



The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

9:00 a.m.

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
Healing Service**



“They shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds”

Prelude

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy, and living One.

People: You come to your people and set them free.

Opening Hymn

The Hymnal 1982, Hymn 58

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -

va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,
bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;

swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia!
pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,
to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture,
claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

***All:* Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness,
and put on the armor of light,
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to visit us in great humility;
that in the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge both the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Lessons

The congregation sits.

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Remaining seated, all say together [in unison] the

Gradual: Psalm 80:1-7,16-18

Qui regis Israel

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Lesson: I Corinthians 1:3-9

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

All stand for the reading of the

Gospel: Mark 13:27-37

Priest: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark

***People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the

heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All sit to hear

The Sermon

The Rev. Tom Wand

All stand to say

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

All remain standing or sit for the

Prayers of the People

Celebrant: Faithful God, stir up your strength and come to help us as we look for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ; hear our prayers and strengthen us to the end as we pray: Restore us, O God of hosts; show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

***People:* show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Leader: We give thanks to you, our Loving God, for the grace you have given to us in Christ Jesus: Enrich your Church in speech and knowledge of every kind that she may not be lacking in any spiritual gift and may be awake, alert and blameless.

We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop and Primate; for Daniel, our Bishop; for Tom, our Priest; for all the baptized in this parish, ministering here and in the world; and for all lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons. We give thanks for the parish mission and goals we have discerned and ask that they may guide our congregation as we more fully carry out God's call to service and build up our life together as Resurrection parish.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

***People:* show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Leader: Make your name known, Almighty One, so that the nations might tremble at your presence: Gather the elect from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven, that all humanity may know that we are the work of your hand and the sheep of your flock.

We pray for Donald, our President, and Joseph, our President-elect, along with members of Congress and the judges of our courts; Tom, our Governor, along with the General Assembly and the Courts in our Commonwealth; the

leaders of this Township of Aston, and the leaders of all the townships and boroughs in which we live.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: **show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Leader: Come among us with great power and glory, O Shepherd of your people, shine forth and give to all the earth the light of your presence.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: **show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Leader: Be near to this community, at our very gates and within our hearts, and do not hide your face from us, that we may know your glory in the evening and at midnight and at cockcrow and at dawn, and not be found asleep at the day of your coming.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: **show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Leader: Compassionate One, open the heavens and come down with your healing grace for those for whom we pray, especially for Ed Hess, Sr., and Jacob Blake; those over 12 million of our fellow Americans who are sickened, endangered, or quarantined because of the COVID-19 virus; those unemployed, or whose businesses are in distress because of this pandemic; those who face the terrifying choice of entering work environments that jeopardize their health; those imperiled by harsh weather, both in our country and elsewhere; those grieving or menaced by violent acts of hate in our country and around the world, especially those whose lack of resources and whose suffering under the inequalities of our society cries out to us for justice, redress, and support; children and families separated or interned at our nation's borders; those mentioned in our parish's prayer list, and those we name before You now:

Silence is kept.

The People may offer their own prayers and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: **show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Leader: We give thanks for the grace and peace that come from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, offering our special gratitude, especially for Robert Spencer, as he celebrates his birthday this week; for Brandon Chiapetta, as we commemorate his baptism; for Diane Hagy, as we commemorate her confirmation; for the first responders and health care workers who strive to protect us from dangers to our health, including the COVID-19 virus; for the essential workers who put their health at risk for us; this parish's fellowship and its ministry; for the mission you have given us to accomplish, and to which we have dedicated ourselves; and for those blessings we remember before You now:

Silence is kept.

The People may offer their own prayers and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Leader: May your angels gather your beloved into the day of your triumph as we remember those who have died, especially Carolyn Watson, Estherine Craig, Jean Latch, Ellie Evans, Edward Kurt Rappold, Jr., Dorothy Laxton, Walter Wallace, Jr., Aaron Danielson, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, Breonna Taylor, and Joe Ritchie-Bennett; those over 230,000 of our fellow Americans who have died in the Coronavirus pandemic, including John Davis; among these we give special thanks for those who gave their life for others by serving as health care workers, first responders, and essential workers; all those killed by unlawful violent acts, both by and against law enforcement officers, and those whom we remember before You now:

Silence is kept.

The People may offer their own prayers and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Celebrant: No one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, O Holy One; you are the potter and we are the clay, the work of your hand: Shine forth upon your creation, stir up your strength, and come to help us, as we put our trust in you, O Father, through our Savior Jesus Christ in the power of your Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

All kneel as they are able or sit for the

Confession and Absolution

The Celebrant says Let us confess our sins to God.

All kneel (as they are able) or sit.

Silence may be kept.

**All God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Priest alone stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

After the gifts of bread and wine are offered at the Altar, all say the following

Doxology

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!

All power is Christ's, all glory! All things are in Christ's hand,
All ages and all peoples till time itself shall end!

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!

At the conclusion of the Doxology, the Celebrant begins the Eucharistic Prayer.

Eucharistic Prayer B (Expansive language)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs of everlasting life; that when Christ shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In Christ you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**All We remember Christ's death,
 We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
 We await Christ's coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Mark the Evangelist, and

all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

People: AMEN!!

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional Translation) *The Book of Common Prayer, page 364*

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. This anthem is said.

Leader **O come, O come, Emmanuel!**

People **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has come to us, O Israel.**



The Invitation

The Celebrant raises the elements and says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

“If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but...is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth.” [The Book of Common Prayer, p. 457]

Post-Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

All: **God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Prayers for Healing

Yet you, LORD,
are our Father.
We are the clay,
you are the potter;
we are all the work
of your hand.

Isaiah 64:8



Blessing

Celebrant: You are the work of God's hands; clay lovingly molded by the creative potter. God is faithful and works for those who wait in faith.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: Christ is near. Keep alert, keep awake, for the Son of Man comes to gather from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: The Spirit strengthens you to the end so that you may be enriched, not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Savior Jesus Christ.

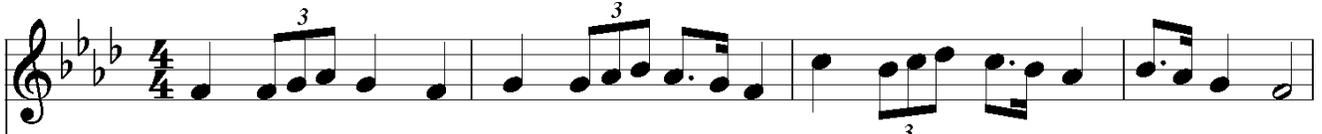
People: Amen.

Celebrant: And the blessing of our surprising God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and awaken you, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn:

Wonder, Love and Praise, Hymn 721



1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us— dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.



shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.



Come, O Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through - out the earth;



Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.
Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
your do - min - ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

Dismissal

Celebrant: As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.



Forward Day-By-Day Issue to be distributed by mail

The new issue of *Forward Day-By-Day* has arrived at the Church Office. Because of pandemic precautions, we will be mailing the issue to parishioners who request one [by mail, email, or phone]. Let us know if you would like a copy, and also if you need one of our limited large-print copies.



Your contributions are the main funding source for our parish.

We thank you for your continued support!

**PLEDGE CARDS WERE MAILED OUT. PLEASE RETURN THEM ASAP.
IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE YOUR PLEDGE CARD,
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.**

THANK YOU!!!

WEEK #47	11/22/2020	ACTUAL	BUDGET 52 WEEKS
Pledge	\$1,019.00	\$108,049.50	\$112,511.67
Contribution	\$250.00	\$2,578.55	\$6,778.85
TOTAL	\$1,269.00	\$110,628.05	\$119,290.52



Christmas Poinsettias

Would you like to help decorate our altar and nave for Christmas services?



To those who wish to remember loved ones, or have a special thanksgiving, we are asking for a \$10.00 donation. **ALL FLOWERS WILL REMAIN IN THE CHURCH UNTIL JANUARY 31, 2021.**

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Given By: _____

*Please attach \$10.00 cash or check and place this offering in the collection plate or mail it to the Church Office no later than Sunday, **December 13th.**

Thank you!

Please remember in your prayers
those for whom our prayers have been requested, especially:



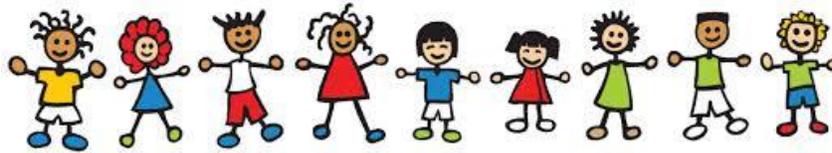
for Ed Hess, Sr., and Jacob Blake; those sickened, endangered, or quarantined because of the COVID-19 virus; those unemployed, or whose businesses are in distress because of this pandemic; those who face the terrifying choice of entering work environments that jeopardize their health; those imperiled by harsh weather, both in our country and elsewhere; those grieving or menaced by violent acts of hate in our country and around the world, especially those whose lack of resources and whose suffering under the inequalities of our society cries out to us for justice, redress, and support; children and families separated or interned at our nation's borders; Wendy A, Billie Jean Adams, Thomas Adams, Gene Adamuski, Bruce, Hilda Bunting, Dolly Boyd, Fr. Arthur Brunner, Merry Buffington, Carol Cannon, Bruce Coffin, Jim and Barbara Dickson, Irene Doniger, Annis Dunlap, Stephanie Eckenrode, David Evans, Jennifer Finley, Charlie Gaeto, Paul Hagy, Maggie Hancock, Susan Harbison and Family, Dawn Hess, George Kolodi, Sophie McNerney; Debbie Mozingo, Wayne Mozingo, The Osborn Family, Marisa Osimo, Cathy Pannabaker, Mike Pelegrino, George Rigby, Ruby, John Ryan, The Schiller Family, Bill Scott, Keith Scott, Doug and Ruth Soule, Gale Spencer, Susan Stretch, Bernice Strohl, Glenda Tate, Marie Taylor, Dale Tibbetts, Paula Trudell, Bruce Warren, Kevin Widrig, Hazel and Henry Will, and Lora Lee Wright.

Those blessings for which we offer thanks, especially:

for Robert Spencer, as he celebrates her birthday this week; for Brandon Chiapetta, as we commemorate his baptism; for Diane Hagy, as we commemorate her confirmation; for the first responders and health care workers who strive to protect us from dangers to our health, including the COVID-19 virus; for the essential workers who put their health at risk for us; this parish's fellowship and its ministry; for the mission you have given us to accomplish, and to which we have dedicated ourselves; for Lukas Joseph, newly baptized, and his family: Lianne and Zachary.

Those who have died, especially:

for Carolyn Watson, Estherine Craig, Jean Latch, Ellie Evans, Edward Kurt Rappold, Jr., Dorothy Laxton, Walter Wallace, Jr., John Lewis, Aaron Danielson, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, Breonna Taylor, and Joe Ritchie-Bennett; those over 230,000 of our fellow Americans who have died in the Coronavirus pandemic, including John Davis; among these we give special thanks for those who gave their life for others by serving as health care workers, first responders, and essential workers; all those killed by unlawful violent acts, both by and against law enforcement officers.



Resurrection Pre-School

9am till 12noon
5-day classes for 4's
3-day classes (M/W/F) for 3's

Reasonable rates—Financial Aid Available
Children need to be toilet-trained

Please call the office 610-459-2013 for more
information and pricing
Dawn Viscusi, Pre-School Administrator

***REMEMBER:
IT'S YOUR WORD OF MOUTH PROMOTION
OF OUR PARISH'S PRESCHOOL THAT
KEEPS THIS OUTREACH PROGRAM OF OUR
PARISH ALIVE AND DOING ITS GOOD
WORK!***



The Mission and Goals of Resurrection Church

The mission of Resurrection Episcopal Church is to nourish the spiritual lives of our diverse parish family and to follow the example of Jesus through service to our community.

The Internal goal for Resurrection Episcopal Church is to grow stronger in faith, care for those who cannot be present, and unify as a family sharing in faith based activities.

The Resurrection Episcopal Church outreach goal is to become more visible and listen to the needs of the community by doing God's work through service to others.



Resurrection Episcopal Church, Rockdale

2131 Mount Road, Aston, PA 19014

(610) 459-2013

The Rev. Thomas C. Wand, Priest-in-Charge

Racial Justice and Reconciliation in Our Country—How Do We Actively Help?

A Statement by the Priest-in-Charge, Wardens, and Vestry of Resurrection Episcopal Church, Rockdale

Our Church, our Diocese, indeed all of us are committed by our Baptism into the Christian faith to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” [BCP, p. 305] This means that we must actively oppose and seek to dismantle systems, structures, and beliefs which promote and sustain the privileges of one group or race over another.

Based in the resurrection, our work is not to blame, not to single out individuals or groups to pronounce guilty or sinful [most notably, because we know everyone has sinned, including us]. Jesus calls us not to judge and condemn *others*, but to bring the righteousness of the Reign of God into visible reality. This righteousness comes from right relationships among all people, among all structures of our society, and among us as human beings relating to God and all Creation.

This will be, in our society (and for our parish community), long and hard work. This did not start recently; its repair will not be done soon. We have many broken and distorted relationships in our society and its structures [The Bible calls this “sin.”]. We cannot stand by and refuse the work to transform that because of its difficulty or pain to us. The Cross will not allow that. The time to start is now.

Our parish will be examining the work to which we are called and the ways we can move forward. Your help in the discernment and in the work is essential. Please pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance and support for you, for our parish, and for our country as we seek to:

“Let the whole world know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by [the One] through whom all things were made, ..Jesus Christ.” [BCP, p. 280]



(From top left:) Janet Russello, Jill Graham, Fr. Wand, Phyllis Russell, Barbara Krisack
 (From bottom left:) Helen Dunlap, Jim Geiger, Rosemary Bezuidenhout, Marsha Litwin



Vestry of Resurrection Episcopal Church, Rockdale

Phyllis Russell, Rector's Warden	610-358-0258
Barbara Krisack, People's Warden	610-497-1603
Marsha Litwin, Secretary	610-299-0967
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