

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 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 1, 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.

Holy Eucharist at 10 o'clock, Church

Voluntary *Prélude sur l'Introît de l'Épiphanie* Maurice Duruflé
Entrance Hymn 594 *Hymnal 1982* CWM RHONDDA

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

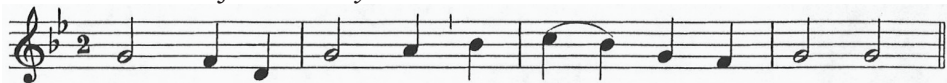
Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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 215

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD. With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15 *Domine, quis habitabit?*

Richard Proulx

The refrain is sung by the Cantor and repeated by all



Cantor LORD who may sojourn in your tent
and dwell on your holy mountain?

*Those who walk without fault, those who act with justice
and speak the truth from their hearts,
those who do not slander with their tongue. Refrain*

*Cantor Those who do no wrong to their kindred,
who cast no slur on their neighbors,
who hold the godless in disdain,
but honor those who fear the LORD. Refrain*

*Cantor Those who keep their word, come what may,
who take no interest on a loan
and accept no bribes against the innocent.
Such people will stand firm for ever. Refrain*

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel procession and sing

Hymn 605 *Hymnal 1982*

SHARPTHORNE

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

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

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Virginia Jenkins-Whatley

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.



Anthem

Arthur Foote

*Blessed are the poor in spirit:
For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

Communion Antiphon

Jacques Berthier

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
 u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

- Cantor* If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, knowing everything; if I have faith in all its fullness to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing at all. **Refrain**
- Cantor* If I give everything I have to feed the poor and let them take my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing at all. **Refrain**
- Cantor* Love is patient, love is not jealous.
 Love does not rejoice in what is wrong, but love rejoices in the truth.
 Love is always ready to excuse, to hope, to trust, and to endure whatever comes. **Refrain**
- Cantor* Love never fails. Prophecies will cease, and tongues will be silent; knowledge will pass away; But there are only three things in the end that last:
 faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love. **Refrain**

Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand and say together*

Let this pledge of eternal redemption renew us in heart and mind, O Lord: that we may faithfully proclaim the truth which you have revealed in the gospel of your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

Hymn 537 *Hymnal* 1982

MOSCOW

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?"

ST. PETER'S ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Parish will follow today's 10 am service. We will vote for Vestry positions; delegates to Diocesan Convention; and alternates to Diocesan Convention. *Childcare will be available during the meeting.*

ST. PETER'S YOUTH (SPY) PANCAKE SUPPER

Be sure to sign up for our pre-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, *Tuesday February 10*, Adults \$10; Kids \$5; Families \$25; Tickets will not be sold at the door. Venmo [@Christina-Doyle-15](https://www.venmo.com/Christina-Doyle-15) (last four digits: 7878) or make your payment during Coffee Hour by February 8. Please indicate how many are attending. *The supper is being held a week before Shrove Tuesday due to school schedules.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

I am looking for two Ushers for the Family Eucharist on February 15. If your child is interested, please email me. Our awesome program is also looking for volunteers to help teach Sunday School. This is a wonderful opportunity to work with the children of St. Peter's in this important ministry; no teaching experience needed!—*Lindsay Thompson* (thompson@stpetersef.org).

JOIN A CHOIR

The *Parish Choir* (Adults and 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. Contact Mark Trautman.

FLOWER MINISTRY

Beautiful flowers adorn our church weekly. Flowers may be given at any time in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one, or any other occasion of thankfulness for God's creation. A check for \$50 may be made to St. Peter's—put 'altar flowers' in the memo. To reserve a date, email the Parish Office (info@stpetersef.org).

COFFEE HOUR—*A special time for fellowship!*

Please consider signing up to host a coffee hour on Sundays immediately after the 10 am service. It is an important time for us to connect with one another and meet our guests and visitors. You can sign up on the sheet posted in the upper room or 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.

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.

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, Anye 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, Richardson & Dickhaus families, Craig Roper, Ruth Ann, Sarah, Kathy Stanton, Frank Zupa.

ANGLICAN COMMUNION—*The Church of England*

DIOCESE OF NEWARK—*Messiah, Chester and St. Mary's, Sparta*



MINISTERS TODAY

Candace Carr, Nancy Connor, Diane Waitts, *Altar Guild*; Garrison Block, Cynthia Ziegler, *Readers*;
Chris Aliotta, *Crucifer*; Pat Aliotta, *Eucharistic Minister*; Wayne Copeland, *Usher*;
Michael Barretti, Kevin Johnson, Giulia Utz, *Cantors*; Mark Trautman, *Director of Music*;
The Rev. Virginia Jenkins Whatley, *Deacon and Preacher*; The Rev. Nate Darville, *Presider*



ST PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WORSHIP • WONDER • WORK • ALL IN LOVE

THE VESTRY

Jim Irwin and Mary Shearin, *Wardens*; Christine Albano, Barbara Gargiulo,
Erika Grothues, Sarah Latson, Kurt Vonderahe, *Vestry Members*

THE STAFF

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)
DJ Elmore, *Bookkeeper* (bookkeeper.stpeters@gmail.com)

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