

ST. FRANCIS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Francis Episcopal Church is a diverse community accepting all.

We gather to worship God, grow in faith, and share in fellowship.

We go out to serve Christ by serving others.

Everyone is Welcome Here!



The Last Sunday after Epiphany

February 11th, 2024

The Rev. Megan Thomas

Saint Francis Church Office Hours: (732) 968-6781

Wednesdays: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Deacon Gerry

Monday & Thursday: 10:00-2:00 Office Assistant, Trina Rios

The Holy Eucharist

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

February 11th, 2024

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE

SOMEWHERE IN TIME

BY JOHN BARRY

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

Blue Hymnal (1982) 135

Presider Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Holy Eucharist II p. 355*
People **And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider Almighty God,
People 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 IN EXCELSIS

HYMNAL 1982 S-280

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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Silence for the People's prayers.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Word of God

THE FIRST LESSON

2 King 2:1-12

Reader

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM 50

Please join in reading the Psalm responsively by half verse.

- 1 The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
**before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.**
- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.
- 5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
**those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."**
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge.

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Reader

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Silence to hear the Word of God.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN

CHRIST, WHOSE GLORY FILLS THE SKIES

Blue Hymnal (1982) 7

THE GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-9

*Deacon
People*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

*Deacon
People*

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Megan Thomas

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand as you are able.

All

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

People **Holy God, Hear Our Prayer**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Eucharist II p.360

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

All **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.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Presider 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. Amen.

PEACE

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

By Horatio G. Spanfford and Philip P. Bliss

DOXOLOGY

Blue Hymnal (1982) 380 v3

*Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord;
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B (p 367)

Presider

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Presider

Lift up your hearts.

People

We lift them to the Lord.

Presider

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Blue Hymnal 1982 S-125

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in your creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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, according to his command, O Father,

ALL

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Francis, Clare and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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 LORD'S PRAYER

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

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

A PRAYER FOR SHARED COMMUNION

ALL **Lord Jesus Christ, our constant companion,**
you promised to be with us to the end of the age,
and you make us one with each other
in your Body, the Church.
We thank you for giving us yourself
in this Holy Sacrament,
the seal of your love that is stronger than death.
Grant, then, O Lord, that we all may receive you,
whether met at this table or dispersed in our homes;
and so strengthen the bonds of our common life
that with all your people in every place,
we may praise and serve you
until we come to the joys of your heavenly banquet.
We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

Presider Behold what you are.
People May we become what we receive.

THE COMMUNION HYMN

O Light of Light. Love given birth
Blue Hymnal (1982) 134

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS (sung)

*Make me a Channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.*

*Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.*

*Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console.
To be understood as to understand.
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

*Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Please stand as you are able.*

Presider Let us pray.

ALL Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you especially for the ministry we have shared as priest and people in this place. Grant that we all may continue to serve you in the days ahead, and come at length to the joys of your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

May God, who has led us in the paths of justice and truth, lead us still, and keep us ever in the Way. *Amen.*

May God, whose Son has loved us richly, love us still, and keep us in peace. *Amen.*

May God, whose Spirit unites us and fills our hearts with joy, illumine us still, and strengthen us for the years to come. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

CHRIST IS THE WORLD'S TRUE LIGHT
BLUE Hymnal (1982) 542

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Bourree No. 1

By Johann Philipp Kirnberger



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Black History Month Presentation: The guest speaker is Dr. Baskerville, Assistant Superintendent of Piscataway Schools. A reception will follow the program hosted by Heather Nunes and the COME Comity in Millbank Hall.

Good News-In case you haven't heard.

Amy & I, on behalf the Vestry, are happy to announce that the Rev. Ayden Petrone has accepted our call to become the Priest-in-Charge at St. Francis effective March 1, 2024. Ayden was ordained to the priesthood in June 2023. Ayden currently serves as the Associate Priest at St. Matthew's, Pennington, NJ.

Ayden has been a clinical social worker for 15 years and will be leaving their most recent employment at the Dept. of Veteran Affairs when they arrive at St. Francis.

Ayden also serves as the Chaplain for the Ewing Fire Dept.

Ayden finds "joy and fulfillment in ministry from preaching, connecting with others and engaging in healing work through sermons and personal conversations". Ayden is outgoing, friendly, motivated and eager to lead our congregation.

Ayden has been married to Sarah since 2012. They have a 6-year-old son, Byrch and reside in Ewing.

We're sure you will feel Ayden's excitement for beginning their new ministry at St. Francis as our Priest-in-Charge

It has been a long & challenging process. We have prayed each week for God to guide us that we might receive a faithful pastor to care for us & equip us for our ministries. We have been blessed to recognize the spiritual leader who we feel is best suited for our congregation.

Pam Maiolo, Sr. Warden

Amy Myzie, Jr. Warden.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Intercessory Prayer Group meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 6:15 PM on [St. Francis Zoom](#). For further information go to [Stfrancisdunellen.org](#)

Contemplative Prayer Join us for Contemplative Prayer, and get to know the Divine in this special and transformative way. Every Tuesday at 3:00 pm. Join via [Zoom](#) link on the St. Francis website.

For more info, email Kate at contactus@stfrancisdunellen.org

Bible Study with Holy Cross, North Plainfield on Wednesdays at 6:00 in person and 7:15 on zoom with Mother Stephanie and Deacon Gerry.

MID WEEK PRAYER SERVICE

Morning Prayer: 10:00 AM Wednesday Mornings in *Spanish* On-site & Online

Noon Day Prayer: 12:00 PM Wednesday On-site & Online

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Saint Paul's Food Pantry will continue to accept donations of non-perishable food items to assist helping the food insecure in our neighboring town. For the month of **February**, donations of Pasta and Sauce are being requested.

Fresh Start Program is collecting Women's sanitary items & adult, baby & toddler diapers. In cooperation with Summit Health.

Plainfield Area Humane Society is the recipient of our pet food collection. Dry or wet, dog and cat foods are requested. Small blankets and towels are also needed.

Better World Changers Our coat & jacket collection will continue for the cold month of February. Donations will be given to Better World Changers which is a local grass roots organization that serves the needs of Dunellen and other locals in the area. All items should be new or used for adults or children.

Used clothing must be clean, spot free with no rips or tears. The donation box is at the top of the entry stairs.

Celebrations this week:

Birthdays: Ilia Scriven 02/16

RECEIVING COMMUNION FOR THOSE WORSHIPPING ON-LINE

If you would like to receive Communion in the consecrated Bread at home visit or at the Church by appointment, please contact Deacon Gerry.

CRAFTS AND COFFEE

Have a special talent or skill that you would like to share with us or learn? Join us for Crafting Sundays during Fellowship Hour. Let us know you are interested - Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Feb. 18th Nathalie Edwards and Heather Nunes- Crocheted Treasures- Display only

March 3 Grace McDougal - How to make greeting cards.

April 14th Amy Myzie - working with leather - How to make a leather bracelet.

If you are interested in participating, contact Heather at hnunes505@gmail.com

LENT IS COMING

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Returns! Feb. 13th 5:00-6:30 PM, will be our Shrove Tuesday Pancake cook off, featuring our Jr. Warden Amy Myzie. A new treat this year will be freshly made waffles! Please sign-up in the Narthex. You can also sign up to help with set-up or clean up. Suggested donation: \$5/ Adult; \$2 for kids under 12.

Ash Wednesday: February 14th

Join Deacon Gerry at the Dunellen Train Station on Feb. 14th 6:00am – 8:00 am for distribution of ashes. Deacon Gerry will also be at the Greenbrook Care Center later in the day. Let Deacon Gerry know if you are available to assist her.

12:00 noon Holy Eucharistic The Rev. Canon Karin Mitchell

7:00pm Holy Eucharistic The Rev. Canon Karin Mitchell

Lenten Formation Offerings: Lent is a time to prepare yourself for the Resurrection of the Lord. It is a time of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. How will you grow closer to God in this season of repentance? Join us after Sunday worship starting 2/18/24 for Adult Formation: *Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent*

Who will win the Golden Halo? Join Episcopalians across the world studying the saints during Lent with this fun devotional. Lentmadness.org

Please take this bulletin home to re-read and recycle