

ST. PETER'S CHURCH IN ESSEX FELLS
A PARISH OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK
271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells, NJ 07102
973.226.6500 • stpetersef.org



***The Second Sunday after Christmas Day
January 5, 2025***

Welcome

We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship today. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here. We are a church rooted in Christian tradition, and open to new ideas, committed to service in community and world as part of the world-wide Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. The work of worship is shared by all, and we invite you to participate in the said and spoken responses as you are able.

All are welcome to make a gift and offering in thanksgiving to God for the many blessings we have received. To take advantage of our electronic giving options, please follow the QR code with your capable electronic device. Help us to make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by all.



Holy Eucharist at 8 o'clock and 4 o'clock, All Saints' Chapel

The service begins in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), page 355

The Lessons may be found in the 10 o'clock portion of this worship bulletin (below)

Psalm 84 may be found on page 707 of the BCP

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B, may be found on page 367 of the BCP

Holy Eucharist at 10 o'clock, Church

Voluntary *Prelude, 'Divinum Mysterium'* John Blackburn
Entrance Hymn 93 *Hymnal 1982* REGENT SQUARE

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation *BCP, page 355*
Gloria *Hymnal 1982, S 277*
Collect of the Day *BCP, page 214*

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84 *Quam dilecta!*

Robert Knox Kennedy



- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of *hosts!* *
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living *God.*
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her *young* *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my *God.*
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your *house!* *
they will be always *praising you.*

- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is *in you!* *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' *way*.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of *springs*, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of *water*.
- 6 They will climb from height to *height*, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in *Zion*.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my *prayer*; *
hearken, O God of *Jacob*.
- 8 Behold our defender, O *God*; *
and look upon the face of your *Anointed*.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved....I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 127 *Hymnal 1982*

STUTT GART

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

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

People **Glorify to you, Lord Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all

Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Sermon

Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

The response is Lord, hear our prayer.

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Anthem

*O men from the fields! Come gently within.
Tread softly, softly, O men coming in!
Mavourneen is going from me and from you,
Where Mary will fold him with mantle of blue!
From reek of the smoke, and cold of the floor,
And the peering of things across the half-door.
O men from the fields! Soft, softly come through—
Mary puts round him her mantle of blue.*

—Padraic Colum

The Rector

BCP, page 358

Arnold Cooke

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B

Sanctus

Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Christ our Passover

Invitation

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Bread and Cup to be in communion with God and each other. You may receive only the bread by placing your hands together flat in front of you (Gluten-free wafers are available upon request). Afterwards you may drink wine from the chalice. If you would rather have the bread intincted (dipped) in the wine, you may hand the bread to the person administering the chalice and they will intinct and hand it back to you. If you (or your child) would rather not receive the Sacrament, you may come to the altar rail during Communion and cross your arms on your chest for a blessing.

Hymn 128 *Hymnal 1982*

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand and say together*

Let these holy mysteries set us free from the bonds of our sins, O Lord: that we may hasten to obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 250 *Hymnal 1982*

SIXTH NIGHT

Blessing and Dismissal

People **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary and Procession

This Week's Parish Notices

STEWARDSHIP 2025

This year's theme is *Walk in Love*, taken from the Letter to the Ephesians: "Walk in love as Christ has loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God (Ephesians 5:2). Make your pledge online at <https://stpetersef.org/donate/pledge-form>. Contact a member of the Vestry or Father Nate to find out more about how you can *Walk in Love* at St. Peter's.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

- Thanks to the Altar Guild for their hard work throughout the season, and the beautiful decorations in the church and the chapel.
- Thanks to our Parish Choir and Handbell Choir for their beautiful music at Christmas—and special thanks to our section leaders Michael Barretti and Giulia Utz for their leadership.
- Thanks to Connor Leach and Vincent Korstein for sharing their musical gifts at the 4 pm Christmas service.

- Thanks to Laura Copeland, Dana Leach, Beth Manfre, and Mark Trautman for their leadership of the Nativity Pageant.
- Thanks to all Acolytes, Lectors, and Ushers for their leadership in all of our Christmas liturgies.
- Thanks to all who gave generously to Christmas Poinsettias and Christmas Music this season.

CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME

The Parish Choir (Adults and older teens) rehearses Thursday evenings at 7:30 in the Choir Room. The Handbell Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7 pm in the south transept. Choir is great fun, Christian formation, and a wonderful way to be a part of a great community. For more information, contact Mark Trautman (trautman@stpetersef.org). *Everyone is welcome!*

THE NEXT BAPTISMAL FEAST

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: the Baptism of Our Lord will be celebrated on January 12, 2025. This is one of the four principal Baptismal feasts in the Church Year. If you desire the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, please reach out to the Parish Office (info@stpeters.org).

CARE & CONNECT

We meet in the chancel in the church on the second and fourth Sundays, directly after the 10 am service. It is a brief but focused time when we offer prayers of healing and thanksgiving. Please join this month on January 12 and 26. If you can't join us and wish to add an intention, reach out to Dana Leach (201-694-6543, leach@stpetersef.org)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We begin unit two today. Continued thanks to our wonderful teachers: Christine Albano, Beth Manfre and Serena Watkinson, *Godly Play*; Laura Copeland, Christina Doyle, Quinn Egan and Christine Mulcahy, *4-6 grade*. Greeters are needed—individuals who can help with crowd control and assist as necessary with crafts or bathroom breaks in the Godly Play classroom. Sunday School dates are January 5, 12, and 26. Reach out to Dana Leach (201-694-6543, leach@stpetersef.org).

FAMILY EUCHARIST

The next Family Eucharist will be January 12 at 10 am. Reach out to Dana Leach (201-694-6543, leach@stpetersef.org) if your child/ren can serve as readers (we need 3), ushers (we need 2), and oblationers (deliver the bread and wine; we need 2). Thank you.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION—ALTAR GUILD WELCOMES YOU!

Looking for a way to serve St. Peter's that is do-able and rewarding and doesn't take a lot of time? How about considering Altar Guild? Altar Guild is a quiet ministry of the church, but this quiet ministry offers a big contribution. Consider this:

- Membership in Altar Guild offers flexibility in time commitment;
- Membership in Altar Guild can be done as a couple or even a family;
- Membership in Altar Guild is an avenue to introduce people to stewardship at St. Peter's;
- Membership in Altar Guild can be your introduction to church ministry.

For more information, contact Alice Samuels (inkyretired@aol.com) or Karen Mosher (looker-mosher@msn.com), or the Parish Office at info@stpetersef.org.

USHERS

Grow our St. Peter's community—join the ministry of ushers! This work is important as we are the first impression people have as they arrive at Church. Schedules are flexible and made a month in advance. Contact Wayne Copeland (waynecopeland@keyconsult.com).

ST. PETER'S ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Parish will be Sunday, January 19, following the 10 am service. We will vote for six Vestry positions: one for warden, two for two-year terms; three for three-year terms; three delegates to Diocesan Convention; three alternates to Diocesan Convention. Candidates must be a baptized member of the Episcopal Church who has been a member of St. Peter's in good standing for at least one year, is at least 16 years old, makes a regular financial contribution to the parish, and worships regularly at St. Peter's. *Childcare will be available during the meeting.* Annual Reports are due January 13, 2025; please send to info@stpetersef.org.

CALENDARS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Thanks to the generosity of the Shook-Farmer Funeral Home, 2025 Episcopal Calendars are available. Please take one home—they are available in the narthex of the church and on the back table of All Saints' Chapel.

NEW FLOWER CHART IN THE NARTHEX

Beautiful flowers adorn our church weekly. Flowers may be given at any time in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one, or any other occasion of thankfulness for God's creation. A check for \$50 may be made to St. Peter's—put 'altar flowers' in the memo. To reserve a date, use the sign-up sheet in the narthex, or email Alice Samuels (inkyretired@aol.com) or the Parish Office (info@stpetersef.org).

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

<i>Altar Guild</i>	Carolyn Westcott, Eloise Monzillo Hiris, Diane Waitts
<i>Ushers</i>	Barbara Gargiulo
<i>Acolytes</i>	
<i>Readers</i>	Cynthia Ziegler, Christine DiGiovanni
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	Eloise Monzillo Hiris
<i>Director of Music</i>	Mark A. Trautman
<i>Presiding</i>	The Reverend Nathaniel Darville

PRAYER LIST

Laurie Alcott, Stanley Au, Amye Becker, Duffy Bell, Grace Bishop, Nancy Bivona, Murriel Bowness, Kathy Calfe, Martha Capel, Adele Corcoran, Gabriel Cowell, Mark Cowell, Robin Delehanty, Wayne Hill, Bunny Jenkins, Tania Jenkins, Sheila & Norman Johnson, Eddie K., Jeffrey Kamel, Katherine Kamen, Ed Kamper, Colin Kelley, Katie King, Lauren L., Laurieann, Tom Leach, Sally L., Mark Lewis, Marino Family, Tom Marriott, Mike, Nicholas Nunno, Lisa & Gary Pyne, Richardson & Dickhaus families, Craig Roper, Ruth Ann, Sarah, Jean Whiting Smith, Kathy Stanton, Marge Vere, Frank Zupa.

GIFTS AT THE ALTAR

*The flowers today are given in loving memory of Theodore and Martha Nevins, and Jack Corbett.
Flowers are also given in thanksgiving for Margot Dockrell*



THE VESTRY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Mary Shearin and Wayne Copeland, *Wardens*

Valerie Felix, Jim Irwin, Christine Albano, Eloise Monzillo Hiris,

David Cowell, Kurt Vonderahe, *Vestry Members*

STAFF

The Rev. Nathaniel K.M. Darville, *Rector*

darville@stpetersef.org

Mark A. Trautman, *Director of Music and Administrator*

trautman@stpetersef.org

Dana Leach, *Care and Connect*

leach@stpetersef.org

Debra Jean Elmore, *Bookkeeper*

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