

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ;

As we begin the month of August, I'm concerned and have been praying about the condition of the planet, "our island home".

Floods in Kentucky that have killed dozens. One of my fellow clergy members in the Rochester Diocese, The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross, has family in that area. Please keep him and them in your prayers. The record-breaking heat in Western Europe, fires in various parts of the world. As we have been praying this summer, Eucharistic Prayer C we say;

"God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight."

On a different note, as we prepare to say goodbye to our dear Vincent, you should know some things about finding a new musician. First, this will likely be a difficult position to fill. There are not many trained church musicians around. I am connected in this musician world, so I do know how to proceed. Second, we have a masterful musician in Vincent and that will increase our challenge for a replacement. But, please know we will get through it. God will get his work done no matter what we do. In the interim we will likely use supply musicians and we may even be singing acapella from time to time. And I repeat, God will provide and we will "make a joyful noise to the Lord" regardless!

I pray that you enjoy the rest of the Summer, and for those of you traveling, Godspeed!

Grace and Peace,

John +

Father John ✠

ON-LINE WORSHIP

Sundays - 10am Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97774056978?pwd=ZytJSVZjWmt3MUdSMk13U1JaaGNLZz09>

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 July Vestry meeting began with an opening devotional. The June minutes were approved.

The June financials were approved.

An impromptu meeting was held regarding Church security. Motion sensor cameras were discussed. There is information on the diocesan website on preparedness for an emergency that Father John feels Vestry should read. Father John reminded us that it is not only an armed intruder we need to be concerned about but other emergencies as well. For example – someone falls and gets hurt, someone gets ill and need medical attention, etc. We want to be prepared but we don't want to be inhospitable.

Mass on the Grass was a simple point and shoot for the internet but the feedback was positive. We are now ready to train other people on the livestreaming. We need volunteers who would be willing to do this on Sundays.

The May Osborne Memorial Youth Fund has been updated to reflect the current value of this account. William Abdullah contacted Van Guard, the company that handles this fund, and found out the procedure that needs to be followed to get copies of the original documentation that opened this account.

Shirley Quigley and Jeff Sawyer are working on the wording for the Bill Suhr plaque.

July 24, 2022 during the 10:00 am service there will be a short presentation and unveiling of the John "Jack" McLane plaque.

Diocesan Convention – this year instead of having 1 central location there will be 4 regional centers and they have asked us to be one of them. There will be no cost to the church, the diocese will pay for everything. Any equipment needed will be acquired and will remain our property after convention is over. We will need to provide a meal and accommodate any dietary needs. They will be asking people to register and we will have a count approximately 1 month before the event. Father John will talk with David Ward regarding the Soup Kitchen and what impact it would have on them. There are some accessibility issues if the parish hall will be the meeting place and Father John will make sure the diocese is aware of this. At this time, it was decided to tell the diocese that we are interested but want to be sure they understand about our accessibility issues.

Job descriptions for the Secretarial and Janitorial positions are on file. We do not have a job description for Church Musician and Hospitality. With Vincent leaving it is very important that we get a job description so we can start looking for a replacement. Father John and William Abdallah have reached out to their musician friends and Syracuse University and Ithaca College. Betty Hommel said she could maybe do 1 or 2 Sundays a month but couldn't commit to more than that due to her husband's condition.

It was discussed about putting a QR code on the bulletins so people could download the bulletin on their phone or tablet to reduce the number of bulletins that need to be printed each week.

Another suggestion was to do a generic bulletin without the readings or music and have them laminated and put into binders. This way the only thing that would need to be printed each week would be the readings, music and calendar.

The meeting closed with Father John offering a brief blessing. Next Vestry meeting August 10, 2022.



August 21, 2022
Emerson Park Pavilion
Sign Up Sheet in the back of the
church.

Wise as Serpents, Innocent as Doves

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” –Matthew 10:16

The late author and preacher Peter J. Gomes (1942–2011) considers the type of seasoned innocence to which Jesus calls his disciples:

You need both innocence and experience, both the serpent and the dove, if you have any chance of making it as a Christian in this world. Innocence without experience eventually becomes a state of pure illusion, and experience without vision deteriorates into cynical despair. . . .

When Jesus speaks of the wisdom of the serpent, he is not giving us an invitation to cynicism; he wants us, like the serpent, always to know what is going on. Of all creatures, the serpent is the one most aware of his environment, most sensitive to his surroundings, most in touch with his circumstances, for his entire body is a live wire of sensation. We are meant to be aware, heads up, eyes open, mind on full throttle, not easily fooled or seduced by the blandishments of this life. . . .

To be innocent as a dove is an exercise neither in naïveté nor in deception. The dove is the symbol of the spirit of God, and where the dove is, there is to be found serenity, reconciliation, and peace. When Noah wanted to know if it was all right to go back into the world, he didn't ask for a weather report; he sent out for the dove. When Jesus was baptized, God's favor was shown in the descent of the dove; and the Holy Spirit, the present tense of God, is represented in Christian art by the dove. Give me the dove any day; the dove is no dumb bird.

In other words, Jesus tells us that to survive in this world . . . we need to know what is going on and not be overwhelmed by it; and to do that we need to live all of the time in a divine and creative dialogue between innocence, the first and last love of our faith, and experience, by which we learn what we need to know. [1]

Father Richard describes these deeper stages of spiritual maturity as a “regained innocence”:

There is a regained innocence, which could also refer to the highest states of enlightenment. This is the clarity and freedom found in a person who has been deeply wounded but, after passing through a healing purification, comes out the other side with the best of both worlds; they are cleverly wise and yet not overly defended or guarded. I suspect this is exactly what Jesus represents and what he describes when he tells his disciples to “Go forth wise as serpents but innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16). This would be those who have left the Garden, eaten a few more apples, and returned again because they now know how to live and love both inside and outside of the Garden. [2]

[1] Peter J. Gomes, “Innocence and Experience,” *Strength for the Journey: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living: A New Collection of Sermons* (San Francisco, CA: HarperSanFrancisco, 2003), 102, 103, 104.

[2] Adapted from Richard Rohr, introduction to *Oneing* 3, no. 2, *Innocence* (Fall 2015): 12. Available in [print](#) or [PDF download](#).

Prayer For Our Community

God, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything, please help us to love in our very small way what You love infinitely and everywhere. We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer and that will be more than enough, because in reality every thing and every one is connected, and nothing stands alone. To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole, and so we do. Help us each day to stand for love, for healing, for the good, for the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation, because we know this is what You desire: as Jesus prayed, that all may be one. We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God, we offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[Listen to Father Richard pray this prayer aloud.](#)

Clothes Closet

The clothes closet is in need of men's and children's clothes. Donations can be made at the parish hall between the hours of 8:30 am to Noon.