

Sisters and Brothers, greetings to you in the name of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

As I write this, I have two different things on my mind. The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the coming season of Lent.

The invasion of Ukraine has made my heart heavy. I still don't understand how these things happen. Even though I lived through other wars and conflicts, they still seem to take me by surprise. I, like most of you, watched the buildup on the news. And yet, I thought that somehow cooler heads would prevail. Of course, I was proven wrong. My near constant prayer over the past two days has been...Lord have mercy – Christ have mercy -Lord have mercy. I also think about the opening to Noonday Prayer...

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

People O Lord, make haste to help us. (BCP pg. 103)

Please pray for peace in Ukraine

Lent starts on Wednesday, March 5. I can't believe it's here already. Lent is a time for quiet contemplation, reflection, prayer, penitence, fasting and alms giving. Some people have a discipline of giving up something for the season. I know people who give up social media, unhealthy foods, and other detrimental behaviors. My sister gives up buying anything new. (of course, other than essentials, food etc.)

I prefer to take on a discipline, an extra devotion and prayer for the morning. This year I will be reading daily devotions from Walter Brueggemann's book, 'A Way Other Than Our Own', daily devotions for Lent. There is a bit of scripture, a reflection on the scripture and a prayer for every day in Lent. Whatever may feel right for you, I encourage to take on some daily discipline for Lent.

I'd like to offer a special thanks to John Komarisky and Chuck Hausman for all they do for the Church. They work tirelessly, year-round, to keep our buildings functioning. But especially recently, when we had to have a new water supply put in and work on the boiler, they were very diligent as they always are. Please thank them when you see them.

I'll conclude with a prayer for Lent (adapted from Christianity.com)

Dear God,

In this season of Lent, we're reminded of our own difficulties and struggles. Sometimes the way has seemed too dark. Sometimes we feel like our lives have been marked by such grief and pain, we don't see how our circumstances can ever change. But in the midst of our weakness, we ask that you would be strong on our behalf. Lord, rise up within us, let your Spirit shine out of every broken place we've walked through. Allow your power to be manifest through our own weakness, so that others will recognize it is

You who is at work on our behalf. We ask that you would trade the ashes of our lives for the beauty of your Presence. Trade our mourning and grief for the oil of joy and gladness from your Spirit. Trade our despair for hope and praise. We choose to give you thanks today and believe that this season of darkness will fade away. Thank you that you are with us in whatever we face and that you are greater than this trial. We know and recognize that you are Sovereign, we thank you for the victory that is ours because of Christ Jesus, and we are confident that you have good still in store for our future. We thank you that you are at work right now, trading our ashes for greater beauty. We praise you, for you make all things new. In Jesus' Name, *Amen.*

Grace and Peace,

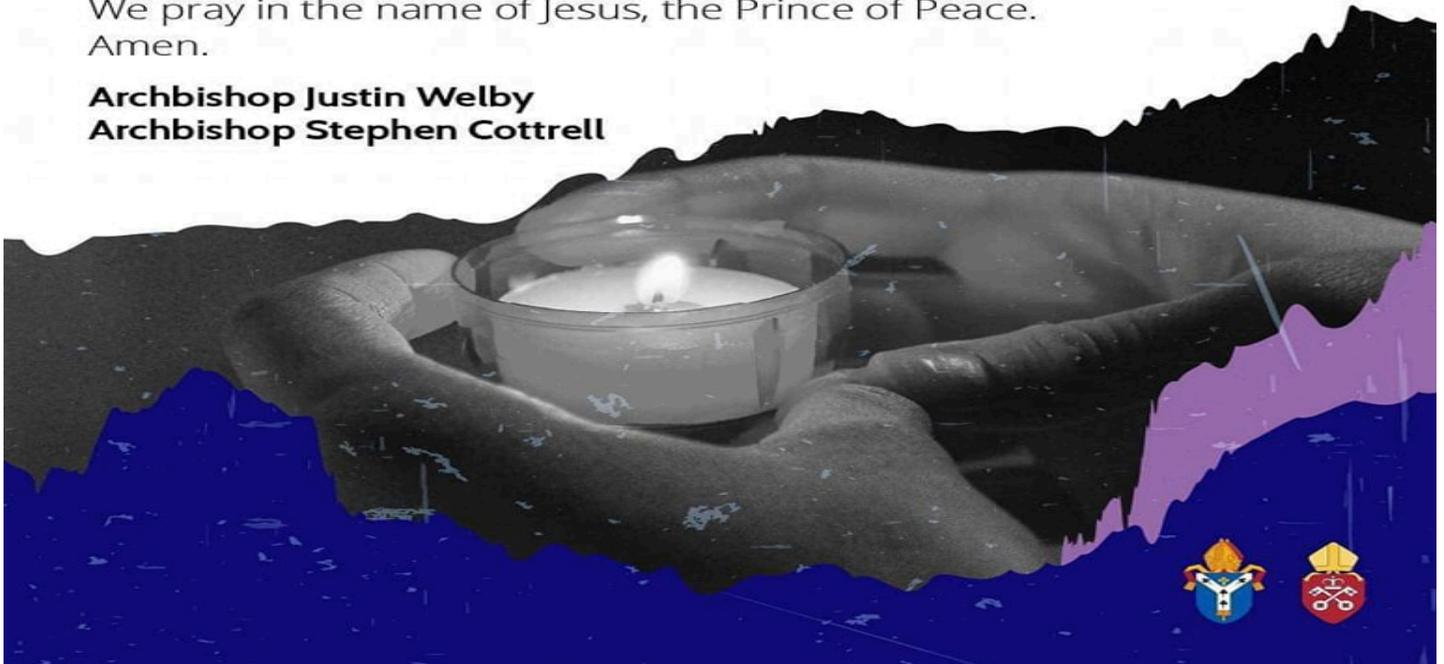
John +

Father John †

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



ON-LINE WORSHIP

Sundays - 10am Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 982 7706 2680

Passcode: 435902

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=WUtQVFMyWlFKWmRBT1UyTHQ2Rm5Rdz09>

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>

Vestry Voice

The February Vestry meeting began with an opening devotional. The January minutes were approved.

There were some questions about the financials before they were approved. They were: the Diocesan Assessment was not paid in January, it will be caught up in February; gas & electric had two months payments, the December bill was not paid until 1/3/22; piano – this was an anonymous donation for Vincent to get a new digital piano so he doesn't need to bring his back and forth.

There is a valve in the church that stays open all the time. Charles Hausman will contact the boiler man to have it fixed.

Bill Abdallah will submit a grant request to Metcalf & French to see if we can get money to cover the Tower Room plastering and painting.

The Fire Marshall was here for an inspection and wanted to know when the hood over the oven was last cleaned. Jim Kahn and Fred Westphal took it all apart and cleaned it. They will be taking apart the stove and doing a thorough cleaning next.

We have all the video equipment needed to do live streaming of our worship services. Having trouble with Zoom linking with Facebook.

In the process of ordering the sound equipment. Still need to move the equipment from the basement. We need better access to the sound boards that are located in the basement. They will be moved upstairs next to the organ. Having an electrician come in and check the outlets to be sure they can handle everything.

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper – will we be able to do this? Discussed having a Zoom meeting and everyone makes their pancakes at home and we all eat at the same time.

Ash Wednesday – discussed having a Zoom service in the morning (7:00 am possibly) and Father John will be distributing ashes in front of the parish house from 11 am – 1 pm.

The meeting closed with Compline. Next Vestry meeting March 9, 2022.

Fundraising

We are looking for new ideas for fundraisers. If you have an idea, please speak to a vestry member or Father John. We are continuing to accept sneakers for our latest fundraiser.

Clothes Closet

We are looking for volunteers to work at the clothes closet. As of now, the clothes closet is closed as we have no one to run it. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in taking over the duties of the clothes closet, please let Father John know or call the parish office at (315) 252-5721,

Donations

These Items have been donated by Michael Larkin from St. James, Skaneateles

1 Hosa USB-203AB Cable	\$6.25
1 Behringer Xenyx Q502USB Mixer with USB	\$59.00

Donations Requested for the following:

- 1) Towards Monthly Verizon Hotspot Subscription: \$207.99 (Church being billed for monthly payments of approx. \$45/month - \$588.00 put on Ministry Grant Budget as an approximate yearly subscription cost – amount requested reflects the difference between what we received from the Ministry Grant and the actual cost of items purchased so included this difference in the Verizon Hotspot Subscription since that is being billed monthly to Church)

Donations Requested for the following items already purchased

1) Gator Frameworks Elite 10Unit Rack Table, Dark Walnut	\$249.00
2) On-Stage Stands Wireless Xenyl Mic Clip, Rubber	\$10.95
3) 2 nd Ipad9 (for Zoom)	\$299.00
4) TZ Fleximount IPod/IPad Stand	\$9.88
5) 3 IPod Covers	\$35.28
6) 2 Ipad Covers	\$25.90

Ordination to the Priesthood

April 23, 2022, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

God willing and the people consenting, the Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, Bishop of Central New York, will ordain Meredith Kadet Sanderson to the Sacred Order of Priests.

Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

The Episcopal Church of Saints Peter & John

169 Genesee Street, Auburn, New York

Your prayers and presence are requested.

Clergy: Red stoles

Due to COVID-19, masks will be required and social distancing is encouraged.

Franciscan Priest, teacher and writer, Richard Rohr on fasting in Lent

“Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voices like a trumpet blast! Tell the people their actual wickedness, let the people know their real sins. . . . ‘Is this the kind of fasting I wish? Do you call this a fast day acceptable to God?’” –Isaiah 58:1, 5

“Why is it that while we and the Pharisees fast, your disciples do not?” –Matthew 9:14

Isaiah, purified after the great exile, defines fasting in a whole new and rather “secular” way. It is courageous that the church dares to use such a hard-hitting passage at the beginning of Lent, considering that the very same situation still applies today. Some scholars say that it was this kind of writing that got Isaiah killed. He accuses and condemns his fellow Jews for “afflicting themselves” and “bowing their heads” through ritual observances, fasting, and formal temple prayers, but largely missing the whole point of religion. This passage would not have been a big hit with the pious, the priestly class, or the temple conservatives of Isaiah’s day.

Isaiah says explicitly that God prefers another kind of fasting which changes our actual lifestyle and not just punishes our body. (The poor body is always the available scapegoat to avoid touching our purse, our calendar, or our prejudices.) Isaiah makes a very upfront demand for social justice, non-aggression, taking our feet off the necks of the oppressed, sharing our bread with the hungry, clothing the naked, letting go of our sense of entitlement, malicious speech, and sheltering the homeless. He says very clearly this is the real fast God wants!

It is amazing that we could ever miss the point. It is likely that what we later called the corporal works of mercy came from this passage. We can presume that Jesus was familiar with it because of his parallel sermon on the sheep and the goats.

The passage segues nicely into the short gospel on why Jesus and his disciples do not fast. In effect, he says “because it is the wrong kind of fasting!” Then he introduces a favorite theme and metaphor that he gradually develops: life as a wedding banquet, with himself as the bridegroom and humanity as the bride. It will soon become clear that Jesus is not interested in an elite who do their rituals properly yet refuse to join in the wedding

“Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voices like a trumpet blast! Tell the people their actual wickedness, let the people know their real sins. . . . ‘Is this the kind of fasting I wish? Do you call this a fast day acceptable to God?’” –Isaiah 58:1, 5

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