# Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14, 2021

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To know and love God as He is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, to bring others to His saving love, and to serve the world in His name.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

(Established 1836) Flat Rock, North Carolina

## Welcome and Reminders

It is a gift to be together for Lent and to be able to worship in our church with you. We welcome you warmly at this solemn time of year and invite you to share in our songs, prayers, and eucharistic feast. All are invited to come forward to receive Communion or a special blessing at that time. If you are already baptized, you may receive the Sacrament of Christ's body, including infants and children. If you have not been baptized, then we still invite you to come forward for a moment of prayer and blessing, and we would be glad to speak with you about being baptized.

If you do not have a church family at this time, then we invite you to join in this fellowship of faith as we share life together as the Body of Christ. While we are broken and incomplete in many ways, we find God making us whole through this parish community. Talk to an usher or member of the clergy about joining St. John in the Wilderness, or fill out a card in your pew. It is wonderful to be with you today!

# **COVID-19 Safety Reminders**

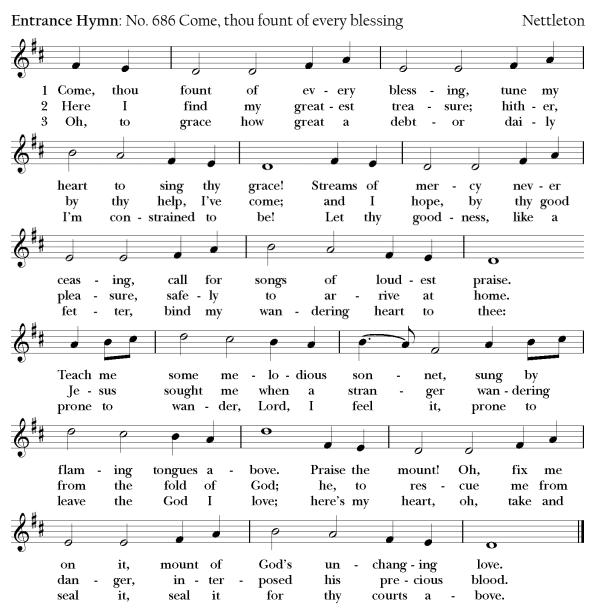
Because of COVID-19 public health concerns, we have a few safety reminders for you.

- If you find out that you have COVID-19 and that you might have brought it to this service, please call our rector, Fr. Josh Stephens, at 828-808-5044 so we can let others know to take caution.
- Please wear your mask during the service. Make sure your nose is covered also. You may lift up your mask at the altar rail to consume Communion.
- You will find hand-sanitizer in the pews and with the ushers. Please use it before receiving Communion.
- We invite you to sing at this service, but please refrain from belting out hymns as we would prefer. Singing softly and with normal breathing is encouraged.

Prelude: Variations on "Nettleton"

Charles Callahan

### Welcome and Announcements



Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), alt. Music: Netlleton, melody from A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813; harm. Gerre Hancock (b. 1934) Copyright ©1971 by Walton Music Corporation. International Copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## Acclamation and Response

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People His mercy endureth for ever.

Hear what our Lord Jesus saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew* 22:37-40

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 is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8,9

Seeing that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16* 

### Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant then says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.* 

## Kyrie Eleison



### THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

## Collect of the Day

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

### First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \* and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim \* that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

3 He gathered them out of the lands; \*

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \*

they were afflicted because of their sins.

18 They abhorred all manner of food \* and drew near to death's door.

19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, \* and he delivered them from their distress.

20 He sent forth his word and healed them \* and saved them from the grave.

21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy \* and the wonders he does for his children.

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \* and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

The Gospel: John 3:14-21

Jesus said, "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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ. People

The Sermon Fr. Josh Stephens

### 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.

## The Prayers of the People

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, José; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially \_\_\_\_\_].

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present

I ask your prayers for Vanessa, Joanne, Pete, Cecilia, Anita, Lana, Elaine, Tom, Malcolm,

Eleanor, Carol, and John. Are there others?

I ask your thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [especially whom we remember today].

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

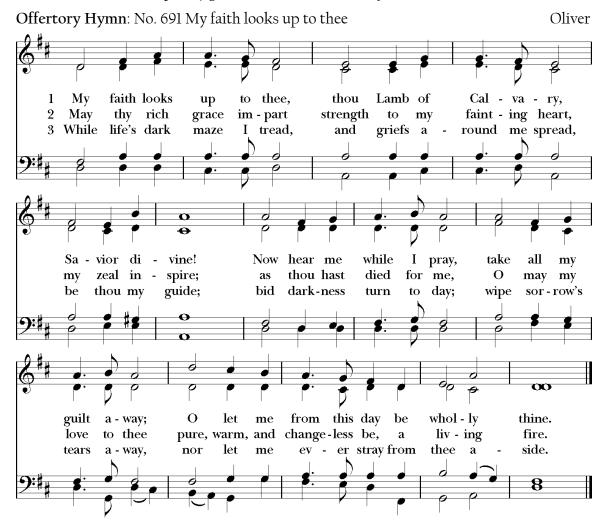
The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.



Words: Ray Palmer (1808-1887) Music: Olivet, Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

## Eucharistic Prayer I

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

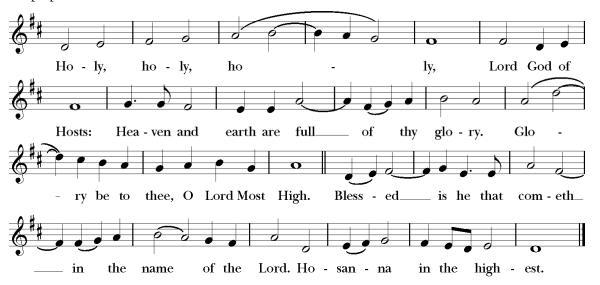
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

### Sanctus

The people kneel or stand.



Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The following or some other suitable anthem may be sung or said here

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer

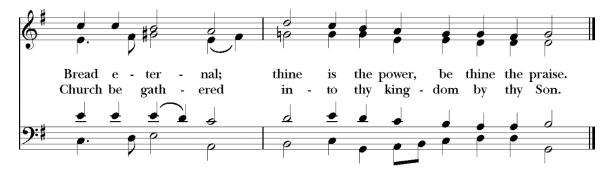
We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation

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.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.





Words: Greek, ca. 110; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: Rendez á Dieu, melody and harm. att. Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

In Lent, in place of a seasonal blessing, a solemn prayer over the people is used, as follows:

The Deacon or, in absence of a Deacon, the Celebrant says

Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel, and the Celebrant says the following prayer

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. Amen.





Words: Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt. Music: Cwm Rhondda, John Hughes (1873-1932)

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, may dismiss the people with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Postlude on "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Charles Callahan

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Prayers of the People is that part of our liturgy which offers particular intercessions and thanksgivings to God. Worshippers, wherever they are in the church, are encouraged to offer aloud or silently their own such prayers during the appropriate part of the Prayers of the People. As we pray, please remember those who are ill or with other needs: Vanessa Wittman, Joanne Adams, Pete Petersen, Cecilia, Anita Reid, Lana, Elaine Hull, Tom Joiner, Malcolm McCormick, Eleanor Flowers, Carol Black, and John Barker.

**Prayer List Reminder:** Just a reminder that the Sunday prayer list will be updated at the end of March. On Sunday, April 4, the list will be comprised of only the names that were submitted since March 1.

TO OUR VISITORS! We welcome you with all our hearts! You are also invited to come forward at the time of Communion to receive a blessing or the Sacrament. All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive Communion, including infants and children. If you are not baptized, please come forward and kneel at the altar while crossing your arms over our chest to receive a special blessing, and we invite you to talk to the priest at any time about entering discernment for being baptized. Won't you join with Christ and his Church on this journey of faith?

If you do not have a church home at this time, then we hope you will make St. John in the Wilderness your church family. We find that through sharing life together as the Body of Christ, we are made whole and renewed daily. Talk to an usher or member of the clergy about joining this parish, or you are welcome to fill out a card in your pew. We welcome you!

#### WE GIVE THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR MINISTRY TO OUR CHURCH

	March 14, 2021	March 21, 2021
Ushers (8:45)	Clint Adams	Bob Sundeen
, ,	Jim Spry	Jodi Sundeen
Ushers (10:00)	Clint Adams	Clint Adams
, ,	Jim Spry	John Knapp
Ushers (11:00)	Hilton Swing	John Hayes
	David Christenbury	Bettie Orr

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

PO Box 185, 1905 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock, NC 28731 828-693-9783

Website: www.stjohnflatrock.org Worship Services 8:45 ₺ 11:00am

Children's Sunday School: 10:00am (during school year only)/Adult Sunday School: 10:00am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service – Wednesdays 10:30am in the Parish Hall Office Hours-8:30am-3:30pm M-F In case of pastoral emergencies:

Father Josh Stephens 828-808-5044 Deacon Sandy Rex 847-507-7212

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Josh Stephens, Rector: rector@stjohnflatrock.org The Rev. Deacon Sandy Rex, Deacon: cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com Dewitt Tipton, Organist/Director of Music: dewitt.tipton@furman.edu Leslie Stott, Parish Office Administrator: officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org Stacy Knapp, Parish Financial Assistant: finance@stjohnflatrock.org Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

### **VESTRY MEMBERS**

Senior Warden: Jennifer Shelton Junior Warden: Jerry Tanner

> 2021 Jerry Tanner Cynthia Easterling Janet Johnson Shelley Schiro

> > 2022 Terry Enslen Marie Hyder Gibson Sims Dick Zecher

2023 John Barker Elizabeth Christenbury Jennifer Shelton Lynn Wiescholek

#### PARISH OFFICERS

Margaret Barker, Clerk of the Vestry Tom Griswold, Treasurer

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Robin Howe By Laws, Canons & Insurance: Jim Olson Christian Formation: Mary Anne Inglis

Communications & Publicity: Joey Popp

Finance: Jodi Sundeen

Historic Churchyard Committee: Ken Jones

New Member Ministry: Brenda Hillyer, Judy Petersen

Outreach:

Personnel: Margaret Barker Stewardship: David Christenbury

#### OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Acolytes: Lynn Savage

Altar Guild: Sandra Jeffery, Marti Smith

Chefs of St. John: Jim Vint

Churchyard Trustees: Pete Petersen

Docents: Albert Gooch

**Endowment Trustees:** Tom Griswold

Episcopal Church Women (ECW): Kathy Newbold

Eucharistic Visitors: Dick Zecher Flower Guild: Bay Chamberlain Flower Memorials: Gaston Motes

Funeral Reception Ministry: Brenda Hillyer

Garden Guild: Jerry & Jan Tanner

Gatekeepers: Dick Zecher Greeters: Betsy Tibbs

Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee: John Barker

Lay Readers: Susan MacDonald Meal Ministry: Kathy Newbold Needle Work Ministry: Judy Petersen

Newsletter Editor: Leslie Stott Ushers: Clint Adams, Bettie Orr

Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe