TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 29, 2023, 11AM



"The Greatest Commandment"

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" – Matthew 22:34-39

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise) LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)

In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe.

The Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Fairest Lord Jesus

H 383

Opening Sentences

Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, "I dwell in the high and holy place and also with the one who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite." Isaiah 57:15

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

Lord, open our lips. And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Venite To God with gladness sing (sung to Darwall's 148th) To God with gladness sing, your Rock and Savior bless; Into his temple bring your songs of thankfulness! O God of might, to you we sing Enthroned as King on heaven's height! God cradles in his hand the heights and depths of earth; God made the sea and land, God brought the world to birth! O God most high, we are your sheep; On us you keep your shepherd's eye! Your heavenly Father praise, acclaim his only Son, Your voice in homage raise to him who makes all one! O Dove of peace, on us descend That strife may end and joy increase!

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.

The Psalter - Psalm 1

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, * nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, * and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; * everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked; * they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, * nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, * but the way of the wicked is doomed. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

The Lessons

A Reading from The Book of Leviticus, Chapter 19, verses 1-2,15-18.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

- Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.
- You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord.
- You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Canticle G: A Song of Ezekiel (spoken in unison) Ezekiel 36: 24-28

I will take you from among all nations;*
And gather you from all lands to bring you home.
I will sprinkle clean water upon you;*
and purify you from false gods and uncleanness.
A new heart I will give you*
and a new spirit put within you.
I will take the stone heart from your chest*
and give you a heart of flesh.
I will help you walk in my laws*
and cherish my commandments and do them.
You shall be my people,*
and I will be your God.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians, Chapter 2, verses 1-8.

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Canticle N: A Song of God's Love (spoken in unison) 1 John 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another,* for love is of God. Whoever does not love does not know God,*

for God is Love. In this the love of God was revealed among us,* that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Jesus Christ.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us* and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.

Beloved, since God loved us so much,*

we ought also to love one another.

For if we love one another, God abides in us,* And God's love will be perfected in us.

And God's love will be perfected in us.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew Chapter 22, verses 34-46.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"??

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. The Peace

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings, Announcements

The Prayers

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Suffrages

Help us, O God our Savior;
Deliver us and forgive us our sins,
Look upon your congregation;
Give to your people the blessing of peace.
Declare your glory among the nations;
And your wonders among all peoples.
Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
Never forget the lives of your poor.
Continue your loving -kindness to those who know you;
And your favor to those who are true of heart.
Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Today's Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what

you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Household Prayer: Morning

This morning, Oh God, we hear the birds sing out their morning praise, and we give you thanks for another day. Bless your people this morning, at noon, in the afternoon, and in the evening with mercy and loving-kindness. Show us every hour the way to love each other and all of creation. Help us to see in any conflicts how to grow in faith through the struggle for peace with our families, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and strangers; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. **Amen.**

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship Peace Prayer

Holy God, open our eyes to a fresh vision for a peaceful world, along with the will to seek alternatives to revenge and violence. Awaken in us compassion for the victims of war; soldiers of all nations, grieving families, civilians, the wounded creation. Open wide the eyes of world leaders to see a path toward peace in all conflicts that tear apart the one human family, especially in Ukraine and in the Middle East. Grant us eyes wide open to peace. **Amen.**

A Peace Prayer for Israel and Palestine

Two peoples, one land, Three faiths, one root, One earth, one mother, One sky, one beginning, one future, one destiny, One broken heart, One God. We pray to You: Grant us a vision of unity. May we see the many in the one and the one in the many. May you, Life of All the Worlds, Source of All Amazing Differences, Help us to see clearly. Guide us gently and firmly toward each other, toward peace. **Amen.**

A Prayer in response to gun violence

Let us lament with all those who are touched by gun violence.

Let us lament the shooter's choice for violence.

Let us lament laws that allow violent people easy access to guns.

Let us lament our politicians' unwillingness to work for change.

Let us lament with the hearts broken by loss today.

Let us lament all the lives cut short, for those who have lost their lives in Maine this past week.

Let us lament, O God, and then let us rise from our knees to work for change.

In the name of Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

For those on our prayer list

Merciful Lord, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve all those on our prayer list, especially John Hess, Marion Mahoney, Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, and Barbara and Boyd Wisdom. Give your power of healing to those who care for them, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving For Healing

Almighty God and heavenly Father, we give you humble thanks for the ongoing recoveries of Linda Upshaw and Cookie Davis, and we bless your holy Name. Grant, O gracious Father, that with your help, they may live in this world according to your will, and also be partakers of everlasting glory in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For those who have died

We pray for all who have died, especially Herb Collins, friend of Cookie Davis and Port Royal, and Nancy Newton Nolen, friend of Barbara Segar. Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Sun behind all suns, soul within all souls...Show to us in everything we touch and in everyone we meet the continued assurance of your presence round us, lest ever we should think you absent. In all created things you are here. In every friend we have the sunshine of your presence is shown forth. In every enemy that seems to cross our path, you are there within the cloud to challenge us to love. Show to us the glory in the grey. Awake for us your presence in the very storm till all our joys are seen as you and all our trivial tasks emerge as priestly sacraments in the universal temple of your love. **Amen.**

A General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Hymn

O Zion, haste

H 539

Blessing

O hidden Life, vibrant in every atom, O Hidden Light, shining in every creature, O Hidden Love, embracing all in Oneness, May all who feel themselves as one with You Know that you are therefore one with every other. And the blessing of the God of faith, the Lord of love, and the Spirit of hope be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Resources

Today's Canticles are from Enriching our Worship, The Prayers--Household Prayer: Morning, is from <u>Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year A, Vol 2</u>, Gail Bracken Long, ed.; The Episcopal Peace Fellowship Peace Prayer written by the Rev. William Exner; "Two Peoples, One Land" was written by Rabbi Sheila Weinberg; The lament prayer was written by The Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King; Almighty God, Sun beyond all suns...." was written by The Rev. Lord George Macleod, Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

Announcements

Welcome to St Peter's. May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship. The communion bread is gluten free. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work through this church. Mail - PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. online - <u>https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving</u> <u>Happy Birthday</u> – Steve Price, Oct 30.

Oct. 29, Worship, On YouTube at 11am or afterward. https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepiscopalchurchpo677/streams

Today's altar flowers are in memory of John Whitfield, Laura Carey's son. John's legacy extends all the way to Jamaica through the John Whitfield Jamaica Fund, which provided educational funds for students at the Victoria School this year.

Bible Study, Weds, Nov 1, 10am-12pm. Parish House, All Saints Sunday https://lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/HolyDays/AAllSaints_RCL.html

Next Week—All Saints' Sunday, November 5. Please email Catherine by tomorrow, Oct. 30 with the names of those who have died in the past year that you would like to have added to list of those being remembered next Sunday.

Coffee Hour will take place next week after the 11AM service. Bring a snack or dish to share and enjoy together.

Episcopal Church Men (ECM) will team up with the County Department of Social Services to provide families in the area with Thanksgiving gift cards. If you'd like to donate, please make a check to St Peter's with ECM in the memo line, **by next Sunday Nov 5**th

Estimate of Giving Cards are due Nov. 19 for the stewardship campaign, Rooted in Love. Give in gratitude for the ways that God has blessed you as part of this community, and in support for the ministries of this church. You also have the option of turning in your estimate online. <u>https://news.churchsp.org/eog2024</u>

St. Peter's Episcopal Church 823 Water Street PO Box 399. Port Roval. VA 22535 Website: www.news.churchsp.org Parish Office: (804) 742-5908 The Vestry Cookie Davis, Larry Saylor (2024) Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025) Linda Upshaw (2026) Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar Senior Warden, Elizabeth Heimbach Junior Warden, Cookie Davis Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks. Rector The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus (540) 809-7489. (540) 898-1586, stpetersrev@gmail.com Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring **Prayer List**

Marion Mahoney, The Wisdoms, The Pogues, Laura Carey, The Pannells, The Linne von Bergs, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, The Segars, The Faibisys, The Felicianos, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Bill Wick, Jim Heimbach

Larry Saylor's family, Jesse Clarke's family, Cy and The Rev Deacon Linda Murphy (Saylor friends), Karen Stoddard, Daryl Potter (Hughes friend), Joanne and Herbert Wilkerson, Jimmy and Nancy Davis, Julie Davis, Otis Felts (family and friends of Johnny Davis), Dale Brittle, Ruth and Joyce Smith (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), Lisa Herbert, John Ryan Kirwin (Jean Devitt's son), Max and Rita Jensen (Duke friends), Barbara Deal, Roberta Rutledge, (Pogue friend), Patterson family, Valerie Leitch, Liz Ruthven, Charlene Schnakenberg, Nathaniel Schnakenberg, (Fisher family), Albert Barnett, Wayne Cohen (Pogue family), Herb Collins, Mrs. Watson, Hyacinth Wallace, Bethune Andrews, Orville Watson, The Glasgows (Feliciano family and friends), Sylvia and Jonathan Coleman (Cleo's daughter and son), Ann Pyle (Carolyn Duke's mother), Harvey Yarus (friend of Tom Kramer), Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear (BJ's grandson), Gloria Jewell, The Hill family (Lydia O'Neil's family), G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat, Joan Pemberton (Brad's family), Louise Chapman (Barbara Segar's cousin)

Passed into eternal life: Herb Collins, Nancy Newton Nolen

Serving in the Armed Forces

PJ Koons Steven Lee Alexis Rye Scott Estes Greg Merkl Michael Hobbs Cliff Lance Grace Grimaldi Alex Long V