

# **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

## **MARCH 5, 2023**



**Nicodemus visiting Jesus by Night—H. O. Tanner**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above...the wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:1-2, 5-8

# **ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

## Second Sunday in Lent, Year A

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.*

### Prelude

**Opening Hymn**                      **How firm a foundation**                      **H 636**

**Celebrant**                      Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
**People**                      **His mercy endures for ever.**

### The Decalogue

#### Celebrant

Hear the commandments of God to his people:  
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Honor your father and your mother.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not commit murder.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not commit adultery.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not steal.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not be a false witness.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

### **Celebrant**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**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.**

**Kyrie**

**S 91**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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 them 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.**

**A reading from the Book of Genesis, Chapter 12, verses 1-4a.**

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos***

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
from where is my help to come?

**2 My help comes from the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

3 He will not let your foot be moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

**4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

5 The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

**6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
nor the moon by night.**

7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.

**8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore.**

**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.**

**A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 4, verses 1-5, 13-17.**

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn**

**Spirit of the living God**

**LEVAS 115**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

**Glory to you Lord Christ.**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son

of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Catherine Hicks**

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

**The Prayers of the People**

God of the covenant, you call us to be fruitful servants within creation, and to offer our lives as the foundation of your realm. We lay before you the desires of our hearts, that we may be transformed by their fulfillment.

We pray for the heavens and the earth you have made. We give thanks for the sun and for the moon, and all the stars of heaven, and for the land that blesses us and continually brings forth new life. May we remember that all of creation is the work of your hands. Help us to care for it as you care for us. **In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Grant faith to the people of this church and in your church around the world, so that we may serve you wholeheartedly and with gladness wherever you would lead us. **In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Protect us and those we love, and all the earth. Until your reign of peace is fulfilled, guide those serving in our armed forces, especially those on our prayer list, protect them, and bring them home safely when their work is done. In places of war, bring peace, especially in Ukraine. In places beset by natural disaster, especially Turkey and Syria, bring calm

and restoration. Where there is hunger, may all work together to provide food, especially in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, countries experiencing a long drought. Where there is unrest and injustice in our nation and around the world, make justice our aim. **In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are struggling and who face hard decisions, for those who are undergoing transitions in their lives, for those who are beset by grief, old or new. Keep in your tender care and mercy those who are sick, especially those on our prayer list and in particular Chris Ambrose, Fred Pannell, J.P. Wilkerson, Susan Linne von Berg, Johnny Davis, John Hess, who will be having cataract surgery on Wednesday, and those whose sorrows are known to you alone. **In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who have gone before us and for their witness to your work in the world, especially Senator James Abourezk, friend of Linda Kramer. May all who have died go from strength to strength in your heavenly kingdom. **In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

When we have buried our hopes, or have had them buried, lift our spirits, so that we may see hope beyond despair, life beyond death, and you, protecting us on our journeys and watching over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth for evermore. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **Announcements**

**Birthday and Anniversary Blessings**

**BCP 830 #51/431**

## **Offertory**

## **The Holy Communion**

**Eucharistic Prayer A**

**BCP 361**



**Sanctus** **S 114**  
**The Lord's Prayer** **BCP 364**

**The bread is broken.**

**Lamb of God** **LEVAS 270**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Distribution of the Sacraments**

**Communion Hymn**      **Let thy blood in mercy poured** **H 313**

**Post-Communion Prayer** **BCP 365**

**The Blessing**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
And bring us to everlasting life;  
And may the souls of the faithful,  
Through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**Closing Hymn**      **Lift high the cross** **H 473**  
**Dismissal**

**Resources for The Prayers of the People**

**Revised Common Lectionary Prayers**

**Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Vol 1, Kimberly Bracken Long, Ed.**

**The painting on today's bulletin cover is by Henry Ossawa Turner, (1859 – 1937), the most distinguished African American artist of the 19th century and the first African American artist to attain a reputation abroad. Further, he was also the first to portray black people with their total humanity and dignity and to face full force the indignity of the caricature of his people. Racial discrimination did not prevent Tanner's exceptionally tough-minded and innovative teacher at the Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), Thomas Eakins (1844-1916), from becoming one of his foremost advocates. Eakins himself is considered one of America's most important artists.**

Although filled with doubts and anxiety from many daunting directions, especially due to his race, Tanner was determined. His Christian family heritage and his personal faith not only sustained him, but also helped to mediate grace and courage for him to go on.

His parents were remarkable, breaking all stereotypes one might expect of Black Americans in the 19th century. His mother, Sarah Miller, was a slave sent by her family from the American south to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania via the Underground Railroad. She was literate and well read. Tanner's father, Benjamin Tucker Tanner, was a well-educated minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Eventually the family settled in Philadelphia where he became a bishop. It was also in Philadelphia that the young Tanner discovered art.

Today Philadelphia embraces Tanner as one of its most beloved sons, although he elected to live in France after 1891 for the rest of his life except for occasional visits to the United States. (Notes by Laurel Gasque, in the article "Light shines in the Darkness," from the website Artway.)

<https://artway.eu/content.php?id=835&lang=en&action=show>

**The beautiful service music, *Lamb of God, in Lift Every Voice and Sing***, which we are singing during Lent as the fraction anthem (at the breaking of the bread), was composed by Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewiss. She occupies a special place in the ranks of American dance musicians. Over the course of her distinguished career, she worked with Agnes de Mille as rehearsal pianist for the American Ballet Theater, accompanied classes for dance legends Antony Tudor and David Howard, and served as music director for dance at Sarah Lawrence College. She was born and raised in Harlem, where she began music lessons at age five with her uncle, a classically trained pianist who taught her in the same way he'd been instructed as a youngster in St. Kitts—by rapping her knuckles when she made a mistake. Seven years and a few sore fingers later, she began studying with Edward H. Margetson, a prominent black composer, conductor, and church organist who lived in Washington Heights. Lessons cost 50 cents. She graduated in 1948 from Julliard, one of the few African American students to study there at the time.

## **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 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 - <https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

**Happy Birthday- Becky Fisher 3/8. Sammy Paterino 3/8**

**Happy Anniversary, Jan and Larry Saylor, 3/7.**

**Lent is the season to prepare for the journey through Holy Week and the joys of the Easter season to come.** The Confession of Sin and the Absolution are both part of the Penitential Order and occur at the beginning of the service. The Kyrie, near the beginning of the service, emphasizes the merciful nature of God's love for us.

**Stations of the Cross—Meditate on the last hours of Jesus' life by walking the Stations of the Cross.** Mary Peterman's moving watercolors and the text for each station are on a series of fourteen banners which you will find in the graveyard for quiet meditation either in solitude or in small groups. Enter by the back gate.

**-March 5, Worship. On YouTube**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5I7IoKJFpDk>

**-March 6 ,Monday Morning meditation 6:30am on Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87980716417?pwd=UHLxNE1JYlQ1TGh6N25oYTBxRURwQT09> Meeting ID: 879 8071 6417 Passcode: 790929.

**-March 6, Psalms Study, every Monday night from 7-8PM on Zoom,**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87304189375?pwd=RHRlUUCrSVU1K1JPWmhiMlc4Z2xpUT09> Meeting ID: 873 0418 9375 Passcode: 092098

**St. Peter's Lenten page – <https://churchsp.org/lentatstpeters2023>**

The Diocese of Atlanta is presenting "Jesus and the Different Kingdom" this week about Nicodemus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyaH0JUtY6o>

If you'd like to have some fun in the kitchen, try making pretzels

which take 40 min. The recipe is here <https://www.churchsp.org/pretzelsinlent/>.

**-Bible Study March 8, 10am-12pm. Parish House. Studying the lectionary for March 12**

**-March 8, Village Dinner - 4:30pm,-6 PM. Eat in or take out. Call Catherine Hicks to make your reservation. 540-809-7489. Italian Night! Spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert. \$10**

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
**823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535**  
**Website: [www.news.churchsp.org](http://www.news.churchsp.org) Parish Office: (804) 742-5908**  
**The Vestry**  
**Cookie Davis, Robert Bryan (2024)**  
**Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025), Linda Upshaw (2026),**  
**Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar**  
**Becky Fisher, Senior Warden**  
**Cookie Davis, Junior Warden**  
**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](mailto:stpetersrev@gmail.com)**  
**Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring**

### **Prayer List**

**Alice Hughes, Larry Saylor, Jim Heimbach, Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Laura Carey, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Mike and Marilyn Newman, Bill Wick, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom**

**J. P. Wilkerson, Chris Ambrose, Milijana Grayson, Nika Corwin** (friend of Marcia Kole), **Dominic Paterino, Nathaniel Schakenberg, Claire Cole Curcio** (friend of Catherine Hicks), **Otis Felts** (friend of Johnny Davis), **The Glasgows** (friends of the Felicianos), **Randall Clingenpeel, Mrs. Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's mother), **Ann Pyle** (Carolyn Duke's mother), **J.T. Moriarty** (Hicks' friend), **Harvey Yarus** (friend of Tom Kramer), **Patty Reno** (cousin of Tom Kramer), **Joanne Wilkerson and Jimmy Davis, Julie Davis** (sister, brother and daughter of Johnny Davis), **Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Jonathan Coleman** (Cleo Coleman's son), **Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear** (BJ's grandson), **Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith** (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), **Orville Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's brother), **Gloria Jewell, Kathryn, David and Bobby Hill** (Lydia O'Neil's family), **Lorena McElwain**, (friend of the Pogues), **Odessa Davis, Kelly Paterino, G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw** (Brad Volland's cousin), **Joan Pemberton** (Brad Volland's aunt), **Albert Barnett** (Andrea's uncle), **Scott Crabtree** (Eunice Key's brother), **Louise Chapman** (Barbara Segar's cousin), **Mary Lawrence Hicks, Rodney C. Johnson** (Hicks' friend), **Charlene Schakenberg**, (Becky Fisher's mother)

**Passed into eternal life: James Abourezk**, friend of Linda Kramer

### **Serving in the Armed Forces**

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