



Sunday November 8, 2020
The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Prayer: Rite Two
St. John's Episcopal Church, Bangor, Maine

Prelude

Choral No. 2 in B minor (part 1), César Franck

Welcome and Announcements

Stewardship Reflection

Andy Hamilton, Sr. Warden

Opening sentences

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians*
1:2

Confession Of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest alone stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Then follows the Venite, said in unison.

The Antiphon may first be sung or said with it.

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: Come let us adore him.

Invitatory

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
 let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
 and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
 and a great King above all gods.
 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
 and the heights of the hills are his also.
 The sea is his, for he made it, *
 and his hands have molded the dry land.
 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
 and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
 For he is our God,
 and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
 Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 78:1-7

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse

1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
 incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
 2 **I will open my mouth in a parable;**
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
 3 things that we have heard and known,
 that our ancestors have told us.
 4 **We will not hide them from their children;**
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.
 5 He established a decree in Jacob,
 and appointed a law in Israel,
 which he commanded our ancestors
 to teach to their children;
 6 **that the next generation might know them,**

**the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,**
 7so that they should set their hope in God,
 and not forget the works of God,
 but keep his commandments;

At the end of the Psalms is said in unison

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson (Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25)

A Reading from the book of the book of Joshua:

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors — Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor — lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are

witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The First Canticle Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah

Benedictus Dominus Deus

Luke 1:68-79

Said in Unison

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
 he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
 born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
 from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
 and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the

shadow of death, *
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Second Lesson (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Thessalonika:

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Hymn Canticle

Hymn #436, vs. 1, 5 Life up your heads, ye mighty gates

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the
 3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 *4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to
 5 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
 2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 4 thee: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner
 5 no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spi - rit

1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.
 2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!
 3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 4 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.
 5 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

The Third Lesson (Matthew 25:1-13)

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:

[Jesus said,] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ 1And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 1Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

Then follows this set of Suffrages

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
 R. **And grant us your salvation.**
 V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
 R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
 V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
 R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**

- V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
 R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
 V. Let your way be known upon earth;
 R. **Your saving health among all nations.**
 V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
 R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
 V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
 R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

The Collects

The Collect for the Day

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for the Human Family

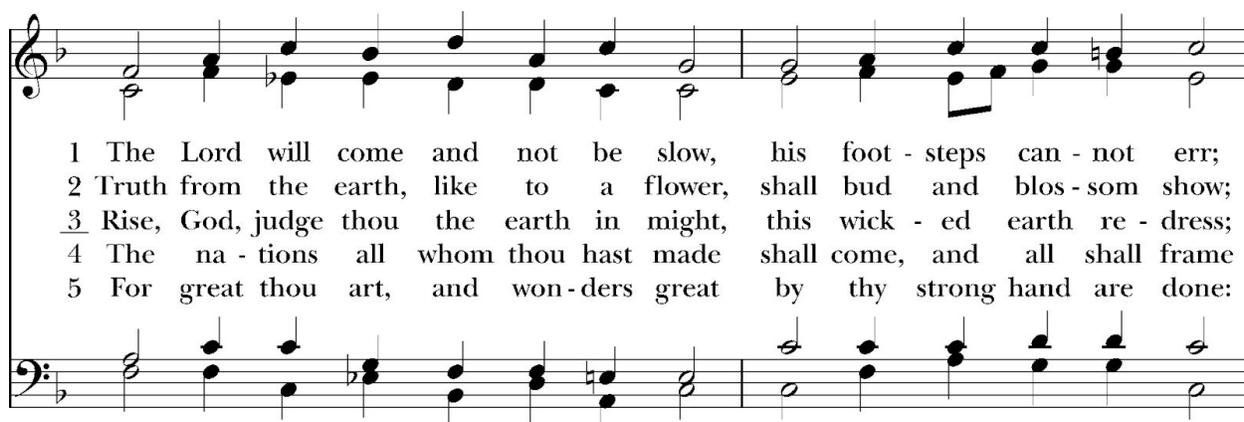
O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Collect for Mission

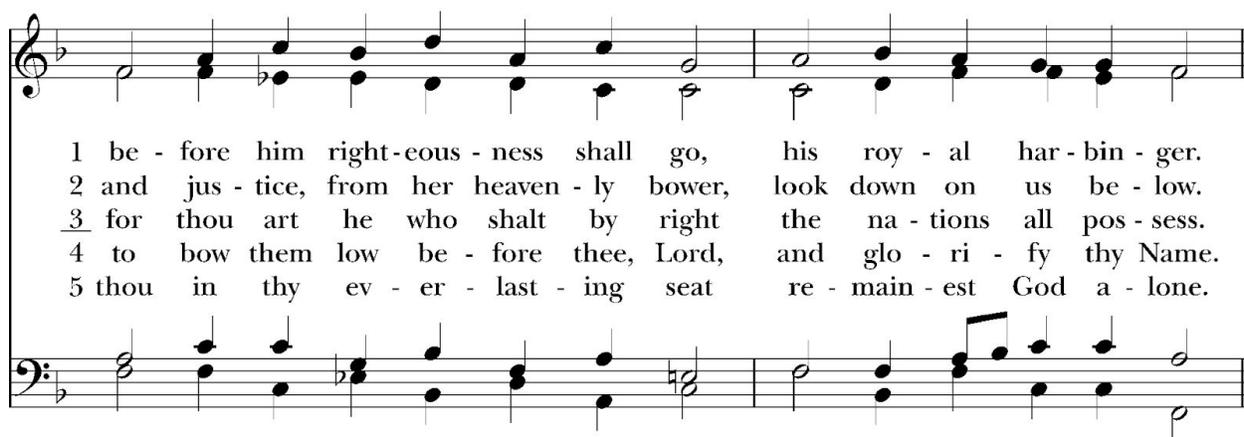
O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Office Hymn

Hymn 462, vs. 1, 5 The Lord will come and not be slow



1 The Lord will come and not be slow, his foot - steps can - not err;
 2 Truth from the earth, like to a flower, shall bud and blos - som show;
 3 Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might, this wick - ed earth re - dress;
 4 The na - tions all whom thou hast made shall come, and all shall frame
 5 For great thou art, and won - ders great by thy strong hand are done:



1 be - fore him right - eous - ness shall go, his roy - al har - bin - ger.
 2 and jus - tice, from her heaven - ly bower, look down on us be - low.
 3 for thou art he who shalt by right the na - tions all pos - sess.
 4 to bow them low be - fore thee, Lord, and glo - ri - fy thy Name.
 5 thou in thy ev - er - last - ing seat re - main - est God a - lone.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

The General Thanksgiving, said in unison

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks

for all your goodness and loving-kindness

to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation,

and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for your immeasurable love

in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;

for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,

that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
 not only with our lips, but in our lives,
 by giving up ourselves to your service,
 and by walking before you
 in holiness and righteousness all our days;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Anthem at the Collection

Poco piu lento (from Prelude et Fugue sur le nom d'Alain, Op. 7), by Maurice Duruflé

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Scripture reflection –The Reverend Rebecca Liberty

Rev. Rebecca Liberty is a Lutheran (ELCA) pastor who lives in Bangor. Ordained in 2002, she previously served Lutheran congregations in Hong Kong, northern California, and Nevada, and until 2018, served as lead pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bangor. She is currently adjunct faculty at UMaine in the Honors College and Judaic Studies.

Final Prayer and Blessing

Let us Pray *in unison*

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is discord, union;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
 to be understood as to understand;
 to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.**

The Lord bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

The Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us. **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace. **Amen.**

The Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us Bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Choral No. 2 in B minor (part 2), César Franck

Parish Prayer list

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed – Sue B., Gavin, Shibohan, Ashley, Ella D., Lorraine S., Lee S., James L., Eileen, Angela O., Andrew L., Justin O., Stevens W., and Jacob B *Continued prayers for* – Ralph R., Ross., Chris., Lois N., Deej P., Patricia, Saree and her unborn child, and Devin.

For our Homebound Members – Evelyn L., Joline F., Kathleen D., Mary, Charles, Robert B., Christa F., Lilly P., Earlene B., Cathy K., Betty C. and Eileen H.

For Everyone affected by the COVID19 virus: for all who are sick or dying, all who mourn; for all who are isolated, anxious, or scared; for those most vulnerable in our institutions and on our streets, for those sacrificing and volunteering to provide safe beds and nutritious meals; for students, families, teachers, and school administrators; for all who are working in essential services, especially our doctors and nurses and all in our health care systems, for all working in our grocery stores and supply chains, and for those who clean and sterilize; for all who willingly sacrifice their own needs and desires for sake of others' health and well being.

For the World: for Peace and Goodwill among Nations and for peoples in war-torn places, especially those in those in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Iraq. For an end to war and all forms of violence. For all who suffer for conscience's sake. For our enemies and those who wish us harm. For all suffering effects of climate change and of natural disasters, especially in California, Oregon,. For refugees, immigrants, and those who are displaced, especially for children.

For our Nation: for each citizen who has or will vote, for all who suffer from injustice; for eyes to see injustice and for the will to work for fairness for all of God's people; for all who protest and for those who are charged to maintain our safety; and for all who struggle to change our world and its systems of oppression.

For the Leaders of our Country, State and Community: Donald Trump, President; Members of Congress, especially, Susan Collins, Angus King, Chellie Pingree, Jared Golden of Maine; Janet Mills, Governor; and Clare Davitt, Mayor - for those who serve in the courts of this land - that they govern with wisdom, civility, and compassion.

For our Military Personnel, especially those of this Parish: Sarah M., Dillan L., Joshua M., Aaron B., and Timothy W.

For the Departed - for all who have died from the Corona Virus around the world; All who have died from racial injustice and violence around the world.

With Thanksgiving for the lives of those celebrating birthdays during the week including Nancy M. and Eli N.

If you would like to add or reinstate a name or concern for our parish prayer list, please contact one of the clergy. Please use this list for your own personal prayers too.

Announcements, Opportunities & Invitations

Phoebe says: join us for Tea Time at 1700 (5pm) on Sundays. We don't discuss politics, but we might well talk about our concerns for the community and ways to take care of our neighbors, and how that relates to living out our lives as Christians. We remain physically distant, but socially connected. Even if you have not attended in the past, please feel free to dip in. Bring your mug, and see you at Tea Time!
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84006054306?pwd=ZmJHVXI4WGJLZ1FuYnB1WWkreUNadz09> Questions, feel free to contact me, Ann, at deacon@stjohnsbangor.org.

We invite you to join us on Veterans Day, November 11 at 4:00 pm, St. John's Episcopal Church, Bangor, invites the community to view an online program in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II. The service will be broadcast on their YouTube channel, St. John's Bangor Streaming. The remembrance will feature readings of World War II-era and related poems which will be interspersed with theological, literary, and historical reflections by Dr. Takeo Kawamura, a retired psychiatrist; The Rev. Canon Anne Mallonee, former vicar of Trinity Church Wall Street and St. Paul's Chapel; Dr. Allen Schaffer, Chief of Psychiatry, Community Health and Counseling Services; and Rabbi Bill Siemers of Congregation Beth Israel in Bangor. The event will also recognize the names of Bangor military personnel who died during the war and feature the music of Lucas Richman, César Franck, and others.

Each month, **Communion from the Reserve Sacrament will be available on Second Saturdays** of the month from 9-11am at the Church and at the same time as our food drive for the Hope House. November 14th will be our next Second Saturday. People are encouraged to make offerings of canned goods and also to come to retrieve the Sacrament to then keep at home and to receive it together on Zoom on Sundays. Communion bags with the Reserve Sacrament can also be retrieved by appointment or by requesting delivery by emailing community@stjohnsbangor.org.

Extra help is needed for our monthly serving at Second Saturday, hosted at St. John's. We are scheduled to serve next on **November 14th from 11:30am-1:30pm.** We are currently serving "to go" meals, observing social distancing and masks are required. No need to sign up in advance, or even commit to coming monthly. Just stop in to help out when you can.

The next Big Red Truck drive will be on the second Saturday of November - the 14th - between 9 and 11 am in front of the church. All contributions will go to

Hope House. Hope House is very grateful to St. John's. Feel free to bring any items of food or clothing, but Hope House is in particular need of the following to use in their kitchen: jars of condiments such as ketchup, mustard, and mayonnaise; sugar; and #10 (large) cans of baked beans. They are also in need of: hand warmers (to go inside gloves/mittens); and sweat shirts and pants. Clean used clothing in good repair is fine! In 2014, 724 individuals (men and women; separate housing) sought temporary relief at Hope House's emergency shelter and the kitchen served as many as 1,000 meals a week. After significant renovation and expansion, the Hope House now has a full-time medical clinic and 48 transitional housing units. These programs, along with Case Management and the Home to Stay re-housing program are available to the entire area's homeless population. Hope House is a low-barrier shelter, available to any adult experiencing a housing crisis. See you at the Big Red Truck!

To all of our wonderful volunteers who donate their time and efforts to cooking and serving at the Salvation Army with us, we have exciting news. **The Salvation Army began allowing volunteers back into the building to cook!** Our group is signed up for the 4th Tuesday. We'll be cooking and placing the food into to-go boxes which the Salvation Army staff will then serve from the truck. We will be practicing social distancing and masks are required, so please bring one. **We look forward to seeing you again at the Salvation Army on November 24th from 10:00am to 1:30pm!**

Please join us for the Advent online book group *"The Bush Was Blazing but Not Consumed: Developing a Multicultural Community Through Dialogue and Liturgy"*. Author Eric Law shows how to work with the dynamics of diverse cultures to create a truly inclusive community in which everyone can live and thrive. In particular, Law addresses power relationships within and between groups, and explores the concept of holy and unholy fire in attempts to rectify injustices. This is a very timely book. Eric Law is the founder of the Kaleidoscope Institute (<https://www.kscopeinstitute.org/>). **Thursdays, Dec 3-17, & Dec 30, 6:30-7:30.** The book is available from Amazon in both hardcopy and electronic versions, and also on the Institute's website. Enroll by sending a note to patricia.sprague03@gmail.com.

During this time of COVID-19, communication via email is even more important than in the past. St. John's is in a time of transition, the work on the building and awaiting a new Interim Rector to be called. It's important that we stay connected. Each week, we send out "This Week at St. John's" via email, filled with information about our Parish life, including events and classes to participate in and news to keep you up to date. If you are not getting this important weekly email, please let me know

at admin@stjohnsbangor.org, so that we can sign you up for it. If you are receiving it, I'd love to hear from you as to what would make it more useful. Is there something you feel we're not updating you about often enough? Are there specific articles that you'd like to see? Please, fill my email with suggestions. - Vanessa

We have copies of Forward Day by Day at the office! The pocket version is in a clear box on the front door at 234 French Street and can be picked up any time. Need the large print version? Let Vanessa know at admin@stjohnsbangor.org and she'll either arrange a time for you to pick it up, or she'll mail it out to you.

Are you computer savvy? **We're looking for volunteers to help stream our Sunday services. We use Zoom, OBS Software and YouTube.** Are you not a computer wizard but comfortable with basic computer skills? **We also need volunteers to share their screen and music while in Zoom during the service.** If you'd be interested in regularly volunteering on Sunday mornings doing one of these duties, please contact Eric Boberg at stewardship@stjohnsbangor.org.