

Midweek Lent Service: In Community with Creation

March 9, 2022

7:30 pm



Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell

Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com

610-277-1086

Staff:

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker, Director of Music

Ray Hopkins, Director of Youth and Family

Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator

Carrie Engel, Nursery School Director

Katie Myers, Webmaster

Barry Stock, Facilities Coordinator

Marcie Godby, Bookkeeper

Sue Klosterman, Church Office Assistant

pastorstjohnbluebell@gmail.com

lawrencebaker22@gmail.com

rayhopkins1802@gmail.com

annlb609@gmail.com

carrie@stjohnsns.com

stjohnbluebell@gmail.com

stock825@comcast.net

stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com

stjohn1802@gmail.com

Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 253 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2022.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Parents with young children: Please know that your children are welcome and cherished in worship! Wiggles and all! If you find a need to step out with them during worship, we have arranged a special corner in the Great Room down the sanctuary stairs.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003832.

One License authorized user, number A-725585

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©2022, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Gathering Song~ "Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
 Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Prayer

Gracious Creator, you fashioned us in your image in the midst of a world beyond our knowledge and understanding. Continue to weave us together in community with all created things and deepen our awareness of the ways you connect us to the earth. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Scripture

Mark 4:35-41 *Jesus calms a storm*

While we often think of community as limited to human beings, our human existence is interdependent with all the created world. This theme is especially apparent in Mark 4:35-41, the account of the fishermen whose lives depend on the sea but who become afraid of its power in the storm.

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Engaging with Scripture

You are invited to either participate in this week's activity or remain quietly to exercise "Lectio divina"

Lectio divina

To engage the scripture in a prayerful way, read the texts three times.

- Reading the first time: Listen for a word or short phrase that stands out to you.
- Reading the second time: Listen for a way in which God is speaking to you personally.
- Reading the third time: Listen for a way in which God is speaking to the community/communities of which you are a part.

OR

Prayer Stations

Make your way to each of four stations around the room,

Prayerfully visit the stations and write or draw your prayer and then light a candle as a symbol of your prayer. Read what others have written. When you are finished have a seat and reflect quietly.

Sung Response~ "Many and Great, O God"

1 Man - y and great, O God, are your works, mak - er of
 2 Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with you, O Star - a -

earth and sky. Your hands have set the heav'ns with stars;
 bid - ing One. Come un - to us and dwell with us;

your fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at your
 with you are found the gifts of . . . life. Bless us with

word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey your voice.
 life that has no . . . end, e - ter - nal life with you.

Text: Joseph R. Renville, 1779-1846; para. Philip Frazier, 1892-1964, alt.
 Music: LAC QUI PARLE, Dakota tune; arr. *Songs of the People*, 1986
 Arr. © 1986 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Prayers

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation...

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness...

for the gifts of relationship with others...

for the communion of faith in your church...

Other thanksgivings may be added.

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world...

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare...

for all who work for peace and international harmony...

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction...

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land...

Other intercessions may be added.

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours.

Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Creator who fashions us together with all things,

the Christ who leads us into a new beloved community,

the Spirit who holds us in the communion of saints,

one God, ✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending Song~ "The Day You Gave Us Lord, Has Ended"

1 The day you gave us, Lord, has end - ed;
 2 We thank you that your church, un - sleep - ing
 3 As to each con - ti - nent and is - land
 4 The sun, here hav - ing set, is wak - ing
 5 So be it, Lord; your realm shall nev - er,

the dark - ness falls at your be - hest.
 while earth rolls on - ward in - to light,
 the dawn leads on an - oth - er day,
 your chil - dren un - der west - ern skies,
 like earth's proud em - pires, pass a - way;

To you our morn - ing hymns as - cend - ed;
 through all the world its watch is keep - ing,
 the voice of prayer is nev - er si - lent,
 and hour by hour, as day is break - ing,
 but stand and grow and rule for - ev - er,

your praise shall hal - low now our rest.
 and nev - er rests by day or night.
 nor dies the strain of praise a - way.
 fresh hymns of thank - ful praise a - rise.
 till all your crea - tures own your sway.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-1893, alt.

Music: ST. CLEMENT, Clement C. Scholefield, 1839-1904

Dismissal

Go in peace, joined together in Christ.

Thanks be to God.

