parish House – 3rd floor*

Monday, January 15 – **OFFICE CLOSED – MLK BIRTHDAY**

Monday, January 15, - ***Boy Scouts Meeting Cancelled***

Wednesday, January 17, 7:30 p.m. – *N.A. Meeting – Parish House – 3rd floor*

Thursday, January 18, 10:00 a.m. – *Peter's Pantry–Parish House - Basement*

Thursday, January 18, – 12:00 p.m. - *A.A. Meeting – Parish House – 3rd floor*

Thursday, January 18, 5:30 p.m. – *Coptic Church – Parish House – 3rd floor*

Saturday, January 20, 8:00 a.m. -

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – The next Annual Parish meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 28, 2024**. At this meeting, we will elect new officers and representatives to the diocesan convention. We ask that you pray and consider running for office. For further information please contact Veronica Meyer. Positions to be filled.

1. **Warden – 2-year term**
2. **3 Vestry persons – 3-year term**
3. **1 Vestry person - to fill a 1-year unexpired term.**
4. **3 Deputies to convention – 3 alternate Deputies to convention**
5. **6 Convocation Delegates**

2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE – Sunday School classes will be held on the following dates: January 21st, February 4 & 25th, March 10th & 24th.

2024 PLEDGE CARDS – For those who have submitted their pledge cards for 2024, we thank you every so much. Your commitment and dedication are important. In comparing the list from last year, there are a few cards still outstanding. If you have not done so already, kindly send your pledge card to the office.

PLEDGE ENVELOPES – If you have not done so already, kindly pick up your pledge envelopes from the church.

EVENING PRAYER CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF MLK

The Diocese of New Jersey gives thanks for the ministry and leadership of **the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** *Join us for EVENING PRAYER - Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024, at 3 pm at Trinity Cathedral.*

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 801 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618 ~
trinitycathedralnj.org and live online at dioceseofnj.org/live

Guest Speaker: **Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, NJ's 12th District**

COFFEE HOUR - Volunteers are needed for January through April 2024 to provide snacks, coffee and tea. A sign-up sheet is posted outside the Parish Hall Office. A special thank you to those who continued with this ministry as well as our newcomers. We could not continue our fellowship after services without your kindness.

YOUTH GROUP - Our next meeting will be on January 21st at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish House Meeting Room on the first floor. If you have any questions, please contact Tracey Montani at 732-277-6983 or Andrea Gall at 732-887-0034.

ST. PETER'S HISTORY

St. Peter's is proud to be the oldest Episcopal parish in New Jersey. Historic records show that the first service was held in 1685. Our first rector arrived from England in 1698. In our history we have had twenty-six rectors, only four since 1914. Our royal charter was received in 1718, the same year as the city of Perth Amboy received its charter. The parish owns a complete set of Queen Anne Communion silver, one of fourteen sent by the Queen to the established Anglican churches in the colonies in about 1706. The communion service is still used today on Christmas, Easter and the Fourth of July.

Leaders of the colony of East Jersey, including William Franklin, the Royal Governor (and son of Benjamin) worshipped here. During the Revolution the citizens of the town were divided in their sympathies. Perth Amboy was occupied by both sides as the conflict raged. The church building was used as a barracks and even as a stable.

The churchyard surrounding the present church building (second on this site, built in the 1850's) contains many gravestones that predate the American Revolution. Thomas Mundy Peterson, the first black voter under the fifteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution, was a parishioner and is buried in the churchyard.

A major renovation to the present building was needed after explosions at a government munitions plant across Raritan Bay in Morgan in 1918 caused significant damage to ceilings, walls and windows. The resulting interior is largely as it is seen today, with the addition of a freestanding altar in 1981.

In the early 1960's excavation was done under the church building to stabilize the foundation and create a full basement. During the excavation, bones were discovered that turned out to be the remains of European servants of Mr. Gordon, who deeded the property to the church. The bones currently reside in the state museum where they are being studied by a forensic anthropologist.

In the late 1990's the parish undertook a major capital campaign to raise matching funds for a New Jersey Historic Preservation Grant. (The site is on the National Register of Historic Places). These funds were used, in part, to replace the church building's slate roof.

In 2010, on the occasion of our 325th anniversary, we have been named a Jubilee Center.

On August 10, 2011, St. Peter's made more history with a Service of Repentance and Reconciliation memorializing people of African descent, mostly slaves and servants, who were buried in the graveyard without recognition.

On March 31, 2022, Thomas Mundy Peterson Day was recognized with the placement of a commemorative wreath at the Peterson Family gravesite in the church cemetery.