



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 6, 2022

10 am

ST. DUNSTAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St Dunstan's! We are glad you are here!

If you are new, or would like to update your information, please fill out a pew card.

Please silence your phones and wear your mask while indoors.

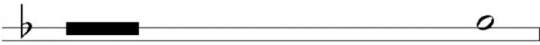
THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*The congregation is invited to observe silence during the prelude,
out of respect for those who are listening, and as an opportunity for prayer, meditation, and healing.*

Prelude Choral dorian

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

The people stand.

Priest 

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

People 

Have mer - cy on us.

Priest Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,

People Have mercy on us.

Priest Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

People Have mercy on us.

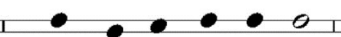
Priest Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

People Have mercy on us.

Priest From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy,



hatred and malice; and from all ev - il in - tent,

People 

Sav - ior de - liv - er us.

Priest From sloth, worldliness and love of money;

from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws,

People Savior deliver us.

Priest From sins of body and mind; from deceits of the world, flesh and the devil,

People Savior deliver us.

Priest From famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying unprepared,

People Savior deliver us.

Priest In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;
in the hour of our death and at the day of judgement,

People Savior deliver us.

Priest By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,

People Savior deliver us.

Priest By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power;
by the preaching of your reign,

People Savior deliver us.

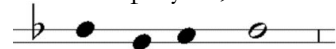
Priest By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;
by your precious death and burial,

People Savior deliver us.

Priest By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

People Savior deliver us.

Priest Hear our prayers, O Christ our God.

People 

Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth;
and grant it that unity which is your will.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world,
and to make disciples of all the nations.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Enlighten your bishops, priests, and deacons with knowledge and understanding,
that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Give your people grace to witness to your word
and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted;
raise up the fallen; and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Give your wisdom and strength to the President of the United States,
and the Governor of this state, that in all things they may do your will,
for your glory and the common good.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Give the Congress of the United States, the members of the President's Cabinet,
those who serve in our state legislature, and all others in authority the grace to
walk always in the ways of truth.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Bless the justices of the Supreme Court and all those who administer the law,
that they may act with integrity and do justice for all your people.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory
and for the good of all.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Bless and keep all your people.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved, and the oppressed.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Keep in safety those who travel and all who are in peril.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Heal the sick in body, mind, or spirit, and provide for the homeless, the hungry,
and the destitute.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Guard and protect all children who are in danger.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Shower your compassion on prisoners, hostages, and refugees,
and all who are in trouble.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

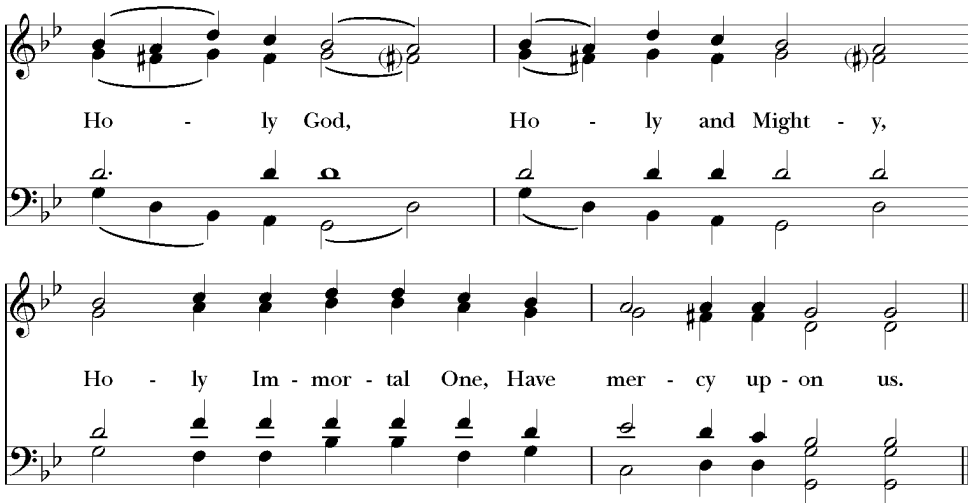
People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Hear us as we remember those who have died,
and grant us with them a share in your eternal glory.

People Hear us, O Christ.

Priest Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and
our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives
according to your word.

People



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day *The people stand or kneel.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

God of the wilderness, your Spirit leads us to face the truth, unprotected and exposed: in our times of trial, help us to resist the worship of empty power and the illusion of invulnerability that we might find our true food in Jesus Christ, the Broken Bread. **Amen.**

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

The Lord's mighty salvation of Israel from slavery in Egypt is recalled, and the people are bid to offer in thanksgiving the first fruits of their fields. The passage presents one of Judaism's oldest summaries of its history and confessions of its faith. It is always to be remembered that it was God who made them a people, who heard and delivered them from their distress and gave them this good land for a heritage.

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16 *Qui habitat*

St. Martin's Psalter

A hymn of trust in the Lord. The Lord will guard and deliver the one who loves and seeks refuge with God.

Cantor then the people sing the antiphon



- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the [Most] High,*
abides under the shadow [of the] Almighty.
- 2 He shall say to the LORD, ... “You are my refuge [and] my stronghold,*
my God in whom I [put] my trust.”
- 9 Because you have made the [LORD] your refuge,*
and the Most High your [hab]-itation,
- 10 there shall no evil [happen] to you,*
neither shall any plague come [near] your dwelling.

The people sing the antiphon

- 11 For he shall give his [an]-gels charge over you,*
to keep you in [all] your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you [in] their hands,*
lest you dash your foot a-[gainst] a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion [and] the adder;*
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent [under] your feet.
- 14 Because he is bound to me in love, ... therefore will [I] deliver him;*
I will protect him because he [knows] my name.

The people sing the antiphon

- 15 He shall call upon me and [I] will answer him;*
I am with him in trouble; ... I will rescue him and [bring him] to honor.
- 16 With long life [will] I satisfy him,*
and show him [my] salvation.

The people sing the antiphon

Romans 10:8b–13

Paul teaches that the word of faith is a gift to us; by it we make our saving confession that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead. Without God's grace the way of righteousness would be impossibly distant. But the faith that leads to righteousness is in our hearts and the confession of salvation is on our lips. This is true for all people, no matter what their background, who call upon the name of the Lord.

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn 529 In Christ There is No East or West

McKee

Luke 4:1–13

The story of the temptations of Jesus by the devil. After his baptism Jesus is led into the wilderness and confronted with the temptations which are inescapable in his ministry. He might seek to show that he is the Son of God by satisfying material needs, or he could control lives by ruling with worldly pomp and authority. Or, in what may be seen as the greatest temptation, he could direct allegiance through miraculous power. Instead Jesus three times confesses his obedience to the will of God.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Laurel Coote

After the sermon a brief silence is kept.

The Nicene Creed *All Stand.*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People from Brian McLaren's, *We Make the Way by Walking*

Standing or kneeling.

Leader Let us give thanks to the living God for all the gifts that we enjoy, saying, "We thank you, living God."

Leader For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea:

People We thank you, living God.

Leader For the communities of St. Dunstan's and of St. Andre's in Haiti, and for all people whose lives reveal the image of Christ:

People We thank you, living God.

Leader For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends:

People We thank you, living God.

Leader For minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve:

People We thank you, living God.

Leader For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play:

People We thank you, living God.

Leader For challenges which call forth new strength, for failures which teach greater humility, and for encouragement to persevere when life is hard:

People We thank you, living God.

Leader We pray for those in special need today including [...]; let us pray to the Lord.

People We thank you, living God.

Leader We pray for those who have died, including [...]; let us pray to the Lord.

People We thank you, living God.

Leader For all who have gone before us, for all who walk beside us, and for all children, who are precious to us and to you:

People We thank you, living God.

Leader And for the great wisdom and hope that you reveal to us through Jesus, our leader, example, teacher, liberator, and friend:

People We thank you, living God.

The Peace *All stand.*

Assistant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people exchange the peace with one another.

Announcements *All are seated.*

The Offertory

Priest **W**alk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
 an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem Into the Woods My Master Went *Richard Shephard (1949-2021)*

Into the woods my Master went,
Clean forspent, forspent,
Into the woods my Master came,
Forspent with love and shame.
But the olives they were not blind to Him.
The little grey leaves were kind to Him,
The thorn tree had a mind to Him,
When into the woods He came.

Out of the woods my Master came
And he was well content;
Out of the woods my Master came,
Content with death and shame.
When death and shame would woo Him last,
From under the trees they drew Him last,
'Twas on a tree they slew Him—last
When out of the woods He came.

Offertory Hymn 150 Forty Days and Forty Nights

Aus der Tiefe rufe ich

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer IIb; Episcopal Church of Scotland

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Priest You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus S127 Holy, holy, holy Lord

Calvin Hampton (1938–1984)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

Priest **B**lessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.
You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and
show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would
not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation,
abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah
you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us
in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in
Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory.

Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when
he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take,
eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."
As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new
Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Priest Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your
creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the
Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these
gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with
Dunstan, Andre, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may
praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
 People **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem S169

Ray W. Urwin (b. 1950)

Cantor or Choir

My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -

deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my

1 All *2 Cantor or Choir*

flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. My

All

flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

Priest The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE THE HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set is the Lord's. Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey, you are welcome to receive the Bread made holy.

When directed by the usher, come forward to the communion station.

Please keep your mask on with your hands extended to receive the Host.

The bread is received in the open palm.

Once you have moved away from the Minister,
you may remove one side of your mask, consume the Host, and replace your mask.

Those who prefer to receive a blessing may indicate this by
crossing their arms over their chest.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer.

Communion Hymn 147 Now Let Us All With One Accord

Bourbon

The Post-Communion Prayer

Priest Let us pray.

People 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.

The Blessing

Priest Bow down before the Lord.

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn 143 The Glory of These Forty Days

Erhalt uns, Herr

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Litanies

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

“When, in its distress, the Christian soul can find no more words to invoke God’s mercy, it repeats endlessly the same invocation with a vehement faith. Reason has reached its limit; only faith can take one further.” —Jehan Alain

*The people are invited to listen and observe silence during the postlude.
All are welcome to enjoy fellowship with one another outside the church during coffee hour.*

*The altar greens are given to the Glory of God
& in appreciation of Rodney Gebrke & the choir by Grace Merrill
And in celebration of Charles Andrews & Tina Nelms by Steve Andrews*



*St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church celebrates God’s diverse creation
and strives to build an inclusive community that welcomes everyone, no matter age, gender, sexual identity,
culture, ethnicity, economic status, or ability.*



***It is Lent, and that means it is time once again for . . .
Lent Madness!***

Produced by the Forward Press, Lent Madness is a light-hearted way to learn about Saints large and small, old and new, during Lent and have fun doing it. The Saints are arranged in a bracket, and each day you read about two and vote on line for your favorite to win The Golden Halo. lentmadness.org. Or, you can pick up one of the booklets on the table in Brock Hall and just read about the two Saints every day...a great Lenten discipline. Learn about the Saints of God this Lent!

***Help us get to know you by
Filling out a Pew Card***

If you are visiting us, are new to Saint Dunstan's, or if your contact information has changed, please fill out a Pew Card and drop it in the collection plate. Thanks!

***Sign up today to receive
St. Dunstan's weekly eNews***

Getting weekly news, links to sermons, updates, and schedules is as simple as visiting stdcv.org/subscribe and entering your email address.

Weekly Bulletins available electronically

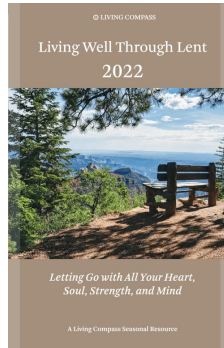
Whether you want to save the environment by using less paper, like the idea of reading on your device, want to see what's coming up or what is past, our weekly worship bulletins are available as a PDF online at stdcv.org/bulletins





Discussion Group Sundays, 9 am

For the next five weeks we will be reading "Living Well Through Lent". There are daily readings, and you are invited to join the conversation in-person or via zoom.



We are now meeting in the Guild Room with masks.

Or you can join us via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9109922704>
Meeting ID: 910 992 2704

More info? Speak with Janel Hornbeck.

Deadline for eNews, Bulletin

Items for our eNews and Sunday Bulletin should be submitted to office@stdcv.org by midnight Sunday.

Pastoral Care & Prayer Requests

For pastoral concerns, contact Rev. Laurel revlaurel@stdcv.org or on her cell 310-562-5746. And you can always leave a message on the Pastoral Care line at church [831-624-6646](tel:831-624-6646) ext 110.

Our Daughters of the King chapter welcomes your prayer requests. Prayer requests may be sent to dok@stdcv.org. The Daughters pray for members of our parish as well as many others daily.

Dedicate Altar Flowers

This is a lovely and meaningful way to give Glory to God in celebration of a birthday, or in thanksgiving, or in memory of a loved one. The cost of the flowers is \$20, but some give more. Checks should be made out to St. Dunstan's with "Altar Flowers" in the memo.

Sign up on the Welcome Table

St. Dunstan's Staff

The Rev. Laurel Coote, Rector
revlaurel@stdcv.org

Rodney Gehrke, Director of Music
music@stdcv.org

Elizabeth Buche, Director Family Ministries
families@stdcv.org

Louis Powell, Parish Administrator
office@stdcv.org

THIS WEEK AT ST DUNSTAN'S

PARISH OFFICE OPEN TUESDAY—THURSDAY, 9 AM—12 NOON

Sunday, March 6

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
9:00 am Discussion Group
Bagging Beans
10:00 am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)
11:00 am Coffee Hour
Bagging Beans

Monday, March 7

- 5:30 pm Zoom Compline

Tuesday, March 8

- 3:00 pm Staff Meeting
4:00 pm St. Dunstan's Foundation Mtg
7:30 pm AA

Wednesday, March 9

- 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
12:00 pm Holy Eucharist with ashes
6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper & Program

Thursday, March 10

Friday, March 11

- 4:00 pm I-Help Men

Saturday, March 12

- 8:30 am Outside group (Guild Room)
9:00 am Choir Rehearsal (Church)

~ Daylight Savings Time Begins ~

Sunday, March 13

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
9:00 am Discussion Group
10:00 am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)
11:00 am Coffee Hour
-

View the entire parish calendar stdcv.org/calendar

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Rob Feller | 8 Graham Simpson | 16 Mike Hendrickson |
| 1 Chase Melich | 9 Jeff Jones | 22 Sally Dietrich |
| 1 Claire Stephens | 10 Abigail Davis | 28 Tracy Jones |
| 1 Harper Stephens | 10 Hannah Davis | 28 Liz Rondelle |
| 2 Flo von Platen | 10 James Miller | 30 Art Pasquinelli |
| 6 Alma Rose Lewis | 12 Lisa Olsheskie | 30 Niki Tugwell |
| 7 Ari Roohbakhsh | 16 Kurt Buche | |



WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

WHAT WE ARE FOR

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children, youth and families. We believe that God is love, and we pray that God will use us to spread that love.

WHAT WE ARE AGAINST

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)

WHAT WE VALUE

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

WELCOME!

Originally written by the people of St. Bartholomen's, New York, this statement has been modified for our use with their permission.

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