

Prelude: Prelude, Op. 28, no. 15 (“Raindrop”)

Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn “O For a Church with Open Doors” Tune: AZMON (“O for a thousand tongues to sing”)

O for a church with open doors/that’s been so long our dream,
Where faith and hope, and care for all/show the love of Christ supreme!

With prayer and trust, the time has come/to make our vision plain -
God grant us strength and energy/and we shall our goal attain.

Then all who come may enter in,/no barriers they’ll find,
Where young and old, the weak, the strong,/may all join with hearts and mind.

O God of love, O Christ of peace,/the Holy Spirit’s power:
Break down the walls,/unite us all making this a shining hour.

Throughout the coming years, O God,/keep your vision always clear,
That we may ever serve you well/and live your way with cheer.

The Collect

Celebrant God is with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray together the collect of the day: (NZPB)

**Universal and unchanging God, we are one, unalterably one, with all the human race.
Grant that we who share Christ’s blood may, through your unifying Spirit,
break down the walls that divide us. Hear this prayer for your love’s sake. Amen.**

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.”

I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:1-10



Cantor:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O/ soul!*

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all **my**/life long.

Lectern: Do not put your trust in/princes,* in mortals, in whom there **is**/no help.

Organ: When their breath departs, they return to the/earth;*
on that very day **their**/plans per-ish.

Lectern: Happy are those whose help is the God of/Ja-cob,* whose hope is in the **Lord**/their God,

Organ: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is/in them;* who keeps **faith**/for-ev-er;

Lectern: who executes justice for the o-/ppressed;*
who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the **pri**-soners free;

Organ: the Lord opens the eyes of the/blind.*

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord **loves**/the right-eous.

Lectern: The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the/wi-dow,*
but the way of the wicked God **brings**/to ru-in.

ALL: The Lord will reign for-/ev-er,* your God, O, for all generations. **Praise**/the Lord!*

Second Reading: Colossians 3:9-14

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God**

Cantor first, then congregation:

Gospel Acclamation



Praise and hon - or to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

Gospel: John 2:13-17 The Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ!**

It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers’ coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, “Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace!” Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: “Passion for God’s house will consume me.”

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, Lord Christ!**

Sermon or Reflection Time

The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt

Anthem: For Everyone Born

Brian Mann, arr. Tom Trenney

Maryann Tapiro, cello

Offertory Hymn #790: (Green WLP Hymnal) “Put peace into each other's hands”

Communion Hymn: #825 (Green WLP Hymnal) “Bless the Lord my soul

Final Hymn #599: (Blue 1982 Hymnal) “Lift every voice and sing”

Postlude: Chorale Prelude on An Wasserflüssen Babylon (By the Waters of the Babylon) Johann Pachelbel

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Saint John’s Church NEWS AND NOTES: March 26, 2023

Zoom Coffee Hour, aka “Reliable Joy” Sunday at 12:30 pm. Meeting ID: 873 3272 1412 Passcode: 01930 Dial by location: 1 646 558 8656.

We encourage you to wear a mask if you are singing . . . just until this bout of COVID passes.

The Bishops’ Annual Appeal goes to support mission and outreach in and through the diocese. Each member of the churches is invited to generously give and support these ministries. For a video and more information, go to www.diomass.org/bishops-appeal. Please consider making a donation by Palm Sunday (April 2).

A Call for Coffee Hour Teams! We’re looking for 4 teams of at least 3 people to rotate one Sunday a month to provide set-up, snacks, and clean up for coffee hour. Sign up in the parish hall or contact Marge or Dori!

Special Coffee Hour and Resource Table TODAY: Connie DeSimone and Claudette Chmura are providing coffee hour today as well as resources on race and anti-racism from the St. John’s Library.

Practice for Passion Reading Today at 11:15: Please come to the church sanctuary to practice at that time. Didn’t sign up? No worries—just show up!

Action Lunches: Today is the last day that Grace Center will be at St. John’s on Sundays. Action Lunches will start **next Saturday, April 1** and we need volunteers for that day. Stewarts will take April 8 (love to do those Easter cookies) and we invite you to sign up in the parish hall for upcoming dates. Contact Carolyn Stewart with any questions (carolynstewart314@gmail.com).

Easter Flowers: Envelopes for Easter Flowers are in the pews and in the church office. Please get to Marge by Monday, April 3.

Regal Rummage - March SALE! Check out Regal Rummage and our 50% Off Sale everything winter for the entire month of March! Help us get ready for our Spring/early Summer merchandise. Open Weds & Sat, 10-2

The Open Door Update: Please continue to bring in food for families in Gloucester. Items currently needed include: healthy cereal, flour, flavored rice packets, baby food and diapers, coffee and tea, and canned tuna.

Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday, April 2, liturgy and Passion Reading, 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6, hand washing, Eucharist, altar stripping, 7 pm

Good Friday, April 7: Stations of the Cross, 12N (St. John's)

Ecumenical Prayer Walk for the World, 1 pm, Fisherman's Memorial

Good Friday Liturgy, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lanesville, 7 pm

Holy Saturday, April 8, Easter Vigil, 7 pm, followed by dessert-apalooza

Easter Day, April 9. Festival Eucharist with choir and trumpet, 9:30 am



Fifth Sunday of Lent—March 26, 2023

Participating in the Liturgy

Celebrant & Preacher

Lector

LEM

Acolyte

Usher

Musicians

Altar Guild

Flower Guild

The People of God gathered in St. John's Church

The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt, Interim Priest

Kim Prentice

Geoff Pope

Karen Kasper

Dani Stotzer and Ian Bedford

The Congregation, the Choir, Joe Stoddard, Music Director,
MaryAnn Tapiro, cello

Karen Kasper and Melanie Murray-Brown

Rosemary Sullivan and Gwen Kopka

Sign up for future dates including flower and lamp, Action Sandwiches and coffee hour. Sign-ups are on the kiosk in the parish hall.

St. John's Intercession List: Peg Cremin, Michele Del Vecchio, Dolores Ormsbee, Méabh Ní Bhuiinneáin, Paul Mouratidis, Nicole Newhouse and Family, Marsha White, Rick Kopka, Claire Stahler, Jennifer Morris, Carole Secrest, Tyler March, Chris Klosterman, Sereda Feener, Alex, Lynn Runnells, Alex Furth, Simeon Teitelbaum, Miriam Teitelbaum, Debra Ketchopulos, Rita Peritore, Jim and Mary Drogan, the Baxter Family, Len Berry, Ellen, Ginga Graves and Patrick DeMuller, Wayne Martin, Hope and Lily Newhouse, Jackson, Bo Goldman, Nate Mook, Ernie Runnells, Jack Ketchopulos, Jacqueline Vannah, DeeDee Bedford, Michael Rocha, Liana and Joe Webb, Becki Pedersen, Anne Sullivan, Linda, Malcolm Henderson, Emelia Currier, Danny, Patricia Anders, Connor Macauley, Margie Sonthemier, John Fleming.

Contact prayer list manager: Joan Gorga 978-283-5926 or jmgorga@yahoo.com



St. John's Episcopal Church

stjohnsgloucester.org

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The Rt. Rev. Alan McIntosh Gates, Bishop of Mass. & The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol Gallagher, Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt, Interim Priest
Marge Bishop, Church Assistant
Elizabeth de Veer, Parish Administrator
Joseph Stoddard, Music Director

Wardens: Patricia Anders & Katharine Newhouse

Clerk: Joan Gorga

Treasurer: Sue Lupo, Ass't. Treasurer: Geoff Pope

VESTRY: 2024: Rick Britton, Melanie Murray-Brown, Doug Parsons

2025: Steve Jencks, Dori Mottola, Geoff Pope

2026: Dee Dee Bedford, Len Berry, Sarah Larson