



Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

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

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

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 252 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2021.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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Order for Worship

Prelude ~ "Praise to You, Lord Jesus"

Quartet

Praise to you, Lord Jesus, who in deepest need,
who in deepest need on the cross did suffer for us a bitter death,
and reigns with God the Father in eternity.
Help us ailing sinners find your blessedness!
Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Text: Medieval trope

Music: Heinrich Schütz

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

C: **Amen.**

P: God hears us when we cry and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit
to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love.
Amen.

P: Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,
the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ~ “As the Sun with Longer Journey”



1 As the sun with long - er jour - ney melts the win - ter's snow and ice,
2 Through the days of wait - ing, watch - ing, in the des - ert of our sin,
3 Praise be giv - en to the mak - er of the sea - sons' year - ly round:



with its slow - ly grow - ing ra - dian - ce warms the seed be - neath the earth,
search - ing on the far ho - ri - zon for a sign of cloud or wind,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it—Source, Sus - tain - er, Lord of life,



may the sun of Christ's up - ris - ing gent - ly bring our hearts to life.
we a - wait the heal - ing wa - ters of our Sav - ior's vic - to - ry.
as the ev - er turn - ing a - ges roll to their e - ter - nal rest.

Text: John Patrick Earls, OSB, b. 1935

Music: NAGEL, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Greeting

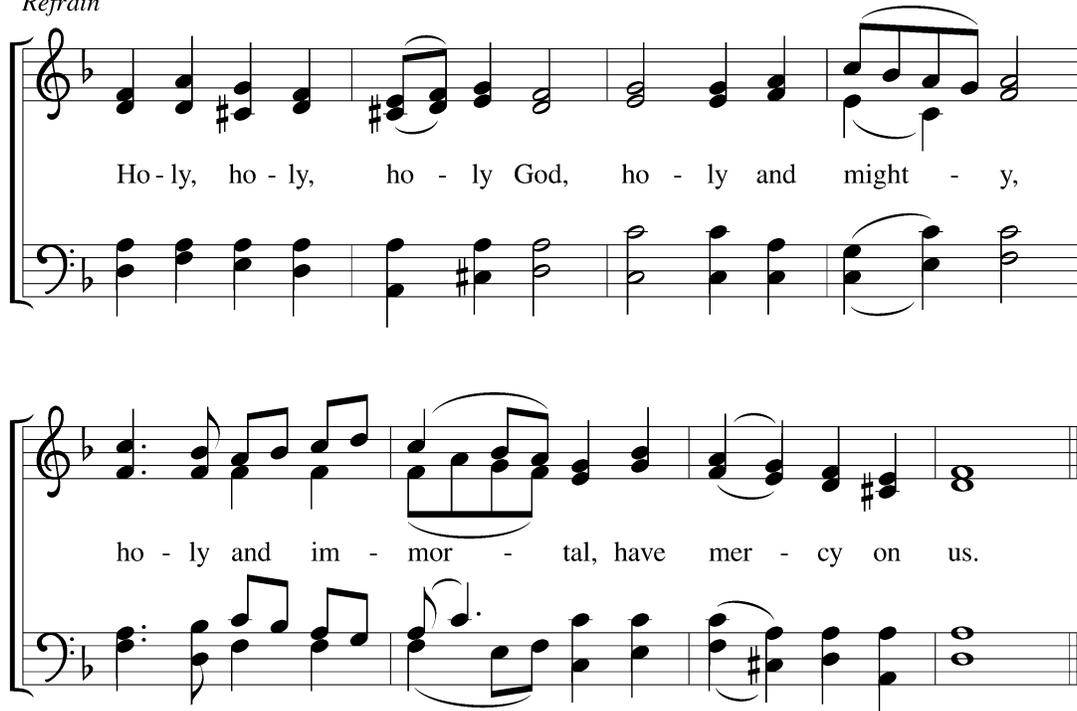
P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Sung twice by all.

Refrain



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,
ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

Prayer of the Day

P: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

A: God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

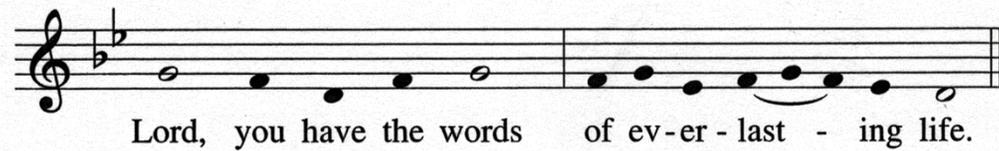
Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19

Refrain, sung by Cantor, then by ALL

Columba Kelly, OSB



The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul;
the decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple. *Refrain*

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye. *Refrain*

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true, all of them just. *Refrain*

They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold;
sweeter also than syrup of honey from the comb. *Refrain*

Gospel: John 2:12-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day ~ "Holy God, Holy and Glorious"



1 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and glo - ri - ous,
 2 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and pow - er - ful,
 4 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and on - ly wise,
 5 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and liv - ing one,



glo - ry most sub - lime, you come as one a - mong us
 pow - er with - out peer, you bend to us in weak - ness;

wis - dom of great price, you choose the way of fol - ly:
 life that nev - er ends, you show your love by dy - ing,



in - to hu - man time, and we be - hold your glo - ry.
 emp - tied, you draw near, and we be - hold your pow - er.

God the cru - ci - fied, and we be - hold your wis - dom.
 dy - ing for your friends, and we be - hold you liv - ing.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: NELSON, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

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Music © 2001 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Apostles' Creed

P: *Together, let us confess our faith:*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

A: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies.
Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all especially those on the margins. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering especially, Eleanor, Joe, Barry, Jean, Alethia, Martyne, Callen, Kate, Ed, Maria, Cheryl, Susan, John, Jenny, Scott, John, Eric, Tom, Jack, Jon, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna. Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: The cross of Christ is your power for all humanity who have been redeemed. Thank you for (*Perpetua, Felicity, and*) all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ “Who Is the One We Love the Most”

Quartet

Who is the one we love the most, the one who has our total trust?
Something or someone is our God, whose will is willingly obeyed,
to whom we give the years we live: let that be you, our God, our Lord!

Count every heartbeat, every breath, trace every step from birth to death,
track every second to its source, each drop of blood, each blade of grass,
the rising sun, and everyone: let that be you, our God, our Lord!

Preserve us from all other gods, all damned, deceitful, loveless frauds;
compare them ruthlessly to you, the only One, eternal, true,
Creator of all life and love; you are that One, our God, our Lord!

A love no other god has shown, your Son upon a cross makes known.
How shall we worship such a God, with more than words and passing nod,
if not with whole heart, mind, and soul, like yours for us, our God, our Lord?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda

Music: Carl Schalk

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During our time away, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:

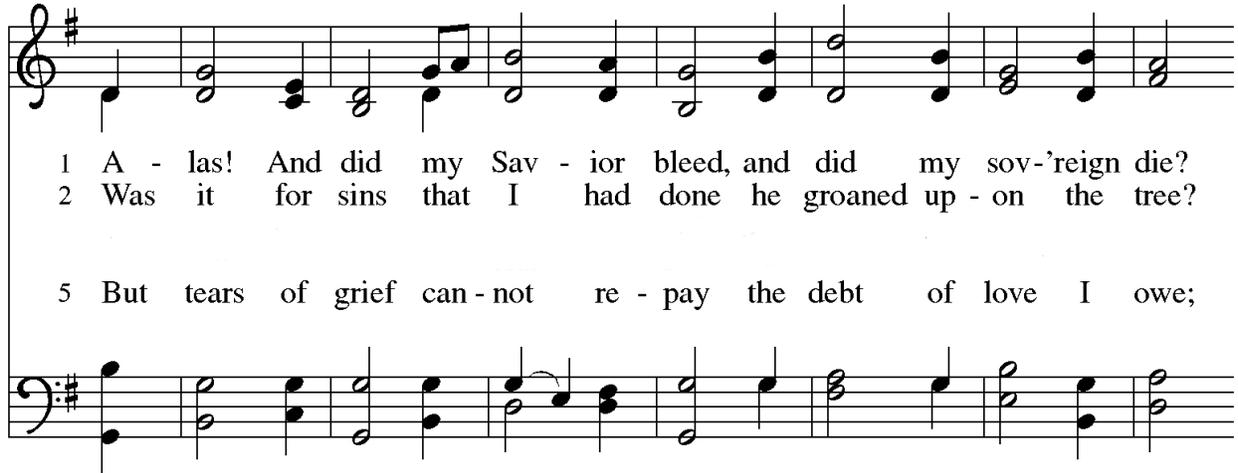
- 1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this (stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com).*
- 2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.*
- 3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).*

Take a moment and reflect on the gifts we have received – even in these difficult days.

Voluntary~ “Reflection on Martyrdom”

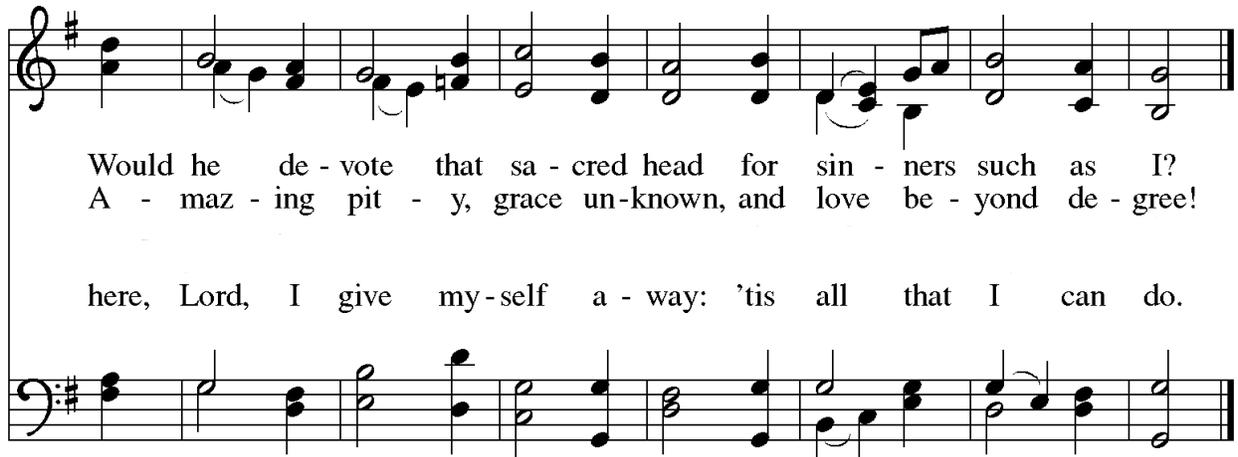
Robert Hobby

Offertory Hymn~ "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?

5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!

here, Lord, I give my-self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

Offertory Prayer

P: Faithful God,
you walk beside us in desert places,
and you meet us in our hunger.
Accompany us in this journey,
that we may pass over from death to life
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

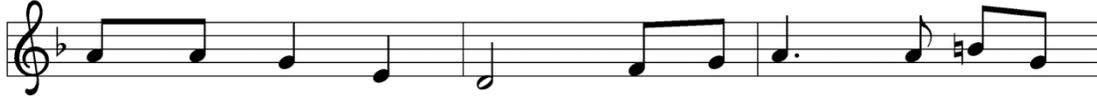
P: You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.
God bless you ✠ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn~ "Tree of Life"



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Additional music links:

“Give Me Jesus”

<https://youtu.be/48eTkoKUXpQ>

“God Hath Led His People On”

<https://youtu.be/xSSWQV5bxzY>

“God the Sculptor of the Mountains”

<https://youtu.be/SajnxEOYMrI>

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Quartet

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Linda Maurer

Deborah Swider, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen,

Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Jonathan Oehler

Announcements

-**Easter flowers** can be sponsored to beautify the altar for Easter. You can sign up on our website.

-**Mid-week Lenten devotions** take place each Wednesday in Lent at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Details are on our website.

-**Sunday Coffee Hour** via Zoom takes place this Sunday, March 7 at 11 a.m. These will take place the first Sunday of the month. The Zoom link can be found on our website.

-**Family Game Night - Save the Date!**

In the past year we have learned how we cannot just do work but also have fun on Zoom!

Families are invited to a Family Game Night on **March 20th at 4 p.m. via Zoom!** We'll get to see each other, laugh, and have fun! Mark your calendars for the first day of Spring!

-**Acme/Giant Gift Cards for Seminary** would be another great way to support the pantry for perishable goods. You can mail cards or drop off cards/cash to the office. Tuesday and Thursdays are the best days to come by the church office between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

A Letter from Linda Carpenter: Reflections On the One Year Anniversary of the COVID Pandemic

On March 2, 2020, I had the joy of meeting at church with a number of people who were interested in becoming members of St. John Church. Pastor Steve had set up this gathering (and a second one that evening), which included a few other members of our congregation, as a “get to know you” opportunity. For a couple of hours, there was storytelling, laughter and tears, as the new friends shared stories of their lives as long-time members of their home church, Grace Lutheran, Norristown. In January 2020, Grace Church held their last worship service, one of thanksgiving and celebration for the congregation’s ministry over the past 135 years. As Grace members shared their stories with us that Monday morning, it was a mixture of joy and pain, as they dealt with the separation of their church family. I certainly could relate to the feelings they shared, having seen my own home congregation, Peace (Friedens) Lutheran Church in Kensington, close in their 100th year. Thankfully, this is not an experience that most church members have had. Perhaps, however, as we mark the one-year anniversary of our pandemic year, we can all “feel” and understand what it is like to be separated from our church family, our church home and the joys that we have experienced together there. This coming Sunday, it will be one year since our last worship in our beautiful sanctuary, where we could join together in song, and physically gather around the table.

The Sunday following the closing service at Grace, our new friends from Grace, came to worship at St. John. They immediately connected with members of St. John. They continued to financially support the work of the Church. Five people joined the choir. This is a story of faith, of joy, of commitment. We were all so excited to welcome them to our St. John family. While there has been no official reception of new members over the past year, and we didn’t have much time to get to know more about our new friends, they are truly sisters and brothers in our St. John family. They have served as leaders in our virtual worship, joined in outdoor worship and participated in MLK Day, the COVID Advisory Team and in other ways. Their example can be an inspiration to all of us during this ongoing time of separation, as we continue to find ways to stay connected as a congregation. Through commitment and “thinking outside the box,” our pandemic year has been filled with wonderful virtual worship which still continues excellence in music at St. John’s, joy-filled in-person outdoor worship, Zoom Confirmation Class, committee meetings, Bible study, Book Club, Mid-week Advent and Lenten Devotions, opportunities for outreach to members by evangelism and social ministry teams, and an incredible MLK drive-up Day of Service, reaching out to our community agencies. We have been blessed with many leaders and members who have made these things happen. Thanks to all of them. And thanks to God who has blessed us during this year with our health, our faith, our church and each other. I can’t wait to see everyone for outdoor worship again this Spring and Summer, and I look forward to the day we can again sing together with great joy and share the “Peace of the Lord” with a long overdue hug.

With expectation,
Linda Carpenter

