



**The Second Sunday in Lent**  
**February 28, 2021**

**ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**St. John's Episcopal Church, Royal Oak MI**



## St. John's Welcome Statement

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Welcome! We are St. John's, a parish that invites you be a part of our community and warmly embraces you when you do.

At St. John's, our history has taught us that accepting and embracing true diversity is challenging. As a result, we have come to claim a firm, undying commitment to inclusion. So here is our invitation to you: regardless of your cultural background, ethnicity, gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or heterosexual identity, economic status, physical or cognitive ability – you will not be labeled, singled out or excluded here. You will be welcomed, affirmed, embraced and celebrated! We will be better because you are here.

*Adopted by unanimous vote at St. John's Annual Meeting, January 31, 2016*

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### PRELUDE

### Lenten Prelude

Andrew Fletcher

#### ***Notes on the Season of Lent:***

*In the season of Lent, we remember Jesus' journey into the desert to pray for forty days and forty nights. He was tempted in this wilderness, and yet the 'angels waited on him'. We reflect on our own 'wilderness journey' in a time of prayer and repentance (which means to 'turn around'). The celebratory words of praise, "Alleluia" or "Praise the Lord" are absent from the Liturgy during this season. Instead, we add periods of silence for reflection. Our prayers draw us to remember our need of God, and this year we make our journey toward hope together, even while we remain separated from one another.*

*The color of vestments and other paraments are changed to purple, the color traditionally used in the church for penitential seasons.*

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE WORD OF GOD

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*At the ringing of a bell, the service begins.*

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Presider* †Blessed be God who forgives all our sins.

*People* **God's mercy endures for ever.**

### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.*

### SONG OF PRAISE

**The God of Abraham praise**

**The Hymnal 1982 401, v. 1**

*Brynn Ward, soprano*

The God of Abraham praise,  
who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of everlasting days,  
and God of love;  
the Lord, the great I AM,  
by earth and heaven confessed:  
we bow and bless the sacred Name  
for ever blest.

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Also found in BCP, pg. 218*

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring us again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

## Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

*Lector*                    The word of the Lord.

*People*                    **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 22:22-29

22 Praise the LORD, you that are God-fearing; \*  
stand in awe of the LORD, O offspring of Israel;  
**all you of Jacob's line, give glory.**

23 For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither is God's face hidden from them; \*  
**but when they cry out, God hears them.**

24 My praise is of God in the great assembly; \*  
**I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the LORD.**

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek God shall give praise: \*  
**"May your heart live for ever!"**

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to God, \*  
**and all the families of the nations shall bow before the LORD.**

27 For sovereignty belongs to the LORD; \*  
**who rules over the nations.**

28 To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
**all who go down to the dust fall before the LORD.**

29 My soul shall live for God;  
my descendants shall serve the LORD; \*  
**they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**Mark 8:31-38**

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of †Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

*Deacon* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**The Rev. Beth Taylor**

*A period of silence is kept.*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from Daily Prayer for all Seasons*

We believe that Jesus took the form of a servant,  
so we commit ourselves to serve others.

We believe that God is love,  
so we commit ourselves to reconciliation

We believe that Jesus gives us his Spirit,  
so we commit ourselves to his work in the world.

We believe that God is the light of life,  
so we commit ourselves to bearing God's light in our world.

We believe that the Spirit speaks through us,  
so we commit ourselves to proclaim the good news  
of abundant life in the world God loves.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Deacon:* Loving God, in our faith, we pray:

For reconciliation between the violated and the violent,  
**That we may rest in your peace.**

For generosity between rich and poor people everywhere,  
**That we may share the abundance of your creation.**

For the growth of love between broken peoples and nations,  
**That we may shape our common life as your kingdom.**

For mutual respect between immigrants and insiders,  
**That we may welcome your image in all who come to us.**

For protection for the weak and humility for the strong,  
**That we may serve others as you serve us in Christ.**

For the sick and suffering, especially Scott, Greg, Terri, Gloria, Keith, Sandor,  
Kathy, Alex, Toni, Scout, Martha, Bob, Mary Ann, Barbara, Edward, Jeff and those  
we now name\_\_\_\_\_.

**That we may offer your healing mercy to all who are in need.**

For all who have died in Christ and for those whose faith is known to you alone,  
**That we may remember them with love.**

For all the joy and concerns of our hearts,  
**That we may live with gladness and trust.**

*Presider* Holy God, in you we live and move and have our being: we humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our lives we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## CONFESSIOIN

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

Holy One, we encounter you in our lives and try to follow faithfully,  
but so often we get lost or turn away.

We try to love our neighbors and ourselves,  
and even, by your grace, to love our enemies, but we fail.

We take the wrong path and stray from the way of your love.

Forgive us, Gracious God, and guide us back to you.

*Presider* God says to us, "I love you for your own sake." Know that you are loved and forgiven, in the name of the †Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Presider* The Peace of Christ be with you always.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The peace is exchanged in place among the people.*

## OFFERTORY

In thanksgiving for all that we have and all that we are, and in gratitude for the mission, ministry and fellowship offered through St. John's, let us give with generous hearts.

**Give online:** [stjohnsroyaloak.org](http://stjohnsroyaloak.org) and click on GIVE

**Text:** Text "StJohnsRoyalOak" to 73256

**Mail:** St. John's, 26998 Woodward Ave, Royal Oak, MI 48067

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**      **Will you come and follow me**  
**Wonder, Love, and Praise, 757, vv. 1-4**

Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown?  
Will you let my Name be known?  
Will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ner free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen?  
And admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?

Will you love the "You" you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People and Presider*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. *Amen.***

## BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

### DISMISSAL

*Deacon* Show our hearts the way;

*People* **And we shall follow.**

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord;

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

**Hamburg**

**arr. David Schelat**

### Ministers of Today's Service

**Presider** The Rev. Beth Bingham

**Preacher** The Rev. Beth Taylor

**Deacon** The Ven. Tim Spannaus

**Musicians** Dr. Steven McGhee, Brynn Ward

**Readers** Bob Davis, Macey Family, Debbie Smith, Linda Watkins

**Tech Team** Chris Bosley, Steve McGhee, Holly McNeal, Mark Miliotto,  
Chris Moran, Tim Spannaus, Mark Valenti, Will Wittig