

# ST. PETER'S CHURCH

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The Rev. Fr. Samuel Ndungu, Rector + The Rev. Joseph Dietz, Deacon + Derek Maninfor, Music Director

## Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost + September 13, 2020

**Mission Statement:** *We are an inclusive, forward-looking Episcopal parish that seeks to grow in Christ through worship, education and fellowship, serves Christ by ministering to local and global communities and shares Christ in following His command to "Love one another as I have loved you."* **Vision Statement:** *Our vision at St. Peter's is to be an inclusive, vibrant Christian community honoring our Episcopal heritage by achieving excellence in worship, mission, education and fellowship.*

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come!

Revelation 4:8

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***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.***

Officiant      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.***

God of love we place in your loving arms the thousands of innocent lives that were lost on that unforgettable morning of September 11, 2001. We also remember the courage of the countless men and women who put their lives at risk in order to rescue, alleviate and bring solace to the afflicted. Help us to continue to work for a world free from every form of hatred, violence and ignorance. May terrorism -- in all its forms -- disappear from the face of the earth. ***Amen.***

Officiant      Lord open our lips.  
***People      And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

The Lessons

Psalm 14

- 1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, \*  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary \*  
and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; \*  
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, \*  
and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? \*  
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? \*  
you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, \*  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water \*  
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart." The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon **Fr. Sam**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.***

Collect of the Day O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together

in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Thank you, God, for new opportunities to learn and grow whether it be in an actual classroom, a virtual classroom, or from our homes.

Be with our teachers, leaders, caregivers, parents and administrators as they guide our young people into the new school year. Give them the tools and energy to create engaging ways for all of them to learn and grow.

Help the students to open their hearts and minds to new ideas, new friends and leaders, and new ways of learning. Show them how to seek joy in all things.

When things don't go as planned, help them rejoice in the newness. When they have technical difficulties, help them rejoice in simple things like books and crayons. When they feel lonely or isolated, remind them that you are by their side. When their teachers and caregivers seem worried and wary, help them to be gentle with themselves.

As they begin to explore the unknown of this school year, let them rejoice with new friends, in new ways of learning, in knowing that you are with them through it all.

God of joy and light, pour out your blessing upon these students, families, teachers, and leaders. Bless their backpacks, Chromebooks and computers, virtual classrooms, school buildings, and all preparations that help build a strong and safe year for everyone.

May each of you be a blessing and light in your new year! Go and light up the world! **Amen.**

Benediction

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

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**Please Continue to Support St. Peter's Church:** During the current emergency situation it is as important as ever for parishioners to maintain their pledge contributions, if that is feasible. We all know that jobs and incomes may be impacted by this situation, so the request is to sustain giving if you can. In order to make that as easy as possible, St. Peter's has an online system called Realm to enable direct giving to suit your needs, either one-time payments or ongoing scheduled payments. If you would like to register to use the Realm system please send an email to Vestry accounting warden Frank Rothenberger at [franklin.rothenberger@gmail.com](mailto:franklin.rothenberger@gmail.com). Pledges may also continue to be mailed to the church office.