

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 4th SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY- JANUARY 28, 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

Be thou my vision

Hymnal #488

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 and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth:
Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

**Please be seated for the readings.*

THE FIRST LESSON

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

Lector: A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

We will say the appointed Psalm responsively by half verse.

PSALM 111

- 1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

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

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—

yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

GRADUAL HYMN

Songs of thankfulness and praise (vs. 1-2)

Hymnal #135

THE GOSPEL

MARK 1:21-28

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

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
People: **Glory to you Lord Christ**

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

**After the Gospel, the Reader says*

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

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

How can I keep from Singing

Performed by Jacqueline Mulligan

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

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is calling

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

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Hymnal #390

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.



BIRTHDAYS

January 28

Jamie Barabinchak
Alan Erickson
Seth Boyd

January 29

Maryann Kenny

January 30

Robert Morgan

February 1

Peter Tyson, Jr.
Roberta Ferlita
Walter Satre

February 2

Robert Hansen, Jr.

February 3

Lashell Eaton

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barbara Jankowski
Josephine Royce
Eileen Yaremko
Jerry Griggs
Mary A.
Barbara Leigh
Hank Klausman
Karolina
Carol Rebovich

Phillip Smith
Cathy DePow
Joel Leiter
Victoria Balewitz
Kathleen Pitiak
Betty Pappas
Joanne Dugas
Eileen Becker

Colleen Murphy
Kathy Thorn
Franco Casentini
Denise Dube
Helen Engerman
Mary
Julia Gillies
Phil Hodge

Sean M.
Elnando "Butch" Bryson
Donald King
Allen Egri
Eric Burzynski
Karen Harrell
Linda Benson
Debi Leiter

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Celebrant: **The Rev. Martin Lavengood**

Acolytes: **Landon Klausman, Gregory Klausman & Cadence Jung**

Lectors: **Lisa Balewitz- 1st Reading & Psalm**

Lisa Balewitz - 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 (1/28 - 2/3)

Sunday, January 28, 10:00 a.m. - *Eucharist Rite II - Church - Rev. Martin Lavengood*

Sunday, January 28, 11:15 a.m. - *Choir Practice - Choir Room - Church -*

Sunday, January 28, 7:30 p.m. - *N.A. Meeting - Parish House - 3rd floor*

Monday, January 29, - *Boy Scouts Meeting - Parish House - 3rd floor*

Wednesday, January 31, 7:30 p.m. - *N.A. Meeting - Parish House - 3rd floor*

Thursday, February 1, 10:00 a.m. - *Peter's Pantry-Parish House - Basement*

Thursday, February 1, - 12:00 p.m. - *A.A. Meeting - Parish House - 3rd floor*

Thursday, February 1, 5:30 p.m. - *Coptic Church - Parish House - 3rd floor*

DIOCESAN CANON #50

SECTION 1. There shall be an annual meeting in every Parish for the election of officers, prayers having been said immediately before said meeting, and due notice having been given as required by law. Said meeting shall be held on a date which may be fixed at a regular or special meeting of the Congregation. There shall be an annual meeting for those Missions that elect officers, to be held also with opening prayers and upon like notice.

SECTION 2. The persons entitled to vote at such meetings must be:

(a) baptized,

(b) at least sixteen years of age,

(c) of good moral character

(d) adhering to The Episcopal Church and to no other religious body,

(e) regular attendants at the services of the Church in said Parish or Mission, and

(f) regular contributors to the current expenses of the Parish or Mission for six months next before the said annual meeting.

A record of the regular contributors for the support of the Parish or Mission shall be maintained by the Treasurer, with the dates of their contributions. Such records shall be sufficient evidence as to the qualification of a voter with respect to the last preceding requirement. Any voters not baptized in the Parish or Mission must have been enrolled as members in

accordance with the provisions of the Canons of The Episcopal Church. Rectors, Vicars, or Wardens shall keep a list of all members of the Congregation who have been received as voters, which list shall be open to inspection by the members of the Congregation. No one shall be permitted to vote or be eligible to office in more than one Parish or Mission in this Diocese, although members of a Parish or Mission may be eligible also to vote or hold office in a Chapel.

SECTION 3. At said annual meeting the qualified voters shall elect by ballot, to serve for the ensuing year, from among the voters in the Parish or Mission, three Deputies and three alternate Deputies to the Diocesan Convention, who shall represent the Parish or Mission in the Conventions of the Diocese, and a Warden or Wardens, who shall all be communicants in good standing; and also such other Vestrymembers or Mission Committee members, and such other officers as may be provided for by the Parish or Mission charter or bylaws, and six Representatives to the Convocation in which the Congregation is located, who shall all be communicants if such suitable for the office can be found.

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**

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.

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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Peter's Church will be held today, January 28th following our 10:00 a.m. worship service. The meeting will be held in the Parish House on the 3rd floor. All are welcome.

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.