

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 Last Sunday after the Epiphany
February 15, 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

Adagio Cantabile

R. Nathaniel Dett

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.**

Song of Praise, *Benedictus es, Domine*

Richard Proulx

Cantor *Lord God of Creation, you are blest and adored.*



Praised and ex - alt - ed a - bove all for - ev - er.

For the glory of your holy name, you are blest and adored.

ALL **PRAISED AND EXALTED ABOVE ALL FOR EVER.**

For the splendor of your temple, you are blest and adored.

ALL **PRAISED AND EXALTED ABOVE ALL FOR EVER.**

Throned upon the Cherubim, plumbing the depths, you are blest and adored.

ALL **PRAISED AND EXALTED ABOVE ALL FOR EVER.**

In the high vault of heaven, you are blest and adored.

ALL **PRAISED AND EXALTED ABOVE ALL FOR EVER.**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are blest and adored.

ALL **PRAISED AND EXALTED ABOVE ALL FOR EVER.**

Collect of the Day

BCP, page 217

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader Let us pray. 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, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

First Reading

Exodus 24:1-18

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Response

Leonard Bernstein

*Sing God a simple song:
'Lauda, Laudē,'
Make it up as you go along:
'Lauda, Laudē,'
Sing like you like to sing.
God loves all simple things,
For God is the simplest of all.*

*I will sing the Lord a new song
To praise Him, to bless the Lord.
I will sing His praises while I live
All of my days.*

*Blessed is the man who loves the Lord,
Blessed is the man who praises Him.
'Lauda, Laudē,'
And walks in His ways.*

*I will lift up my eyes
To the hills from whence comes my help
I will lift up my voice to the Lord,
Singing 'Lauda, Laudē.'*

*For the Lord is my shade,
Is the shade upon my right hand,
And the sun shall not smite me by day,
Nor the moon by night.*

*Blessed is the man who loves the Lord,
'Lauda, Lauda, Laudē,'
And walks in His ways.
'Lauda, Lauda, Laudē,'
All of my days.*

—Stephen Schwartz

Second Reading

2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel procession and sing

Hymn 385 *Hymnal 1982*

LACQUIPARLE

Gospel Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

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

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rector

Nicene Creed

BCP, page 358

Prayers of the People

Intercessor ...let us pray to the Lord:

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Confession of Sin and the Peace

BCP, page 360

Welcome and Announcements

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.



Please stand and sing

Hymn 599 *Hymnal 1982*

LIFT EV'RY VOICE

Hymn 380 (*stanza 3*) *Hymnal 1982*

OLD HUNDREDTH

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, page 361

Sanctus

Hymnal 1982, S-128

Breaking the Bread

Hymnal 1982, S 170



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.

Communion Hymn

Gregory Norbet



Choir Give us peace, God, peace for all, like a river running freely. **REFRAIN.**

Choir God of nearness, God of life, you are with us; we rejoice. **REFRAIN.**

Choir Set us free, God, from mindless ways; guide us in pursuing good. **REFRAIN.**

Choir You renew us with great love; God among us: this our joy! **REFRAIN.**

Choir Be our breath, God, deep and pure; feed our hunger for your truth. **REFRAIN.**

Choir Maranatha: come to us with your healing gift of peace. **REFRAIN.**

Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand and say together*

Grant, almighty Father: that through this heavenly food which we have received we may grow into the likeness of him whose glory you revealed upon the holy mountain; your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

Hymn 618 *Hymnal 1982*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

THIS WEEK'S PARISH NOTICES

STEWARDSHIP 2026—GIFTS FROM OUR SOULS

Our annual stewardship drive, *Gifts from Our Souls*, continues. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus tells us whatever we value most will be the focus of our deepest affections. As we prayerfully consider how much we want to give, let's ask ourselves the question, "What do we love about St. Peter's, and how can help these good things grow?"

LENT 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY: THE FIRST DAY OF LENT, FEBRUARY 18

Ashes and Holy Eucharist at 7 am, 4 pm, 7 pm

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT, FEBRUARY 22

The Great Litany and Holy Eucharist at 8 am and 4 pm

The Great Litany in Procession and Choral Eucharist at 10 am

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Lent is a forty-day period (not counting Sundays) of fasting, prayer, penitence, and alms-giving in preparation for the fifty-day celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection, Easter. The *Gloria in excelsis*, *Te Deum*, and all Alleluias are absent, and the liturgy takes on a more introspective and quiet nature. *In observance of a Holy Lent, we ask that you remain silent and refrain from talking before and after services.*

ABSLOM JONES SUNDAY

We remember the life, ministry, and witness of Blessed Absalom Jones on this, the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, and in the midst of Black History Month. Absalom Jones was the first Black man ordained to the Episcopal priesthood. Together with Bishop Richard Allen, they formed the Free African Society in Philadelphia in 1787, the first organized Afro-American society; Jones and Allen were elected its overseers. Later, Jones founded the St. Thomas African Episcopal Church and Allen founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument.

Today's Offertory Hymn (*Hymnal 1982, 599*) was written by James Weldon Johnson for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900. His brother John Rosamund Johnson added the tune in 1921. The Johnson brothers later collaborated to write many Broadway operettas, musicals and song collections. This marriage of text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion not only within the African American Community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

LENAPE NATION PRESENTATION TODAY

Members of the Ramapough Lenape Nation will make a presentation during Coffee Hour after the 10 am service. They are an indigenous people of the Munsee dialect (Algonquian) who have inhabited the Ramapo Mountains in northern New Jersey (primarily Bergen and Passaic counties) and southern New York (primarily Rockland county) for 12,000 years. They are recognized by the state of New Jersey. More information may be found here: <https://ramapough.org>. For information, contact Deacon Ginny at whatley@stpetersef.org.

JOIN A CHOIR

The *Parish Choir* (Adults, older teens) rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30 in the Choir Room. The *Handbell Choir* rehearses on Wednesdays at 7 pm in the south transept of the nave. *Thanks to Laura Paparatto, our flutist today!*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School will support Christine's Kitchen for our Lenten Service Project, a soup kitchen in West Orange that serves lunch every Saturday. Due to ongoing food insecurity, we will be creating additional *shelf-stable* meals, and we are collecting items to help beginning today. *Needed Items:* Fork, knife, spoon & napkin (sealed take-out sets welcome); Tuna or chicken salad pouch; Sleeve of Ritz or Saltines; Jif To Go or Skippy squeeze-pack peanut butter; Applesauce cup or pouch; Snack-size cookies; Snack-size chips; Granola bar; 16 oz. water bottle.—Lindsay Thompson (thompson@stpetersef.org).

COFFEE HOUR—A special time for fellowship!

Please consider signing up to host a coffee hour on Sundays after the 10 am service. It is an important time for us to connect with one another and meet our guests and visitors. Contact Mary Shearin at shearchaos38@gmail.com to let us know the date you prefer. Feel free to sign up with a friend! All instructions will be provided.

SPY THANKS

Many thanks to everyone who attended the SPY Pancake Supper on Tuesday! Your support of the youth group is very much appreciated. Thanks also to Christina Doyle, Valerie Felix, and our SPY members for all of their hard work! — Sarah Latson

COFFEE HOUR PRESENTATION, FEBRUARY 22—*Student Visionaries of the Year*

Dear St. Peter's Family, I'm an active member of St. Peter's, SPY, and a sophomore at West Essex High School. I'll be hosting Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 22 to share information about Blood Cancer United's Student Visionaries of the Year campaign. The West Essex High School team's goal is to raise \$50,000 for blood cancer patients and their families. I hope you'll be able to join me on February 22. To donate, follow the QR code in this note. Thank you so much. Your donation will help advance cures and create a world with more survivors.—Samantha Wohltmann



MESSENGER, ANNUAL MEETING, FORWARD DAY BY DAY

Copies of the monthly *Messenger*, the Annual Meeting Report, *Forward Day By Day*, *The Living Church*, and the *Anglican Digest* are available in the Narthex and in the back of All Saints' Chapel. You may also pick up a 2026 Church Calendar. *Please help yourself.*

MINISTERS TODAY

Eloise Monzillo Hiris, Sheila Valenti, Carolyn Wescott, *Altar Guild*; Lexie Felix, Claire Grothues, *Readers*; Aubrey Lace, *Intercessor*; Kayla Felix, *Acolyte*; Aubrey Lace, *Eucharistic Minister*; Wayne Copeland, *Usher*; Charlotte Albano, Vivienne Thompson, Oblationers, Michael Barretti, Kevin Johnson, *Cantors*; Mark Trautman, *Director of Music*; The Rev. Virginia Jenkins Whatley, *Deacon*; The Rev. Nate Darville, *Presider*. *Thanks to our Youth and their ministry at today's service.*

PRAYER LIST

St. Peter's is a community of prayer and service. Holding one another's joys, sorrows, and concerns before God in prayer is a spiritual practice at the heart of our life together as a parish family. We encourage you to pray throughout the week for these members of our parish family. We invite you to add yourself or others to the St. Peter's prayer list by submitting a request to the Parish Office.

Laurie Alcott, Joan Aliotta, Stanley Au, Amye Becker, Duffy Bell, Nancy Bivona, Kris Blake, Carl, Carl Carvell, Muriel Bowness, Kathy Calfee, Martha Capel, Frank Cintron, Adele Corcoran, Becky Dawson, Gabriel Cowell, Arnie Hartelius, Wayne Hill, Tania Jenkins, Eddie K., Jeffrey Kamel, Katherine Kamen, Robert Kazimir, Ed Kamper, Colin Kelley, Katie King, Neal King, Lauren L., Laurieann, Sally L., Mark Lewis, Ben M., Marino Family, Tom Marriott, Bill Musser, Nunno Family, Lisa & Gary Pyne, Brenda Restivo, Richardson & Dickhaus families, Craig Roper, Ruth Ann, Sarah, Kathy Stanton, Frank Zupa.

ANGLICAN COMMUNION—*The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean*

DIOCESE OF NEWARK—*St. John's/San Juan, Dover and St. Agnes' & St. Paul's, East Orange*

TODAY'S FLOWERS—*given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Susan Boyers*



ST PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WORSHIP • WONDER • WORK • ALL IN LOVE

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THE VESTRY OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Jim Irwin and Barbara Gargiulo, *Wardens*;

Christine Albano, Erika Grothues, Sarah Latson, Karen Mosher, *Vestry Members*

THE STAFF OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Nathaniel K.M. Darville, *Rector* (darville@stpetersef.org)

The Rev. Virginia Jenkins Whatley, *Deacon* (whatley@stpetersef.org)

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)

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