St. Peter's Church in Essex Fells
A PARISH OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK
271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells, NJ 07021
973.226.6500 • stpetersef.org

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026

We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship today. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here. We are a church rooted in Christian tradition, and open to new ideas, committed to service in community and world as part of the world-wide Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. The work of worship is shared by all, and we invite you to participate in the said and sung responses as you are able. Help us make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by all.

Holy Eucharist at 10 o'clock, Church

Voluntary — *Melissa Manning, guest organist*

Entrance Hymn 529 *Hymnal 1982* — MCKEE

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Gloria — *Hymnal 1982, S-280*

Collect of the Day — *Proper 11, BCP, page 231*

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray. Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

First Reading — *Genesis 28*

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the

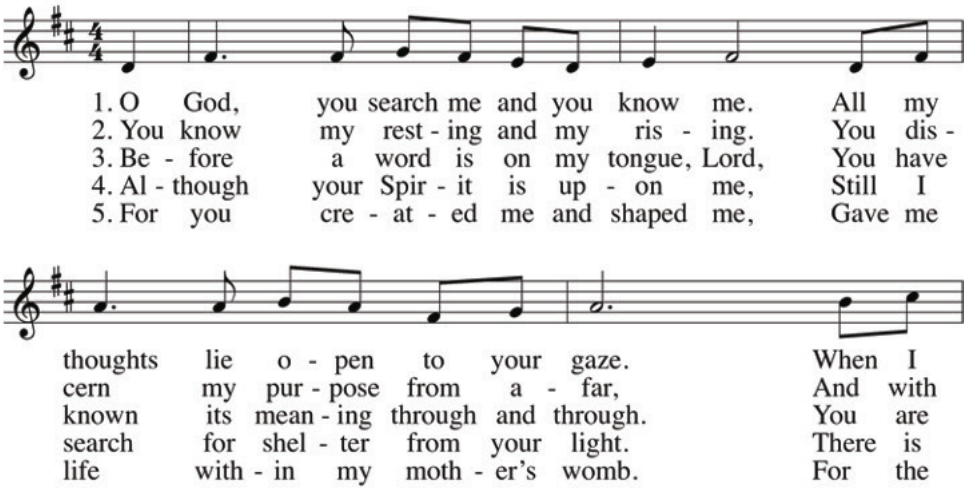
place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

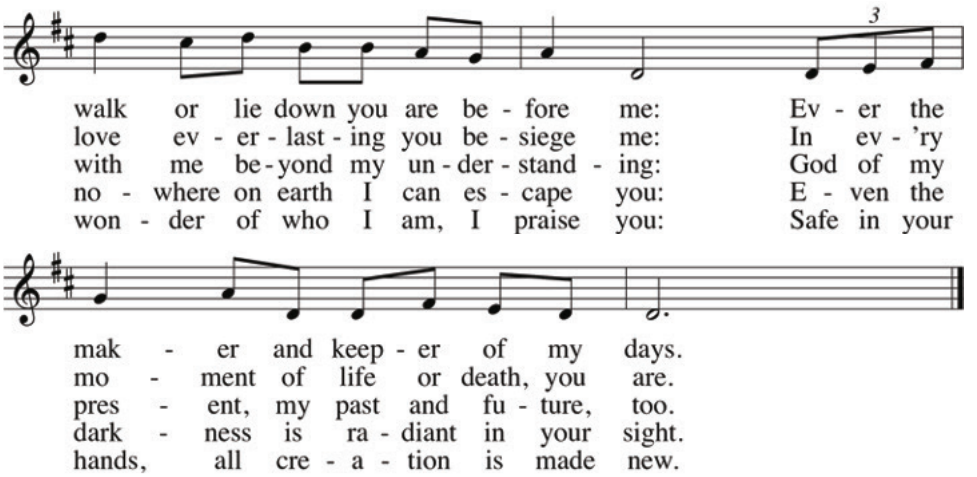
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

FARRELL
Bernadette Farrell, 1992
metrical version of Psalm 139

Please remain seated and sing





Second Reading *Romans 8:12-25*

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

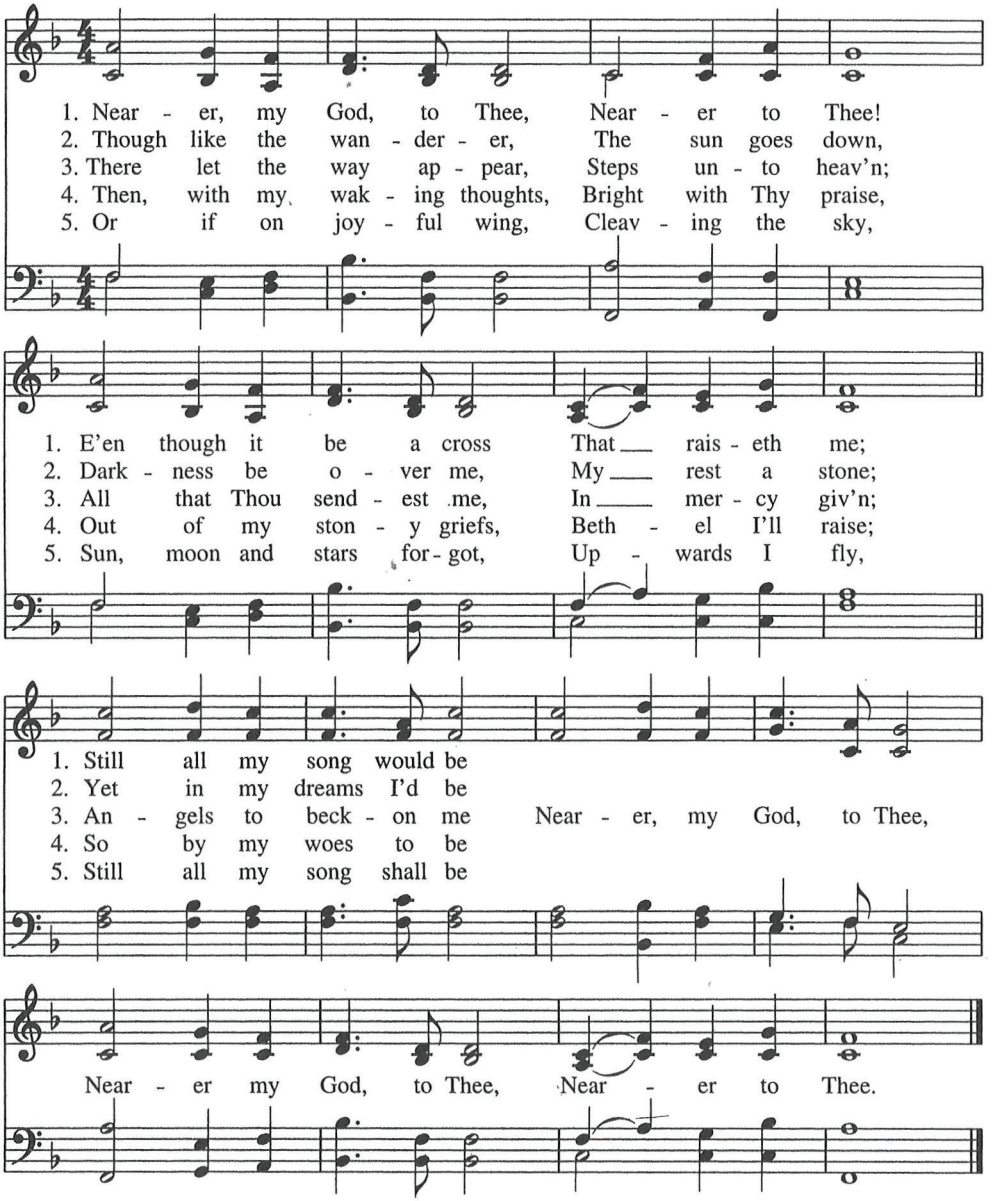
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel procession and sing

Hymn

BETHANY

Text: Sarah Adams, 1841; Tune: Lowell Mason, 1856



Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Another parable Jesus put before the crowds saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "... Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon — *The Rev. Anne Thatcher*

Nicene Creed — *BCP, page 358*

Prayers of the People — *from 'Enriching the Christian Year'*

Leader Lord of life,
People **In your mercy, hear us.**

Confession of Sin and the Peace — *BCP, page 360*

The Holy Communion

Offertory

All are welcome to make a gift and offering in thanksgiving to God for the many blessings we have received. To take advantage of our electronic giving options, please follow the QR code (right). Help us to make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by all.

Offertory Music — *Melissa Manning, guest organist*

Hymn 380 *(stanza 3) Hymnal 1982* — OLD HUNDREDTH

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A — *BCP, page 361*

Sanctus — *Hymnal 1982, S-129*

Lord's Prayer — *BCP, page 364*

Breaking the Bread — *Hymnal 1982, S 161*

ALL **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Bread and Cup to be in communion with God and each other. You may receive only the bread by placing your hands together flat in front of you (Gluten-free wafers are available upon request). Afterwards you may drink wine from the chalice. If you would rather have the bread intincted (dipped) in the wine, you may hand the bread to the person administering the chalice and they will intinct and hand it back to you. If you (or your child) would rather not receive the Sacrament, you may come to the altar rail during Communion and cross your arms on your chest for a blessing.

Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand and say together*

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 and Dismissal

At the Dismissal, all respond

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain standing and sing

Hymn 404 *Hymnal 1982* — OLD 124TH

Please remain in your pew until the Postlude begins

This Week's Parish Notices

Stewardship and the Summer

Our annual stewardship drive, *Gifts from Our Souls*, continues. While you're on vacation this summer, please remember to keep your pledge up to date. Pledges can be made online using the QR code on page 4 of this leaflet. ***Thank you for all you do to keep our Beloved Community strong!***

Welcome

Welcome to the Reverend Anne Thatcher, visiting Presider and Preacher today and next week. Also welcome to Melissa Manning, our guest organist this week.

Coffee Hour—*A special time for fellowship!*

Every Sunday after the 10 am service, we gather in Upper Room to meet and greet fellow parishioners. All are welcome to attend Coffee Hour. This ministry depends on volunteers to provide light refreshments and to help with set up. Please consider being a part of this fellowship by signing up for a Sunday to host! During the summer, we'll have cold lemonade and cookies, etc. There are serving platters, paper goods and utensils available for use in the kitchen. Directions on setting up are provided. Use the *QR* code here, or contact Barbara Gargiulo at barbara.gargiulo9@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School 2026

We are getting excited for VBS 2026, which will take place August 3-7! One last request: We are collecting paper towel-sized cardboard rolls for crafts. If you have any to contribute, please email spefvbs@gmail.com. *Thank you! Sarah, Jack, and Luke Latson*

Monthly Prayer Vigil Outside Delaney Hall

On the fourth Sunday of each month at 3 pm, the Episcopal Diocese of Newark will hold a brief prayer vigil outside the Delaney Hall ICE detention facility, 451 Doremus Avenue in Newark. The next prayer vigil will be 3 pm, Sunday, July 26. Visit https://dioceseofnewark.org/event/prayer-vigil-at-delaney-hall for details, guidelines for attendees, and flyers to share.

Our Interim Rector

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder will serve as Interim Rector of St. Peter's, Essex Fells as of August 1. Please be in touch with our wardens, Jim Irwin (jwirwin62@yahoo.com) and Barbara Gargiulo (barbara.gargiulo9@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

Pastoral Care

For pastoral emergencies in July, please contact Jim Irwin, Barbara Gargiulo, or Mark Trautman. They will reach out to the appointed clergy for you.

Welcome Back Sunday

Welcome Back Sunday will be September 6. There will be blessing of backpacks, students, and educators. The Parish Choir will return, Sunday School and SPY registration will follow the 10 am service, and we will celebrate the many ministries of our parish community. Be sure to mark your calendar, and invite a friend to come and see the many great things that are happening at St. Peter's.

The Season after Pentecost—Ordinary Time

The Sundays after Pentecost are often referred to as "Green Sundays" because of the continuous use of green hangings and vestments. They are also called "Ordinary Sundays" because they are numbered in ordinal fashion. The focus of this season is on developing a deeper understanding of Christian discipleship. In this Lectionary Year, the Gospel readings are from Matthew; the Epistle readings follow a semi-continuous progression; they primarily feature consecutive readings from the Letters of Paul: Romans (late Summer to early fall) followed by Philippians and 1 Thessalonians in late fall. Throughout the summer we are reminded of the beauty and wonder of God's creation, and the joy of being together with family and friends at home or on vacation.

Ministers of the Liturgy

Altar Guild	Candace Carr, Nancy Connor, Sheila Valenti
Ushers	Barbara Lopez, Chris Shearin
Readers	Valerie Felix
Eucharistic Minister	Eloise Mozillo Hiris
Guest Musician	Melissa Manning
Presider	The Rev. Anne Thatcher

Prayer List

Laurie Alcott, Joan Aliotta, Stanley Au, Nancy Bivona, Kris Blake, Carl, Kathy Calfee, Martha Capel, Gabriel Cowell, Arnie Hartelius, Stanley Haynes, Tania Jenkins, Jeffrey Kamel, Katherine Kamen, Robert Kazimir, Ed Kamper, Colin Kelley, Neal King, Lauren L., Bill Musser, Lisa & Gary Pyne, Brenda Restivo, Richardson & Dickhaus families

Anglican Communion—*Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan*

Diocese of Newark—*St. Peter's, Mount Arlington and St. Peter's, Mountain Lakes*

St Peter's Episcopal Church

The Vestry

Jim Irwin and Barbara Gariulo, *Wardens*;
Christine Albano, Erika Grothues, Sarah Latson, Karen Mosher, *Vestry Members*

The Staff

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder, *Interim Rector (beginning August 1)*
Mark A. Trautman, *Director of Music and Administrator (trautman@stpetersef.org)*
Lindsay Thompson, *Director of Sunday School (thompson@stpetersef.org)*
Chris Shearin, *Sexton (shearin@stpetersef.org)*
DJ Elmore, *Bookkeeper (bookkeeper.stpeters@gmail.com)*

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