



SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# A LION'S SHARE

JUNE 17, 2023

## Farewell to Miss Dawn!

*We say farewell to Dawn Orban and thank her for her amazing 17 years of service as Director of Saint Mark's Bright Beginnings. We wish her well as she and her husband Gary begin their next adventure in South Carolina. Picture is from this year's graduation ceremony.*





# Youth Sunday

**June 18, 2023**

**10:00 a.m.**

Please join us as we honor our  
Sunday School Students and Teachers

*A Special Coffee Hour will follow*

# THE LITURGICAL GUIDE AND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Liturgical Day & Color	June 4-5, 2023 Trinity Sunday	June 10-11, 2023 2 Pentecost Proper 5A	June 17-18, 2023 3 Pentecost Proper 6A	June 24-25, 2023 4 Pentecost Proper 7A
Lectionary Readings (Revised Common Lectionary)	<a href="#">Genesis 1:1-2:4a</a> <a href="#">Canticle 13</a> <a href="#">2 Corinthians 13:11-13</a> <a href="#">Matthew 28:16-20</a>	<a href="#">Hosea 5:15-6:6</a> <a href="#">Psalm 50:7-15</a> <a href="#">Romans 4:13-25</a> <a href="#">Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26</a>	<a href="#">Exodus 19:2-8a</a> <a href="#">Psalm 100</a> <a href="#">Romans 5:1-8</a> <a href="#">Matthew 9:35-10:8</a>	<a href="#">Jeremiah 20:7-13</a> <a href="#">Psalm 69: 8-11, 18-20</a> <a href="#">Romans 6:1b-11</a> <a href="#">Matthew 10:24-39</a>
	Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Saturday 5:00 p.m.
LEM	John Kern	Virginia Gilmore	Rob Perdock	Virginia Gilmore
Lector	Rob Perdock	Virginia Gilmore	Rob Perdock	Virginia Gilmore
Altar Guild	Diane Stewart	Freear Pollard	Freear Pollard	Diane Stewart
	Sunday 10:00 a.m.	Sunday 10:00 a.m.	Sunday 10:00 a.m.	Sunday 10:00 a.m.
LEM	Virginia Gilmore	John Kern	Sundy Schermeyer	Madeline Glover
Lector	Tom Simson	Matthew Kern	Tom Hadlock	Bill Glover
Greeter/Ushers	Steve DeCaro Kevin Tunney	Eric Christensen Tim Feil	Sandy Wyman Larry Andria	Bill Glover Tom Hadlock
Altar Guild	Laura Bott Louise Reeves	Eddie Hofmann Diane Feil	Victoria Garcia Karen Love	Catharine Nobiletti Ashley McLean

## SERVICES AT SAINT MARK'S

[chris.jubinski@stmarkswhb.org](mailto:chris.jubinski@stmarkswhb.org)

### WEEKENDS

*Sunday—Holy Eucharist  
8:00 am & 10:00 a.m.*

### THURSDAYS

*11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing*

*Baptisms, Weddings, and the Sacrament  
of Reconciliation by Appointment*






FR. CHRIS JUBINSKI  
Office: 631.288.2111  
Cell: 410.253.3664

## EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND

[www.dioceseli.org](http://www.dioceseli.org)



To see the readings for the next two  
Sundays,  
click on the links at the top of the schedule on this  
page  
or visit [lectionarypage.net](http://lectionarypage.net)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p>  <p><b>No Sunday School</b>  <b>Pentecost Sunday (Whitsunday)</b>                      8:00am Holy Eucharist                      9:00am Coffee Hour                      9:15am Choir Practice                      10:00am Holy Eucharist                      11:00am Coffee Hour                      2:00pm Private Party</p>	<p>29</p>  <p><b>Memorial Day</b>  <b>Parish Office Closed</b></p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>Book of Common Prayer, 1549</i>  <b>Parish Office Closed</b>                      5:30pm Bright Beginnings Parents Meeting</p>	<p>31</p>  <p><b>Visitation of the Blessed Virgin</b>                      7:00pm Alanon</p>	<p>1</p> <p><i>Justin, Martyr, c.167</i>                      10:00am Bible Study                      11:00am Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Blandina and Her Companions, The Martyrs of Lyons, 177</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886</i>                      5:00pm Mass on the Grass</p>
<p>4</p> <p><b>Trinity Sunday</b>                      9:15am Choir Practice                      10:00am Holy Eucharist                      11:00am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Boniface, Bishop and Missionary, 754</i>  <b>Parish Office Closed</b></p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:00pm Bright Beginnings Graduation Ceremony</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00pm Alanon</p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>[Melania the Elder, Monastic, 410]</i>                      10:00am Bible Study                      11:00am Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing</p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>Columba of Iona, Monastic, 597</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Ephrem of Nisibis, Deacon and Poet, 373</i>                      5:00pm Mass on the Grass</p>
<p>11</p> <p><b>2 Pentecost (Proper 5)</b>                      9:15am Choir Practice                      10:00am Holy Eucharist                      11:00am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>12</p> <p><i>Enmegahbowh, Priest and Missionary, 1902</i>  <b>Parish Office Closed</b></p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>  <p><b>FLAG DAY</b>  <i>Basil of Caesarea, Bishop and Theologian, 379</i>                      7:00pm Alanon</p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>Evelyn Underhill, Mystic and Writer, 1941</i>                      10:00am Bible Study                      11:00am Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing</p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>Joseph Butler, Bishop and Theologian, 1752</i>  <b>Last Day of School for Bright Beginnings</b></p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>[Marina the Monk, Monastic, fifth century]</i>                      5:00pm Mass on the Grass</p>
<p>18</p> <p><b>3 Pentecost (Proper 6)</b>                      9:15am Choir Practice                      10:00am Holy Eucharist                      11:00am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>19</p>  <p><b>Juneteenth</b>  <i>Adelaide Teague Case, Educator, 1948</i>  <b>Parish Office Closed</b></p>	<p>20</p> <p><b>Parish Office Closed</b>                      6:30pm Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00pm Alanon</p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>Alban, Martyr, c.304</i>                      10:00am Bible Study                      11:00am Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Pat Conklin-Time TBA  <b>Nativity of St. John the Baptist</b>                      9:00am Alanon Workshop                      5:00pm Mass on the Grass</p>
<p>25</p> <p><b>4 Pentecost (Proper 7)</b>                      9:15am Choir Practice                      10:00am Holy Eucharist                      11:00am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Isabel Florence Hapgood, Ecumenist, 1928</i>  <b>Parish Office Closed</b></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Irenaeus of Lyons, Bishop and Theologian, c.202</i>                      7:00pm Alanon</p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>St. Peter &amp; St. Paul, Apostles</b>                      10:00am Bible Study                      11:00am Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p> <p><i>[Pauli Murray, Priest, 1985]</i>                      5:00pm Mass on the Grass</p>

**AQION'S SHARE**

*The Weekly Newsletter of Saint Mark's Church  
 A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island*

**ST. MARK'S CHURCH**

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**OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday to Friday  
 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**WEEKEND SERVICES**

(SAT.) 500 p.m.—Holy Eucharist  
 (SUN.) 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist (Livestreamed)

**THURSDAY SERVICES**

11:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing



The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano  
*Bishop of Long Island*

The Rt. Rev. GERALYN WOLF

*Assisting Bishop of Long Island*

The Rt. Rev. DANIEL ALLOTEY

*Assisting Bishop of Long Island*

The Rt. Rev. WILLIAM FRANKLIN

*Assisting Bishop of Long Island*

The Rev. Christopher D. Jubinski  
*Rector*

Email:

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Cell: 410.253.3664



**THE WEEK AT A GLANCE**

- Monday, 6/19**                      **Parish Office Closed**
- Tuesday, 6/20**                    **Parish Office Closed**
- Wednesday, 6/21**                7:00 p.m. Alanon 12 Step Meeting (Atwater Room)  
7:00 p.m. Alanon Board Meeting (Parish Hall)
- Thursday, 6/22**                    10:00 a.m. Bible Study – “Women of the Bible” Session 4 of 12  
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in Rector's Office  
12:30 p.m. Threshold Singers in the Chapel
- Saturday, 6/24**                    9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Alanon Workshop (Parish Hall)  
10:00 a.m. A Service to Celebrate the Life of Pat Conklin (Columbarium Garden)  
5:00 p.m. “Mass on the Grass” come as you are Holy Eucharist (Columbarium Garden)
- Sunday, 6/25**                      9:15 a.m. Choir Practice in the Church  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the Church  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Participating in Today's Service	Next Week, June 24 <sup>th</sup> and June 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Saturday at 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Saturday at 5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>LEM/Lector</b> Rob Perdock <b>Altar Guild</b> Freear Pollard	<b>LEM/Lector</b> Virginia Gilmore <b>Altar Guild</b> Diane Stewart
<b>Sunday at 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday at 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>LEM</b> Sundry Schermeyer <b>Lector</b> Tom Hadlock <b>Ushers</b> Sandy Wyman, Larry Andria <b>Altar Guild</b> Victoria Garcia, Karen Love	<b>LEM</b> Madeline Glover <b>Lector</b> Bill Glover <b>Ushers</b> Bill Glover, Tom Hadlock <b>Altar Guild</b> Catharine Nobiletti, Ashley McLean

*Altar Flowers*

*The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Freear Pollard in loving memory of her husband Robert Woodward Barnwell III and by Victoria & Fred Garcia in celebration of their 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*

<p><b>June Birthdays</b> 8 Yolande Hadlock 11 Jennifer Kast 21 Emily Smith 21 Ryleigh Jayne Morton-Boone 26 Sibyl Piccone 27 Julienne Boone 29 Arthur Connoly</p> <p><b>June Anniversaries</b> 2 Carol &amp; Robert Laube 6 Suellen &amp; Kevin Tunney 17 Allison &amp; Dr. Eric Christensen 30 Karen &amp; Bob Love</p>	<p><b>Service Attendance</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Saturday, June 3, 2023</td> <td>5:00 PM</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday, June 4, 2023</td> <td>10:00 AM</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Total:</b></td> <td><b>32</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>(Service was not streamed last week.)</p> <table> <tr> <td>6/15</td> <td>Bible Study</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11 am Holy Eucharist</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	Saturday, June 3, 2023	5:00 PM	9	Sunday, June 4, 2023	10:00 AM	23		<b>Total:</b>	<b>32</b>	6/15	Bible Study	7		11 am Holy Eucharist	3
Saturday, June 3, 2023	5:00 PM	9														
Sunday, June 4, 2023	10:00 AM	23														
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>32</b>														
6/15	Bible Study	7														
	11 am Holy Eucharist	3														

## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY (SUNDAY, 18<sup>th</sup>) IS YOUTH SUNDAY.** We celebrate all the young people of our parish, and we give thanks for their parents, and especially for Margie DeCaro and Madeline Graham who are their teachers.

**Happy Father's Day** to all fathers and those who are father like figures to others.

**Worship During the Summer: Saturdays at 5 p.m.** is truly "come as you are" so feel free to dress comfortably. You will also notice that we will be simplifying the liturgy for Saturdays and Sundays by reducing the overall amount of singing we do during the service.

**Bible Study takes place on Thursday at 10:00 AM in the Rector's office.** The current topic is "Women in the Bible". "Women in the Bible" sheds new light on familiar characters like Mary Magdalene in the New Testament and Sarah, Abraham's wife in the Hebrew Bible. It also studies characters who are less well known to many Bible readers, such as the city of Babylon, styled as a whore in the Book of Revelation. Through the stories of these women, discover how gender can inform your reading as you explore how these stories relate to your own faith journey.

- ❖ **Gluten Free Communion Wafers** are now available during each service. If you require one, please ask Fr. Chris at the communion rail.
- ❖ **If you are a new parishioner, we would most appreciate your filling out our Parish Survey.** There are blanks at the back of the church for your convenience. Completed forms can be returned to the church office. Thank you.
- ❖ **Altar Flowers:** If you would like to dedicate Altar flowers for the Altar contact Laura Bott at 631-722-4749 or email her at [laura.bott17@gmail.com](mailto:laura.bott17@gmail.com). In May there is one vase available for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Each vase is \$40. Kindly Note: checks should be made out to St. Mark's Church with "Flowers" in the memo section.
- ❖ **Ways to Help the People of Ukraine...(AS of 6/1/2023)** A complete list is posted on the bulletin board next to the church office. Please help us collect as much of these necessary items as we can. There is a box for them in the narthex. You can also visit our website at [www.stmarkswvb.org](http://www.stmarkswvb.org) for ways to help.
- ❖ **Maureen's Haven:** "Thank you" for donations to Maureen's Haven. A box for donations, along with a list of suggested items such as individual containers of non-perishable food, is in the office lobby.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

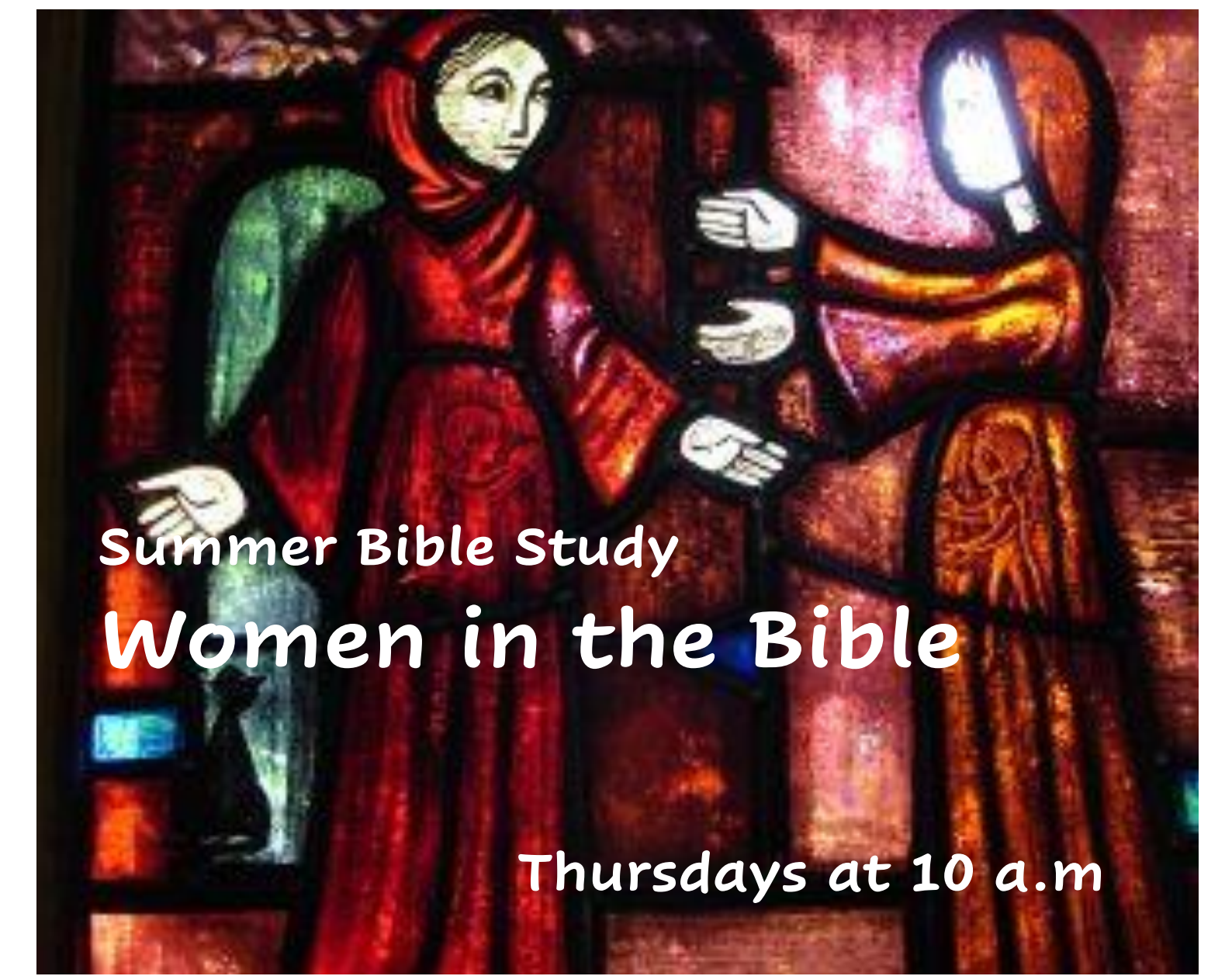
- **Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Ice Cream Social to meet Rosanna Davis, our new Preschool Director.

**We ask that you remember those for whom prayers are requested:** Noah Berger (Req. by Jenn Kast), Stan Billie (Req. by Jenn Kast), Deana Chiusano (Req. by Jinny Gilmore), Darrie Cosban (Req. by Jinny Gilmore) Nancy Fraser (Req. by Ki Nobeletti), Roberta Good (Diane Stewart's Sister), Cheryl Grove (Friend of Marj Kulesa), Elaine Hanes (Req. by Kate Gabrielsen), Barbara Ireton (Req. by Carol Smith), Cathy Jones (Farmers Market), Stephen Jones (Req. by Kate Gabrielsen), Gretchen & Jim Jubinski (Fr. Chris' Parents), Campbell Kast (Req. by Jenn Kast), Cole LoRusso (Marj Kulesa's Nephew), Fred Meyer (Parishioner), Jock McLean (Parishioner), Sean McLean (Req. by Jock McLean), The Reverend Abigail Murphy (Priest in EDLI), Jeanette Navas (Req. by Jinny Gilmore), Studie Nostrand (Carol John's Sister), Paul Oele (Parishioner), Cassie Panzarino (Req. by Jinny Gilmore), Joan Petrella (Parishioner), Rosemary Rees (Victoria Garcia's Sister), Betty-Rose & Stuart Richardson (Req. by Victoria Garcia), Jean Scopinich (Parishioner), John Stewart (Parishioner), Sarah Witters (Req. by Victoria Garcia), Jocko Calvez (Req. by Larry Andria), Marjorie Kulesa, Helen Horton, Michael Warner, Louise Reeves, Owen Foster (Diane & John Stewart's grandson), and Morgan Reilly Nicotra (Req. by Chris Adams).

**If there are any names that can be removed, kindly contact Kate in the church office 631-288-2111.**

**We pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:** Amanda E. Degener, Kyle M. Degener, George L. Degener, Jesse Fritz, Nicholas LoRusso, Joshua Rudd, Michael Keegan, Rob Scribner.

**Please Pray for Your Parish Every Day at 12:00 Noon  
And Remember the People of Ukraine and Sudan too!**



# Summer Bible Study Women in the Bible

Thursdays at 10 a.m

## About This Study...

Reading about the women in the Bible reveals a great deal more than simply the stories of a few individuals. Through the women's trials and triumphs, the text offers various (sometimes contradictory) pictures of gender, family life, and relationships. Our modern understanding of gender may not translate directly onto the functions of gender in the Bible.

What are our pre-conceptions about gender in the time of the Hebrew Bible and in the Greco-Roman world? We may imagine that ancient women were universally oppressed or powerless, relegated to their roles as wives and mothers. This unit challenges these pre-conceived ideas as it seeks to understand the many roles women hold in biblical stories. We will read the stories with special attention to the power dynamics, including those surrounding gender, enslavement, and empire.

It is important to remember that these women's stories do not necessarily reveal what was normal or even ideal about gender in the ancient Near East or the Greco-Roman world. Instead, they show us glimpses of those worlds from which the authors of the texts made meaning.

"Women in the Bible" sheds new light on familiar characters like Mary Magdalene in the New Testament and Sarah, Abraham's wife in the Hebrew Bible. It also studies characters who are less well known to many Bible readers, such as the city of Babylon, styled as a whore in the Book of Revelation. Through the stories of these women, discover how gender can inform your reading as you explore how these stories relate to your own faith journey.



A packed house for this year's Bright Beginning's Graduation Ceremony.

We also say farewell to Sara McLaughlin, one of our Assistant Director's of Saint Mark's Bright Beginnings Preschool as she prepares to move to Texas.





A beach scene with a starfish and a woven basket on the sand. The background shows the ocean waves under a blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Summer Worship Schedule

At Saint Mark's

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

"Mass on the Grass"  
Starting June 3<sup>rd</sup>

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Starting June 4<sup>th</sup>

Refreshments and fellowship  
follow each service.



## BULLETIN INSERTS

### Explore the Way of Love: WORSHIP

Throughout the Scriptures, the people of God are called to worship.

As the Psalmist writes, “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.” Just as God wants to enter into our lives and meet us where we are, so God desires for us to enter into God’s space together and be present there.

Worship is an important part of the Way of Love, the practice that followers of Jesus have traditionally followed. Worship brings us out of our own space to walk on sacred ground. Worship brings us out of our loneliness into communion with fellow worshippers, as we become one Body of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Worship reminds us who we are, in light of the God who creates, saves, and sustains us.

In worship, we can bring all of our selves before God, as a kind of offering. We can bring our hopes, our dreams, our joys and sorrows, our thanks and our praise. We can boldly proclaim ourselves to be who we are, and give public voice to what we believe, without reservation.

By coming to the table together, we have the opportunity to break bread together, and in doing so, share a common experience to which all are welcome.

Gathering together challenges us to leave our loneliness behind, and risk relationship with God and with those on our journey who also gather to seek God’s presence. As we join in worship together, we are experiencing the presence and glory and beauty of showing up boldly before God and sharing in the communal life of the multitude of followers of Jesus who have gathered here before us.

And we are one body.

Are you ready to make a commitment to regularly gather to worship?

Learn more about the Way of Love at [episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove](http://episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove). You can find suggestions on getting started and going deeper with Worshiping at [iam.ec/evol](http://iam.ec/evol).



**THE WAY OF LOVE**  
*Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

# PENTECOST 3

## Proper 6 - Year A

*This Bible study was written by Daniel Woods of St. Andrew's Theological Seminary in the Philippines in 2017.*

### Genesis 18:1-15

**18** The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup> Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10</sup> Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?" <sup>13</sup> The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup> Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "Yes, you did laugh."

#### Commentary from Daniel Woods

In the Book of Genesis, chapter 18, verses 1-15, the ever-faithful Abraham, first of the Hebrew patriarchs, unexpectedly plays host to God and two angelic companions at an oak grove near his home

in the Hebron neighborhood, a township nestled in the Judean Mountains of Palestine. While these three visitors do not appear as anyone special, Abraham immediately recognizes his divine guests and offers them the best hospitality he possibly can. While Abraham and his wife Sarah are already very old, God informs Abraham that he will pay them another visit at an appointed time and on his return, will enable his wife to become pregnant and produce a son. Overhearing the conversation from their tent and recognizing her advanced age, Sarah is doubtful of this prospect and laughs. When she realizes that God has overheard her laughing, she is afraid to admit her lack of faith and unsuccessfully tries to deny that she had laughed.

In our contemporary world surrounded by scientific and technological advances, how often do we use these advances to justify our lack of faith in the ability of God to intervene in our lives, rationalizing that the people of biblical times were somehow different than ourselves? The reaction of Sarah in this story shows us that just as in our contemporary era, these biblical characters were no different: they also doubted the unimaginable. Sarah is already advanced in age and she knows it is biologically impossible for her to have a child at her age. Nonetheless, her ever-faithful husband Abraham responds without doubt, only faith. He had even recognized the divine origin of his anonymous visitors without question, unlike Sarah who had not realized until sometime later.

#### Discussion Questions

Do we allow our doubt to blind us to the divine presence in the world? What can we do to awaken ourselves and be more aware of this presence?

Are we afraid to acknowledge our doubt to God or to others? What can we do in our church communities to make it safe to acknowledge our doubt and thereby enable ourselves and our church communities to grow in faith?

## Psalm 116:1, 10-17

- 1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of  
my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me  
whenever I called upon him.
- 10 How shall I repay the Lord \*  
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*  
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord \*  
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your  
handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*  
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the Lord'S house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah!

## Discussion Questions

Have you ever experienced this kind of overwhelming thankfulness to God after overcoming hardship or suffering? How did you express your thankfulness?

What are some other ways we can express our thankfulness to God?

### Commentary from Daniel Woods

In Psalm 116, the psalmist expresses his relief and overwhelming feeling of thankfulness to God after recovering from illness. His faith has been strengthened and he expresses his thankfulness by committing himself to openly living out his faith, thus glorifying God.

In our contemporary age with many medical advances in technology and medicine, it is easy to overlook God's part in our successful recovery. Just as the psalmist, we must faithfully remember God's presence in our lives and the healing he offers us when we are suffering illness or other difficult circumstances. Let us always be thankful for God's healing presence and always offer the best of ourselves to him as an expression of our thankfulness.

## Romans 5:1-8

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

### Discussion Questions

Have you ever felt suffering for your faith? Do you feel this suffering has strengthened your faith and did you feel God was present with you in your suffering?

#### Commentary from Daniel Woods

In Paul's letter to the church in Rome, he sends a message of encouragement to the Christians there that they have been made right with God and are at peace with him simply through their faith in Christ. Suffering persecution was part of life for the early Christians and so Paul encourages them to see their suffering as helping to strengthen their faith and remember that God's presence is always with them. Perhaps Paul draws on his own experience of suffering for his faith. He continues by attempting to ease any doubt in their minds about God's love for them by reminding them that Jesus had sacrificed himself out of love for them even before they were right with God and undeserving—so how much more is his love for them now that they have faith in him?

Often, we feel we must do something to be worthy of God's love for us, but Paul assures us that our faith is enough. Jesus was willing to sacrifice his life for us even before we had faith in him, so just as Paul assures the Christians in Rome thousands of years ago of Jesus' love for them because of their faith in him, so too can we feel assured. Faith always comes first, and any good works that we do are an expression of that faith. They are not requirements to be loved by God.

Are you convinced of God's love for you? How can you convince others of this love?

## Matthew 9:35-10:8

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

**10** Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup> Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

### Commentary from Daniel Woods

In this selection from the Gospel According to Matthew, Jesus is fulfilling his mission of teaching, preaching, and healing throughout the entire Galilean region of Israel. Motivated by compassion for the people whom he had realized were in great need of healing and leadership, and also realizing the task was too great for himself alone to fulfill, he gathers together twelve of his followers, representing the twelve tribes of Israel, to assist him in his task. He delegates his authority to them. These disciples were a diverse group from all walks of life and Jesus would often complain about the lack of faith shown by the apostles he had chosen, but nonetheless, they were faithful enough to accept the task Jesus had given

them, even to the point of leaving their former lives behind and experiencing suffering. Jesus, in asserting his messiahship over his own people, while also knowing they were in great need of healing and spiritual guidance themselves, made the priority of his new apostles to go first to the Jewish people. They would provide healing to them and announce the coming of the Kingdom of God, for which John the Baptist had long been preparing them. However, while they were to accept whatever the people gave them to provide for their basic needs, they were not to request payment in the same way that Jesus himself had not requested payment from them. God's unmerited, merciful love and healing were already payment in full.

How often do our church communities expect leaders to fulfill the mission of the church while being unwilling to actively assist in this great task? Do we see simply attending church on Sundays and perhaps participating in a Bible study session as enough of a burden in our busy lives? If we do offer to assist, do we expect something in return, even payment, before we are willing to do it? As Jesus himself realized, while there is much to do and people are in great need of healing and spiritual guidance, there is an even greater need for all of us to actively assist in this work. Let us be generous with our time and talent, even if we believe our faith is insufficient for the task, and simply offer ourselves in faithfulness and allow God to work through us.

### Discussion Questions

In what ways does your church community fulfill its mission in the world? Do the church members actively assist in this mission?

In what ways can you use your time and talent to assist in the mission of your church?



# Vocations Day

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, 2023

Location:

Mercer School of Theology  
65 Fourth Street, Garden City, NY 11530

**FOR PERSONS IN GRADES 8-12  
WHO WISH TO EXPLORE LAY AND ORDAINED MINISTRIES IN THE EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

**8:45 AM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS  
10:00AM DISCERNING MINISTRY  
11:30 A.M. THE DAILY OFFICE PRESENTATION  
11:45 AM NOON DAY PRAYER  
12:30 PM LUNCH  
1:00 PM DIOCESAN (FAMILY) FEUD  
2:00 PM CLOSING PRAYER**

**RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 30TH TO  
LMOORE@DIOCESELI.ORG**

“Love one another” (John 13:34)  
“Love one another” (John 13:35)  
“Love one another” (John 15:12)  
“Love one another” (John 15:17)  
“Love one another” (Rom 12:10)  
“Love one another” (1 Thess 3:12)  
“Love one another” (1 Peter 1:22)  
“Love one another” (1 John 3:11)  
“Love one another” (1 John 3:23)  
“Love one another” (1 John 4:7)  
“Love one another” (1 John 4:11)  
“Love one another” (1 John 4:12)  
“Love one another” (2 John 5)



## Rites of Passage

### June Birthdays

- 8 Yolande Hadlock
- 11 Jennifer Kast
- 21 Emily Smith
- 21 Ryleigh Jayne Morton-Boone
- 26 Sibyl Piccone
- 27 Julienne Boone
- 29 Arthur Connoly

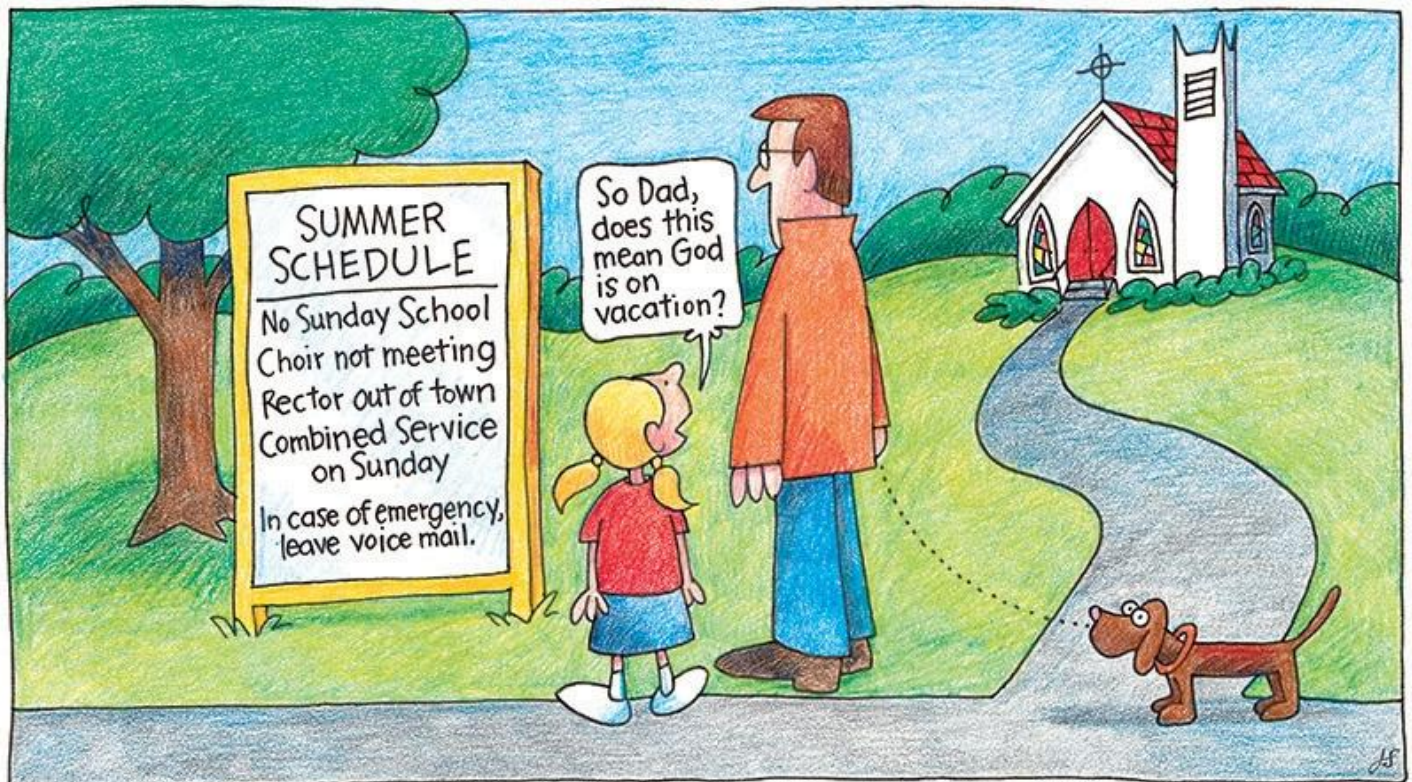
### June Anniversaries

- 2 Carol & Robert Laube
- 6 Suellen & Kebin Tunney
- 17 Allison & Dr. Eric Christensen

No matter how  
stressed you are,  
remember how  
**Blessed**  
you are.



## On the Lighter Side...



Parish Office  
40 Main Street  
P.O. Box 887, WHB, NY 11978  
Office Phone: 631.288.2111



Parish Office Hours  
T—F 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
[kate.gabrielsen@stmarkswhb.org](mailto:kate.gabrielsen@stmarkswhb.org)  
Kate Gabrielsen, Parish Administrator