

To the Good People of Ss. Peter and John,

I wanted to devote this writing primarily to Ash Wednesday and to Lent after that.

Ash Wednesday is early this year, Feb. 17. It's always an important day for me and the church, signifying the beginning of Lent. For the past two years I've done "Ashes to Go" with Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent and our Bishop in downtown Syracuse. Initially I wasn't a fan of Ashes without the service, but doing this on the street made me a convert. It can be a profoundly meaningful experience for those that participate.

This year, the Bishop has given us permission to impose Ashes outside. So, my plan is to record an Ash Wednesday service and post it on our Facebook page so that people can watch at their convenience. And I will do "Ashes to Go" in front of the parish house from 11am-1pm. This can be done in one of two ways, either pull up your car on the curb, (the parking meters will be covered) or walk up and I will give ashes to anyone that desires. It's also important that you understand that this is not obligatory, if you're not comfortable with this kind of thing during a pandemic, I certainly understand. As well, if it's just plain inconvenient, I understand that as well.

As it concerns Lent, we haven't heard any word about when we might be able to worship again in person. So, I think it's best to plan to be worshiping virtually through Lent and Easter. If things change earlier than all the better, but we should plan on the former.

I wish you all blessings as we enter to this sacred season of the church year.

Grace and Peace,

John +

Father John ✠

Greetings, friends.

There is no doubt that this last year or more we have been through it. For some of us yesterday was a triumphal event: an opportunity to feel better and to think that all is well now. For some of us, yesterday was a devastating time, a day of sorrow, feeling that all will be far worse.

When I was growing up, when I was about 8 or 9, I was staying with my grandmother and I remember this big storm going through: thunder and lightning and wind and rain beating against the windows. And as I tried to sleep in the other room I became more and more worried about the wind blowing and the thunder and the lightning, until when there was a particularly loud clap of thunder, I jumped up and, I'm sure, screamed. And my grandmother came in and in her loving, kind, and pastoral way she said, "Stop it! Get ahold of yourself. You're letting yourself get carried away by your fear."

Those are pretty good words for right now. And they are pastoral. We need to stop letting fear carry us away.

We need to remember who we are and what we're about. And whether we feel good or sorrowful, to know that God is God, and we know who we are.

Over the last year I have been increasingly concerned about the rhetoric, the lack of civility, lies, the inability to tell the truth... We know better.

In the Diocese of Central New York we have made a [Rule of Life](#) and have taken vows: to work for the dignity of all people, to seek justice. We pray, listen, connect with others, share stories, speak the truth, and then respond with love and compassion. Nowhere in our Rule of Life, Mission Statement, or Vision Statement is there room to allow fear to carry us away.

The time for harsh words and demagoguery and divisiveness and dehumanization must stop. We need to utilize media and all the things at our disposal to build up people, not tear down anymore. To disassociate ourselves from practices where we're calling people names or denigrating them. We have real issues and real needs in our nation, and it is time to come together and be about the Kingdom of God in our midst, and to be good civil partners with those around us: caring for one another, listening with compassion. And knowing that while we may disagree about economics or any number of things, we need not devalue ourselves and others by name-calling.

It is time to change. It is time to stop.

It is time to remember who we are, and not allow fear to carry us away. With sincere and listening hearts to look at the world around us and seek to be part of building up, not tearing down. Speaking truth in love, not harsh criticism. And to be honest about the things where we disagree, but to disagree in a way where both people are valued, and honored, and respected.

I hope that whatever you feel in this time, you know most of all that you are loved by God, and that you are a valued part of this Diocese and our shared ministry.

We have good news for this time. We're seeking a world healed by the love of God, and we are ambassadors of that love.

Blessings to you in this time. Let us proclaim God's love to our hurting world.



The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe
Bishop of Central New York

Vestry Voice

The January Vestry meeting began with an opening devotional and an acceptance of amended November minutes.

Salary increases for church staff, as approved at Convention, were adopted. Hourly workers' rates increased with the raise in minimum wage.

The Annual meeting took place on January 17th. Terry Beyor sent a power point presentation to Cailin O'Donnell, which was included in presentation. Vacated Vestry seats have been filled by willing church members, Bennie Duckett and Bill Abdullah. The Agenda for Annual Meeting was presented.

Roof repair fundraising has gone well. The Church has received \$47,000 in grants and donations. The Memorial Fund has just over \$12,000 and the final \$7,000 will come from The General Fund. This all adds up to meet the \$65,000 price tag.

Cathy Darby will be out of the office for about a week at the end of January into early February. Sharon Beyor has agreed to fill in for her—thank you Sharon.

With Lent right around the corner, Father John plans on pre-recording a service for Ash Wednesday. He will post it online and offer "Ashes to Go" on the sidewalk in front of the church from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

A concerted effort will be made going forward to start Zoom services on time. Some programming in the past have been delayed by ongoing conversation. Father John will open link 15-20 minutes ahead of time if folks want to visit. The next Vestry meeting is February 10, 2021.

Pledge Envelopes

The pledge envelopes for 2021 are available in the church office. Please plan to stop by and pick up yours and maybe someone else's you know who is unable to come in themselves. The cost is very high to mail these if they are not picked up (close to \$5.00 apiece).

Heavenly Heritage Cookbook

We still have cookbooks available! Stop by the church office on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 8:00 am to Noon to pick yours up! The cost is \$15.00 each. They are filled with helpful hints, substitution suggestions and of course recipes from your church friends and family.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP SUSPENDED

In person indoor gatherings are still suspended by the Bishop. We will continue our Sunday Zoom services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am. The Zoom information is below.

Sundays - 8am Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97774056978?pwd=ZytJSVZjWmt3MUdSMkI3U1JaaGNLZz09>

Meeting ID: 977 7405 6978

Passcode: 509376

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Sundays - 10am Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99606229745?pwd=UUROMER0RGZGMnVIVUdSc3dsa2xnZz09>

Meeting ID: 996 0622 9745

Passcode: 954661

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Other Zoom Worship Schedule and Numbers

Tuesdays – 10am Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94333886777?pwd=WnNKsncyQkkzS1g0Yjc3ZGIVbk1PQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 3388 6777

Passcode: 577455

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Wednesdays – 12pm Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95528786615?pwd=Z01DVGdvcG5XeVBIUVRMKzFFVVBjZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 2878 6615

Passcode: 634665

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Thursdays – 10am Coffee and Conversation

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97366952412?pwd=WUuQVFMyWIFKWmRBT1UyTHQ2Rm5Rdz09>

Meeting ID: 973 6695 2412

Passcode: 120228

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday – Friday

MORNING PRAYER – RITE II

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/john.rohde.16/>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92662278952>

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ac4XCk34Dn>