



**St. John's Church  
Henrico Parish  
The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 22, 2020  
10:30 a.m.  
Liturgy of the Word**

Welcome to St. John's Church. We are glad you have joined us for our online worship service this morning.

The service can be accessed by logging into our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/historicstjohnschurch](http://www.facebook.com/historicstjohnschurch). Search for the post entitled "Lent 4 Sunday Morning Liturgy of the Word" and click on the arrow to begin the video. You may also access the video by going to our website at [www.saintjohnsrichmond.org](http://www.saintjohnsrichmond.org) and clicking on the link to the video as indicated.

If you are new to us today and have any questions about our worship or the life of our parish do not hesitate to contact our rector, the Rev. Amelie Wilmer, at [awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org](mailto:awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org). Be sure to visit our website, [saintjohnsrichmond.org](http://saintjohnsrichmond.org), and sign up for our newsletter.

As we prepare our hearts for worship during this unusual and uncertain time, here is a prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book that has comforted the hearts of many over the ages.

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart;  
bring hope and courage to us  
as we wait in uncertainty.  
Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead.  
Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided,  
for your will is health and wholeness;  
you are God, and we need you. *Amen.*

**Our Mission**

We are a caring, spiritual community, joyfully embracing and nurturing all;  
serving God, each other, and the community.

**St. John's Church, Henrico Parish**

Office: 2319 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23223 804-649-7938

[www.saintjohnsrichmond.org](http://www.saintjohnsrichmond.org) [www.facebook.com/historicstjohnschurch/](http://www.facebook.com/historicstjohnschurch/) *Parish founded 1611 Church built 1741*

## **Prelude**

### **Words of Welcome**

### **Introit**

### **Opening Acclamation**

*Celebrant* Blessed be Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* God's mercy endures for ever. Amen.

### **The Collect for Purity**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The Kyrie**

*Celebrant* Lord have mercy

*People* Christ Have Mercy

*Celebrant* Lord have mercy.

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us Pray

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **The First Reading**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **The Response Psalm 23** *Said in unison*

*Dominus regit me*

The LORD is my shepherd; \*

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; \*

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; \*

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his  
Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; \*

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of

mine enemies; \*

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days

of my life, \*

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## **The Second Reading**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

## **Sequence Music**

### **The Holy Gospel**

**John 9:1-41**

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People*            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they

said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*             Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### **The Sermon**

The Ven. David Curtis

### **Music for Meditation**

#### **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.

### **The Prayers of the People**

God is always present. During this season of Lent, let us return again to God so that we may live more fully into God's will for this world.

O God, creator of life and giver of gladness, let us be your Beacon on the Hill, shining your light so brightly that others may come to know you, to love, and to be loved. Help us to reach out to those around us, bearing fruit through acts of kindness, welcome, and fellowship.

Loving God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For the holy church of God throughout the world, especially for St. John's, Tappahannock; and Incarnation, Mineral. Loving God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For Susan and Jennifer, our bishops, for all who minister in the love of Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Loving God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For President Trump, Governor Northam, for all elected officials and unelected policy makers, and for the strength and courage to hold them accountable to those they serve.

Loving God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For civility and for love for one another as we enter a divisive political season.

Loving God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For all who are oppressed, afflicted, struggling, grieving, or in need, especially Ally, Kendra, Lindsey, Virginia, Susan, Amanda, Bill, Patti, Ellen, Bishop Susan, Patti, Gayle, Helen, Curtis, Faye, Paul, Virginia, and Bill, and all who are suffering because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Loving God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For the dying and the dead. Loving God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For our own needs and thanksgiving, which we offer either silently or aloud.

Loving God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds the following concluding collect*

Holy, Gracious, Loving God; Our times are in your hands, and these times have brought us to a strange moment. We read the news. We hear the stories. We know of people who have either tested positive for COVID-19 or have been in a room with people who have tested positive. And we wonder. We know that there is fear out there, and we ask you to help us to turn this fear, our fear, into an opportunity for your love. We pray for all who have been affected by this illness, for those who are afraid, for all healthcare workers, for our hospital system, for all leaders who are making decisions that affect their people. Guide us all, because we haven't done this before, and we are figuring out how to do it as we are doing it. Lead us, bless us, fill us with your peace and with your presence, so that our faith may always exceed our fear, and that we may be a part of the healing work that you are doing. And we pray it all in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **The Confession**

*Celebrant* Let us Confess our sins against God and our neighbor

*All* 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.

## **Absolution**

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

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

## **Announcements**

### **The Solemn Prayer for The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

*Celebrant* Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sending Song** “Go in Peace”

Sam Baker

## **The Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

### **Welcome to St. John’s Church**

If you are seeking a place to explore your faith, we invite you to make St. John’s Church your spiritual home.

Please visit our website at [sainjohnsrichmond.org](http://sainjohnsrichmond.org) and sign up for our newsletter.

To inquire about membership, please contact our rector, the Rev. Amelie Wilmer at [awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org](mailto:awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org)

### **Prayer for St. John’s Church**

O God, creator of life and giver of gladness, let us be your Beacon on the Hill, shining your light so brightly that others may come to know you, to love, and to be loved. Help us to reach out to those around us, bearing fruit through acts of kindness, welcome, and fellowship. Amen.

**Serving this Morning**

**10:30 a.m.**

<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Amelie Wilmer
<b>Preacher</b>	The Ven. David Curtis
<b>Deacon</b>	The Ven. David Curtis
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Jim Bennett
<b>Worship Assistants</b>	August Butler and Marshall Schutt
<b>Flutist</b>	Susan Bagot

**Staff**

The Rev. Amelie Wilmer, *Rector* awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org  
The Rev. Dr. Dorothy White, *Associate Priest* dwhite@saintjohnsrichmond.org  
Patty Duffy, *Parish Administrator* pduffy@saintjohnsrichmond.org  
Jim Bennett, *Minister of Music* jim@saintjohnsrichmond.org

**In the Diocese of Virginia**

The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, *Suffragan Bishop*  
The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, *Assistant Bishop*

**Associated Clergy**

The Ven. J. David Curtis, *Deacon* dcurtis@saintjohnsrichmond.org  
The Rev. Anne Lane Witt, *Children's Chaplain*

**St. John's Church Vestry**

August Butler, *Senior Warden* augustmbutler@gmail.com  
Paul Broughton, *Junior Warden* paulb2000@verizon.net Mike Broda mdbroda@vcu.edu  
Marc Dixon mdixon139@gmail.com  
Mary Garner Devoe marygdevoe@gmail.com  
Rita Driscoll driscoll.rita@gmail.com  
Joni McKeen jonimckeen@gmail.com  
Marshall Schutt schuttm@yahoo.com  
Susan White susanwhite1106@gmail.com