



## The Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2026 • 5 pm & March 1, 2026 • 10 am

### **WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!**

Our mission is to be a Christian community of all ages  
grounded in worship, well-being and service.

We hope you will experience God's own welcome here and return again and again. Find us online at [www.smcportsmouth.org](http://www.smcportsmouth.org) and on Facebook.

## NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP AT ST. MARY'S

- If you are our guest today, please complete a welcome card and put it in the offering plate or give it to the greeter. This will give us a chance to learn your name welcome you more personally.
- It is our pleasure to welcome children and their parents at all services. We understand that children's energy and voices are gifts they may share during worship. That is how God made them and we are grateful they are worshipping with us. Feel free to step out and step back in as needed. Sitting as close to the front as possible helps them to see.
- If you have need, restrooms are accessible on both levels of the parish house.
- Text written in **bold** in this bulletin is to be spoken by all. When printed, the ✠ indicates an appropriate time to make the sign of the cross.
- All Christians are invited to the Holy Table to receive communion. If it is difficult for you to walk, please notify a greeter, and we will bring communion to you. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing. If you are interested in Holy Baptism, please speak with our rector, Jennifer. We welcome the opportunity to prepare people of all ages for baptism.
- Music Notes:  
Our music books for worship include Wonder Love and Praise, WLP & The Hymnal 1982. Both can be found in the pew. Additional music can be found in the bulletin.

To find out what's happening at St. Mary's this week and in the coming weeks, visit our on line calendar by scanning the QR code below!



# The Holy Eucharist

## Welcome and Announcements

### Processional Hymn

How firm a foundation

Hymnal 1982, 637

### Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

*People* His mercy endures forever.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

### Confession and Absolution

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All may bow or kneel as you are able. Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

## Kyrie Eleison

C. Stephan

Cantor; All repeat

Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. Chri - ste, e -  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

lé - i - son. Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Music © 2009, Curtis Stephan. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

*The People may be seated.*

## First Reading Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those

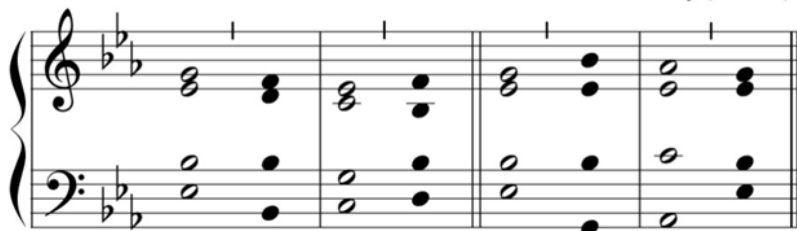
who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 121

Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



© 1979. Robert Knox Kennedy

1 I lift up my eyes to the **hills**; \*  
from where is my help to **come**?\*

2 My help comes from the **Lord**, \*  
the maker of heaven and **earth**.\*

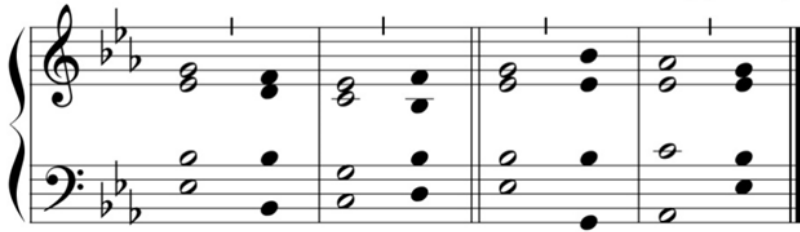
3 He will not let your foot be **moved** \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall **asleep**.\*

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over **Israel** \*  
shall neither slumber nor **sleep**.\*

5 The Lord himself watches over **you**; \*  
the Lord is your shade at your right **hand**,\*

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by **day**, \*  
nor the moon by **night**.\*

Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



© 1979. Robert Knox Kennedy

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all **evil**; \*  
it is he who shall keep you **safe**.\*

8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming **in**, \*  
from this time forth for **evermore**.\*

### **Second Reading** Romans 4:1-5,13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*All may stand for the Lenten Gospel Acclamation and Holy Gospel.*

## Lenten Acclamation

C. Stephan

Glo-ry to you, O Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ!  
Glo-ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God!

Glo-ry to you, O Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ!  
Glo-ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God!

Note: Verses available in accompaniment books. Text © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission.  
Music © 2009, Curtis Stephan. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

## Holy Gospel Matthew John 3:1-17

*Gospeller* ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you

do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. John Gregory Prior

*All may stand for the Creed.*

## The Nicene Creed

**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 worshiped 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.**

## Prayers of the People

*The people may offer prayers aloud during the silence following each petition.*

The leader will say, “Lord, in your mercy,”

*Our response will be*

**Hear our prayer.**

## Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Greet one another with a sign of God’s peace.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

### Offertory

*If you would like to make an offering there is a plate at the rear of the church, or if electronically please use this code.*



*The People may stand as the gifts are brought forward.*

# Offertory Hymn

Hosea

G. Norbet

## Verses



1. Come back to me with all your heart.  
    & Trees do bend, 'though straight and tall;
2. The wil - der - ness will lead you  
    In - teg - ri - ty and jus - tice,
3. & You shall sleep se - cure with peace;



Don't let fear keep us a - part.  
 so must we to oth - ers' call. *(To refrain)*  
 to your heart where I will speak.  
 With ten - der - ness, & you shall know. *(To refrain)*  
 faith - ful - ness will be your joy. *(To refrain)*

## Refrain



Long have I wait-ed for your com - ing home to me and



liv - ing deep - ly our new life.

Text: Based on Hosea 6:1, 3:3, 2:16,21; Joel 2:12; Gregory Norbet, b.1940  
 Tune: Gregory Norbet, b.1940; arr. by Mary David Callahan, b.1923  
 © 1972, 1980, The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc.

## Eucharistic Prayer A

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy Lord

C. Stephan

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en 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. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Text © 2010, ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission.  
Music © 2009, Curtis Stephan. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

*The celebrant continues...*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will,  
a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**



# Communion Hymn

# We Belong to You

T. Thomson

**Refrain**



We be - long to you, O Lord of our long - ing, We be - long to  
 you. In our dai - ly liv - ing, dy - ing and ris - ing We be - long to

**to Verses** Last time



you. We be - long to you. We be - long to you.

**Verses**



1. In the wa - ters of your mer - cy,	When the
2. Filled with gifts and filled with good - ness,	When the
3. When we share the bread you've bro - ken	With the
4. We are called to share your word, Lord,	In all we

1. old be - comes the new,	Souls u - nit - ed in the
2. breath - ing life in - to	All who seek to find their
3. man - y and the few,	We are blessed and we are
4. say and all we do.	As our jour - ney moves us

**to Refrain**



1. mys - t'ry:	}	We be - long to you.
2. pur - pose:		
3. bro - ken;		
4. on - ward,		

Text © 2006, Victoria Thomson. Music © 2006, Trevor Thomson.  
 Text and music published by Spirit & Song, a division of OCP. All rights reserved.

## Post Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

**Blessing**

**Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Recessional Hymn**

Lift high the cross

Hymnal 1982, 473

## Liturgical Ministers

**Altar Guild:** 5 pm & 10 am Jennie Nestlerode, Carol Brierley

**Musician:** 10 am Michael DiMucci

**Greeters:** 5 pm Jenny Williams, Murry Edwards  
10 am Rita Verespy, Lee Ferreira

**Lector and Intercessor:** 5 pm Anne Wood  
10 am David Brierley

**Crucifer/Server:** 5 pm David Ferkinhoff  
10 am Lauren Lema

**Acolytes:** Jude Somarriba, Lilly Fischer, Fiona Somarriba

**Audio Visual:** 10 am Jason DeFalco

**Lay Eucharistic Visitor:** Lori Rinkel

*Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-722357. All rights reserved.  
Permission to podcast/stream the music is this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,  
License #A-722357. All rights reserved*

### **St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

324 East Main Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871

(401) 846-9700 ♦ [www.smcportsmouth.org](http://www.smcportsmouth.org)

The Reverend Jennifer L. Pedrick, *Rector*

The Reverend Dr. John Gregory Prior, *Associate Rector*

Michael DiMucci, *Pastoral Musician*

Karen Laroche, *Pastoral Associate of Administration*

Jon Walker, *Property Manager*