



ST. PETER'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

302 MERCHANTS AVE.  
FORT ATKINSON, WI 920-563-3889



What an amazing gift to be able to worship together in the Peace Garden! After two Sundays of noon outdoor services, things seem to be going smoothly. The greatest challenge seems to be to maintain social distance! We definitely have some huggers (me included!) and to not touch each other has been an exercise in self control.

Every so often we will have a Harley with an extremely loud exhaust go by or a large semi truck on Main and we have to pause a minute. This has made me want to write another verse for the hymn *Earth and all Stars*. It would be something like this:

Traffic that moves, loud sounding Harleys,  
sing the Lord a new song.  
Rustling bulletins and responses,  
sing to the Lord a new song.  
He has done marvelous things.  
I too will praise him with a new song.

Folks, we are so very close to our new normal. Unless we have a huge uptick in cases, we are looking good to start indoor services in a couple of months. I will be speaking with the vestry about the possibility of indoor services for those who for health or mobility reasons cannot meet in the peace garden. As long as the COVID case numbers stay down, this possibility seems doable sooner rather than later. Keep strong in the Lord and thank you for your patience as we continue to navigate this thing. Each and every one of you is too precious to lose to a disease that may have been prevented just by staying vigilant a tiny bit longer.

Blessings always, Mother Mindy

**PENTECOST GERANIUMS NEEDED;  
PLANTING PARTY MAY 23 AT 2:00 PM**

Pentecost is May 23. We are having our annual ingathering of red geraniums to plant around the Peace Garden. Please bring in your red geraniums on May 23rd or drop them off during office hours a couple days before. Our annual planting will be on Sunday, May 23 at 2:00 PM as the next weekend is a holiday weekend.

**Psalm 133**

*Ecce, quam bonum!*

- <sup>1</sup> Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
when brethren live together in unity!
- <sup>2</sup> It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
that runs down upon the beard,
- <sup>3</sup> Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- <sup>4</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- <sup>5</sup> For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: \*  
life for evermore.



## Whom Truly to Know – Laurie Gudim

Today's image is a traditional Greek orthodox icon.

The line that leaps out at me while reading and pondering today's lessons came from the Collect of the Day. "Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life . . .," it reads. Here are three big takeaways that might fuel a host of sermons: that God is almighty, that knowing God is necessary, and that this knowing does not lead to everlasting life but is everlasting life.

As I take in the devastation wrought by the Pandemic and by climate change, racism and a global narcissism, I do wonder about God's omnipotence. "Where are you?" has been my constant prayer. And I have been reminded that all our ills are at root human-made, and that we are reaping what we have sown in so many arenas. God shows me that God is with us in our suffering. God inspires us in our brave deeds, our generosity, and our care for others. God inspires the creativity we really need right now to address all the things that are killing us.

But, more than that, in the moments of my life as they tick over, God has simply shown me God's presence. In the Way of Love of Bishop Curry, he calls it "Turning." God infuses the world, and at every second we have the opportunity of noticing God, turning to God. God gives us little nudges in things like the beautiful light illuminating a flower petal, the smell of pine trees on a mountain slope, or even the constant, subtle beauty of water emerging from a tap. (Don't spend too much time on this last one: the world needs us to be careful with our water.)

I cannot presume to know God, but my life-long task is to turn always in that direction. There have

been days, months, even years when I've neglected this. My life is always thrown off in those times. I focus on the wrong priorities, strive after the wrong satisfactions.

Turning to God does not necessarily bring rapturous enlightenment nor even an emotional high. I've heard people who do Centering Prayer compare it to sitting on the porch with someone they love. There's a companionable silence in which one can rest.

But what about this "whom to know is everlasting life" phrase? I'll be 70 years old this year, I'm overweight, and I have

respiratory issues. COVID-19 has been a real threat. So I've become very conscious of my mortality. And, sure, it causes me a visceral anxiety to contemplate the end of my life. But the more I know God, the more I know what kind of being I am. I will not be ended by death. I don't know how I will go on; whether my personality will be subsumed in something greater or the part of me that thinks of me as me will still exist. I don't know what it will be like. But I know my existence is not confined to this life.

Christ has promised to be the guide into the life beyond life, and so I put my trust in him to lead me. I pray with the whole church, today: Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Source: <https://www.episcopalcafe.com/whom-truly-to-know/>



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For our in-person services to operate smoothly, we urgently need volunteers to fill important roles. We need Ushers and people who to come ahead of time to set-up, others who to stay and clean-up, and others who will help Altar Guild and wash our holy instruments and get them ready for the next service. The noon service schedule is independent of the 10:00 AM live streamed service, but if you are already scheduled for the 10:00 service and would be willing to serve at both 10 AM and Noon, please let us know. If you can fill these urgent volunteer needs, please call or email the office.

The Rectory flower beds really need some initial weeding...So, if anyone 1) loves to get their hands in the dirt, 2) derives a cathartic pleasure in pulling weeds, and 3) has a little extra time on your hands... we have just the thing for you! Seriously, there is so much more that goes into doing these virtual and in-person services than used to be required of a priest. Time has been scarce for life's other responsibilities. Mother Mindy could really use some help if anyone has time to offer. THANKS!

### LAY EUCHARISTIC LEADERS SCHEDULE

#### MAY 16, 2021

##### 10:00 AM LIVESTREAM

Lector: Terrie Knox

AV Technician: Bob Krumm

##### 12:00 NOON OUTDOORS

Lector: Terrie Knox

Usher: Scott Fernhaber, Bev Wille

Setup & Teardown: Scott, Bev Wille

#### MAY 23, 2021

##### 10:00 AM LIVESTREAM

Lector: Ginny Laurent

AV Technician: Breck McHenry

##### 12:00 NOON OUTDOORS

Lector: Ginny Laurent

Usher: Bill Cannon

Setup & Teardown: Scott, Bill

#### MAY 30, 2021

##### 10:00 AM LIVESTREAM

Lector: Eda Wilson

AV Technician: Bob Krumm

##### 12:00 NOON OUTDOORS

Lector: Eda Wilson

Usher: Scott Fernhaber

Setup & Teardown: Scott, Bev

### ACTIVITIES AT ST. PETER'S

#### Tuesday, May 18 & 25

6:00 PM The Screwtape Letters Book Study  
(on Zoom)

#### Sunday, May 16

10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
Live Streamed on YouTube

**12:00 PM Outdoor In-Person Worship**  
( Please R.S.V.P.)

5:00 PM Evening Prayer  
Premieres on YouTube

#### Sunday, May 23

10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
Live Streamed on YouTube

**12:00 PM Outdoor In-Person Worship**  
**2:00 PM—Planting of the Geraniums**

5:00 PM Evening Prayer  
Premieres on YouTube

#### Sunday, May 30

10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
Live Streamed on YouTube

**12:00 PM Outdoor In-Person Worship**  
( Please R.S.V.P.)

5:00 PM Evening Prayer  
Premieres on YouTube



## DAME JULIAN OF NORWICH—CONTEMPLATIVE (8 MAY 1417)

The Lady Juliana was born about 1342, and when she was thirty years old, she became gravely ill and was expected to die. Then, on the seventh day, the medical crisis passed, and she had a series of fifteen visions, or "showings," in which she was led to contemplate the Passion of Christ. These brought her great peace and joy. She became an anchoress, living in a small hut near to the church in Norwich, where she devoted the rest of her life to prayer and contemplation of the meaning of her visions. The results of her meditations she wrote in a book called *Revelations of Divine Love*, available in modern English in a Penguin Paperback edition. During her lifetime, she became known as a counselor, whose advice combined spiritual insight with common sense, and many persons came to speak with her. Since her death, many more have found help in her writings.

The precise date of her death is uncertain.

Her book is a tender meditation on God's eternal and all-embracing love, as expressed to us in the Passion of Christ.

She describes seeing God holding a tiny thing in his hand, like a small brown nut, which seemed so fragile and insignificant that she wondered why it did not crumble before her eyes. She understood that the thing was the entire created universe, which is as nothing compared to its Creator, and she was told, "God made it, God loves it, God keeps it."

She was concerned that sometimes when we are faced with a difficult moral decision, it seems that no matter which way we decide, we will have acted from motives that are less than completely pure, so that neither decision is defensible. She finally wrote: "It is enough to be sure of the deed. Our courteous Lord will deign to redeem the motive."

A matter that greatly troubled her was the fate of those who through no fault of their own had never heard the Gospel. She never received a direct answer to her questions about them, except to be told that whatever God does is done in Love, and therefore "that all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

Speaking of her visions of heaven and hell, she said, "To me was shown no harder hell than sin."

Of our response to the sins of others, she said (ch. 76): "The soul that would preserve its peace, when another's sin is brought to mind, must fly from it as from the pains of hell, looking to God for help against it. To consider the sins of other people will produce a thick film over the eyes of our soul, and prevent us for the time being from seeing the 'fair beauty of the Lord'~ unless, that is, we look at them contrite along with the sinner, being sorry with and for him, and yearning over him for God. Without this it can only harm, disturb, and hinder the soul who considers them. I gathered all this from the revelation about compassion...This blessed friend is Jesus; it is his will and plan that we hang on to him, and hold tight always, in whatever circumstances; for whether we are filthy or clean is all the same to his love."



"Glad and merry and sweet is the blessed and lovely demeanor of our Lord towards our souls, for he saw us always living in love-longing, and he wants our souls to be gladly disposed toward him . . . by his grace he lifts up and will draw our outer disposition to our inward, and will make us all at unity with him, and each of us with others in the true, lasting joy which is Jesus." ~ Julian of Norwich

The following was translated by ~ Liz Broadwell (ebroadwe@dept.english.upenn.edu)

"And from the time that [the vision] was shown, I desired often to know what our Lord's meaning was. And fifteen years and more afterward I was answered in my spiritual understanding, thus: 'Would you know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was his meaning. Who showed it to you? Love. What did he show you? Love. Why did he show it? For love. Keep yourself therein and you shall know and understand more in the same. But you shall never know nor understand any other thing, forever.'

Thus I was taught that love was our Lord's meaning. And I saw quite clearly in this and in all, that before God made us, he loved us, which love was never slaked nor ever shall be. And in this love he has done all his work, and in this love he has made all things profitable to us. And in this love our life is everlasting. In our creation we had a beginning. But the love wherein he made us was in him with no beginning. And all this shall be seen in God without end ... "

*by James Kiefer*

Source: [http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Julian\\_Norwich.htm](http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Julian_Norwich.htm)

## ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Now that we are meeting in person, we would like to restart having people sign up to donate flowers for the altar. If you have a particular date in mind, you may want to be proactive to request the Sunday that is available closest to that date. The suggested donation for a flower arrangement is \$55.

You can also bring in flowers from your garden or cut flowers purchased at a store or farmers market. We thank you in advance for your participation in bringing the beauty of flowers to our worship!



## A cautionary tale for the hopeful

by Rosalind Hughes

This is not over yet. Even as some of us take our first, tentative, steps (carefully, since our masks have fogged up our glasses and blurred the way) toward the altar rail, others are building funeral pyres.



Millions mourn as those who cannot look forward to a new normal without the more-than-3-million lives left behind during this pandemic. Not to mention all of the other minor and major disasters, mountains, valleys, and cliff edges that life has to offer (along with its often spectacular views).

But this is a cautionary tale for the hopeful.

After the Flood, after the destruction of Sodom of Gomorrah, after the Exodus, after disaster and the narrow escape of grief, the claustrophobia of survival, the families of a number of our biblical ancestors seemed to be diverted into – that is, their appetites and attention were perverted into – stories that do not always bear telling in polite company. Incest and idolatry, drunkenness and discontent followed the lifting of a cloud like mosquitoes after rain.

Before disaster fell, we went about our lives of small despair and joy, pretending that each was within our grasp and our gift. During the catastrophe, numbed by the knowledge of how much of life – those little strands of biology – is beyond our control, we drifted. Emerging, are we tempted to wrest back our influence, that illusion of omnipotence, to become, as though we had ever been, masters of our own and others' destiny?

Is this why violence seems to have flared up among us like fire before a stiff breeze? Do we reckon by force to retrieve the fruits of the tree that once tempted us to clothe ourselves as gods?

A danger recognized is not always a danger avoided, but it at least gives us half a chance to remember that our highest goal is not the pursuit of happiness but the discovery of the grace and mercy and loving-kindness, the grounding of God. It is not the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow that will sustain us, restore us, pave our way forward, but the much less tangible, untouchable yet multi-faceted grace of God.

Wiping glasses from the fog of breath and unwept tears, I pray that I may approach the altar this time with humility, with compassion for the grief that drags along behind me, with an ear to the shuffling footsteps of the ghosts of my ancestors, the communion of saints and sinners, to correct my direction; with knees to catch me when I stumble, and a Spirit to spin my curses into prayers too deep for words.

Source: <https://www.episcopalcafe.com/a-cautionary-tale-for-the-hopeful/>

## PRAYERS

- Parishioner Cycle of Prayer - Breck and Laurie McHenry
- Ministry Rotation Prayer - The Vestry
- For those who are sick: Bob & Kitty Martin, Jerry Swanson, Jack Schark, Bev, Marilou, Gary, Vickie, Janet, Joleen
- Happy Birthday Linda Marx, Bill Cannon, and Mother Mindy
- Diocesan search for next Bishop
- Prayer for difficult times (coronavirus)



To add someone to the parish prayer list, please e-mail the office at: [office@stpetersfort.org](mailto:office@stpetersfort.org), or contact Eda Wilson, our prayer net coordinator, [edesw2@gmail.com](mailto:edesw2@gmail.com).

If you someone you know and love has Covid-19 we would like to pray for them. Please email Eda and she will add their name to the prayer list.

**This prayer was developed by the Diocesan Standing Committee to pray as the search for our next Bishop progresses:**

Gracious and loving God in whom we live and move and have our being, We pray for your guidance and wisdom that we may faithfully follow your calling in our own lives and as we as the Diocese of Milwaukee discern the calling of our twelfth bishop. We give you thanks for the service of Bishop Steven Miller in the life of our diocese and for the blessings that marked his ministry among us. We also pray for his family during this time of transition. We pray for those whom you have called to serve on our Standing, Search, and Transition Committees, and we pray also for those who will respond to your call to enter into discernment with us to be our next bishop. Give us all listening and prayerful hearts for this most important task. This we ask in the name of the One who said, "Come, follow me." Amen.

**Prayer for a Time of Pandemic Illness:**



O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, in this challenging and uncertain time of global pandemic and public health crisis, we come before you offering our prayers on behalf of those in need, the Church and the world. For all affected by the coronavirus pandemic around the world.

For the leaders of the nations that they may work together for the common good as the outbreak spreads. May barriers that divide be brought down and bonds of trust strengthened, to benefit the entire human family. Grant to our nation and its leaders, public health officials and government the will to act swiftly and decisively, with wisdom and compassion.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.



May 10, 2021 Newsletter

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

302 Merchants Avenue

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Return Service Requested



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[www.stpetersfort.org](http://www.stpetersfort.org)

Rector: Mother Mindy

Valentine Davis

### ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT

To Lead Each Person into a Living Relationship with Jesus Christ,  
Train Them as Disciples, and Make Jesus Known to Others.