

March 1, 2026
The Second Sunday in Lent
10:30 a.m.: Celebration of Holy Eucharist
with Children's Chapel and Healing Prayers



St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
Seeking God • Building Community • Growing Faith • Reaching Out

5450 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20816

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StDunstansBethesda.org

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Lila and Sany Saidi, *Sunday Morning Childcare Providers*

Welcome to St. Dunstan's!

*To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising
against the disorder of the world.*

~ Karl Barth



Thank you for choosing to worship with St. Dunstan's this morning! We are a community of seekers doing our best to live authentically and faithfully in this challenging and complicated world, and we are delighted that you are sharing the journey with us today.

Children are *always* welcome here; please make yourself and your family at home. There are coloring sheets on the round table between the glass doors, as well as books and soft toys at the back of the church. Rest assured: We are delighted by the "joyful noise" that children inevitably make, *and* don't worry if you feel you need to take your child out of the service for a few minutes.



Babysitting for children **4 and under** is provided **downstairs in the Nursery**. For everyone's safety, **registration is required**: Please scan the QR code to the left to sign up.

To learn more about offerings for children and families, please share your contact information on the clipboard on the Welcome Table.

Restrooms are located in the hallway by the glass doors.

If you find the wooden pews uncomfortable, feel free to borrow a **cushion** from the rear of the Nave for use during worship.

Please wear a **name tag**! Permanent name tags are on the board in the entry hall. If you don't yet have a permanent tag, please use a stick-on badge until we can make you an official one.

Unless otherwise noted, music for this morning's **hymns** may be found in the blue *Hymnal 1982* or the red and black *Lift Every Voice and Sing* in your pew rack.

*Please observe reverent quiet before worship during this holy Season of Lent.
This time is intended for contemplation, not conversation; it is an opportunity to open ourselves
to God's presence and offer to God the concerns we carry on our hearts.*

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Berceuse

L. Vierne (1870-1937)

Ulysses Squitieri, *organ*

Please stand, as you are able, and join in singing.

Processional Hymn

“The God of Abraham praise,” vv. 1-3

Music: *Hymnal*, 401

The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love;
the Lord, the great I AM,
by earth and heaven confessed:
we bow and bless the sacred Name
for ever blest.

He by himself hath sworn:
we on his oath depend;
we shall, on eagle-wings upborne,
to heaven ascend:
we shall behold his face,
we shall his power adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace
for evermore.

There dwells the Lord, our King,
the Lord, our Righteousness,
triumphant o'er the world and sin,
the Prince of Peace;
on Zion's sacred height
his kingdom he maintains,
and, glorious with his saints in light,
for ever reigns.

The Penitential Order

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation;
People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Presider

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:29-31*

Deacon

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Please kneel or sit.

Deacon Most merciful God,
and People **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.**

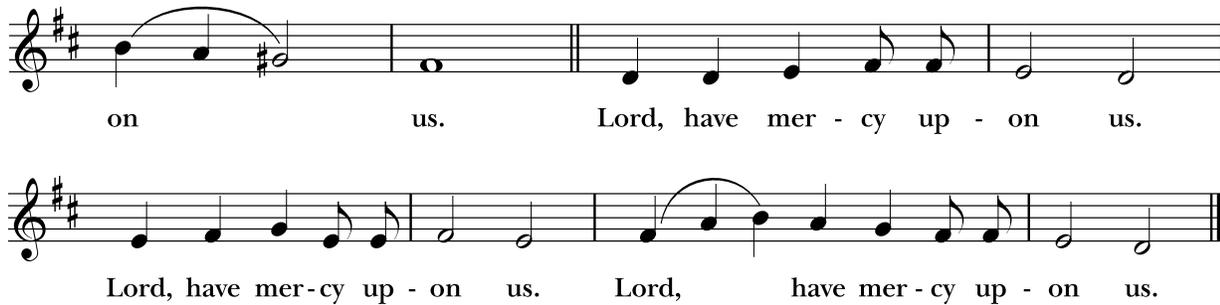
Presider

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, **Amen.**

Kyrie

Hymnal, S-91

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever, **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Children are invited to attend Children's Chapel in the Youth Room.

The Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a

Lector A Reading from the Book of Genesis:

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please join in reciting the psalm responsively.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from God, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot be moved; *
the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The Holy One watches over you *
and is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

God shall preserve you from all evil *
and is the One who shall keep you safe.

God shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The Epistle: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Lector A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand and join in singing.

Sequence Hymn

“Take my life and let it be”

Music: *Hymnal*, 707

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.
Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

The Gospel: John 3:1-17

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

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has

ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

Please be seated at the preacher’s invitation.

The Sermon

Cami Caudill, *Seminarian*

After a moment of silence, please stand.

The Nicene Creed

Leader and People

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.

**universal*

The Prayers of the People

The Intercessor and People pray responsively

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your Church: For *Sarah*, Archbishop of Canterbury; for *Sean*, our Presiding Bishop; for *Mariann*, our Bishop and *Eugene*, our Assisting Bishop; for *Hosam*, Archbishop in Jerusalem; and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world.

God of love,

Hear our prayers for the Church.

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; and for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred and to resist evil actively. Unite the human family in bonds of love.

God of freedom,

Hear our prayers for the world.

God of justice, we pray for the earth, your Creation entrusted to our care: For the animals and plants, soils and waters, and all living things that have no voice of their own. Stir up in us a thirst for justice that protects the earth, that we may leave to generations to come the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us.

God of justice,

Hear our prayers for the earth.

God of peace, we pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and markets; for our neighborhoods and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home.

God of peace,

Hear our prayers for this community.

God of mercy, we pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours and those connected to us as part of the human family. For refugees and prisoners; for those facing violence, particularly in the Middle East; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons.

God of mercy,

Hear our prayers for all who are in need.

God of healing, we pray for the sick and suffering; for the lonely and despairing; and for those in need of healing of any kind. We lift before you those who have

been commended to our prayer list (*see p. 17*), and all whom we name now, silently or out loud:

Pause for prayers of petition or intercession

God of healing,

Hear our prayers for all who are in trouble.

God of grace, we pray for those who have died. We remember the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the Communion of Saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim and embody your Good News, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light. We pray, as well, for those others who have died whom we name now, silently or out loud:

Pause for prayers for the departed

God of grace,

Hear our prayers for those who have died.

The Presider continues

Let us enter into a moment of silent prayer for all in harm's way in the Middle East and throughout the world.

Silence

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever, **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please greet one another in the Name of Christ and then be seated.

Welcome

The Rector

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

At the Offertory

Lift Thine Eyes, from Elijah

F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

The St. Dunstan's Chancel Choir

Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church!

If you would like to make an offering this morning, you may place it in the Offertory bag.

Please also feel free to donate online at

<https://stdunstansbethesda.org/support/donate.html>

or mail a check to the Parish Office.

The Holy Communion

Please stand as the Offering is brought forward and join in singing.

Presentation Hymn

Music: *Hymnal*, 439

**What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this,
O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to lay aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown
for my soul.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

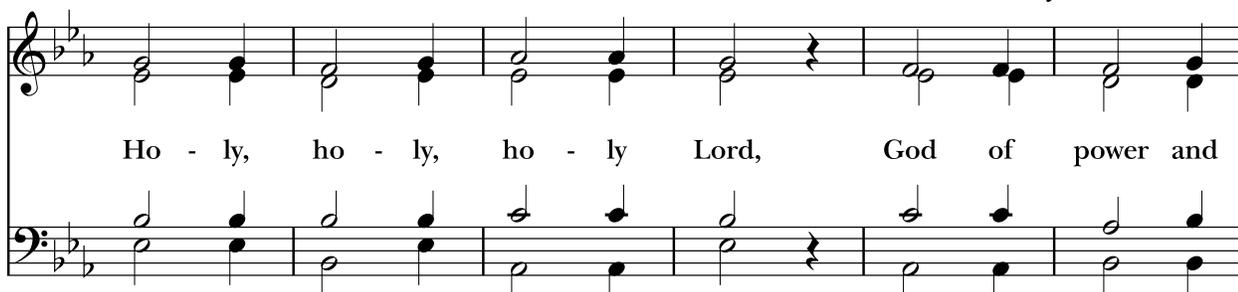
Presider

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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

Hymnal, S-130



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Please kneel or sit for the Eucharistic Prayer during Lent.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Dunstan, and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever, **AMEN.**

And now, as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

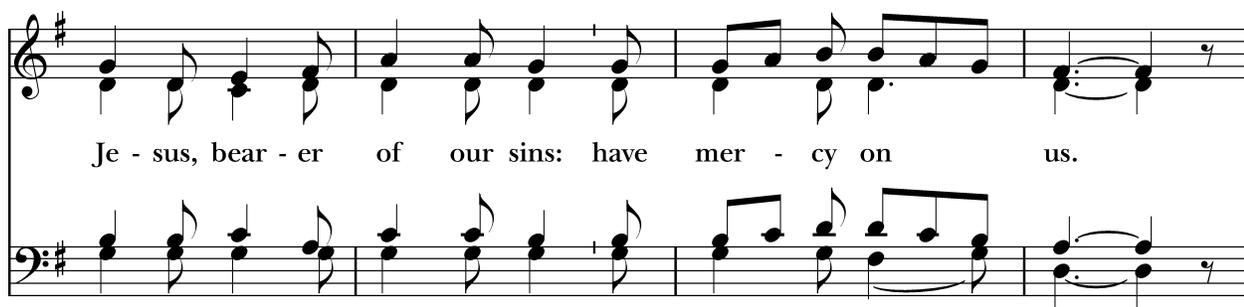
The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

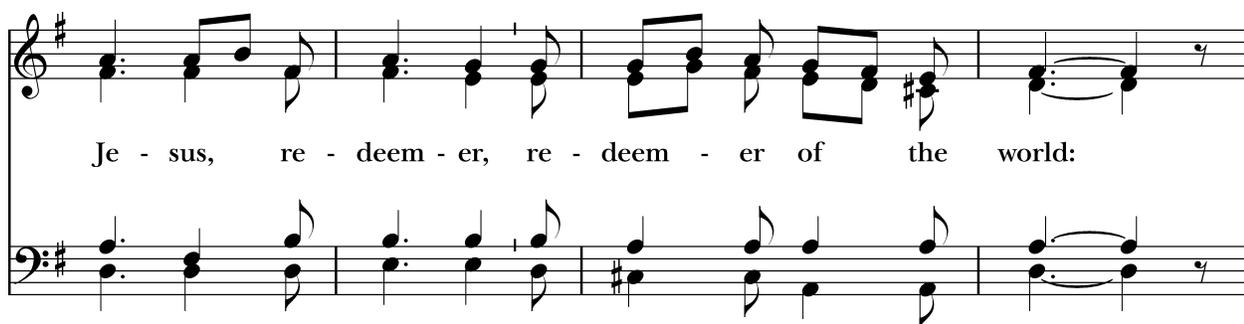
Agnus Dei

Hymnal, S-164

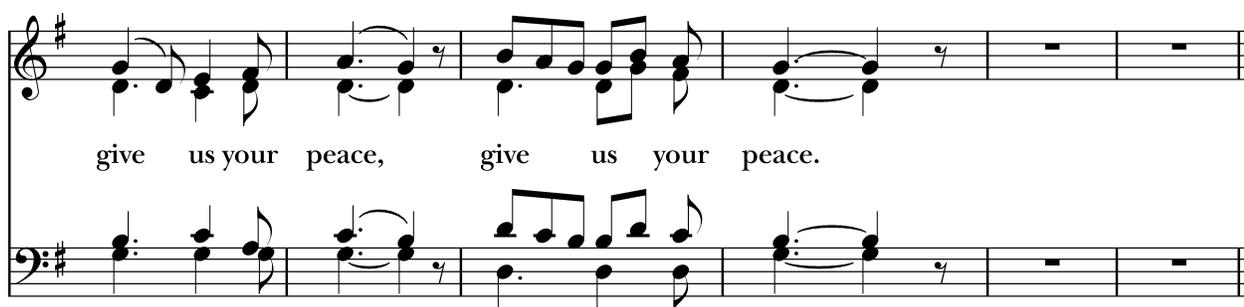
Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



give us your peace, give us your peace.

Presider These are the Gifts of God, for you, the People of God, **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Communion

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament in one or both kinds. Consecrated wine is available by sipping directly from the chalice, by dipping your bread gently into the chalice, or by taking an individual cup; gluten-free Communion bread is available upon request. Please place used Communion cups in the bowl at the back for reverent disposal. If you would prefer not to receive, you are invited to come forward for a blessing, the signal for which is to place your hand over your heart when you reach the Altar.

Prayers for healing, guidance, or thanksgiving are offered at the back of the Nave during Communion and the Postlude.

Music during Communion

Let thy Blood in mercy poured

Words: Greek, tr. J. Brownlie (1859-1925)

Music: *Jesus, meine Zuversicht*, mel. J. Cruger (1598-1662)

The St. Dunstan's Chancel Choir

Remaining seated, please join in singing.

“How great thou art,” vv. 1-2, 4

Music: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, 60

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Refrain

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God how great thou art.

Refrain

Please stand, as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

Presider

Let us pray:

and People

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever, Amen.**

The Lenten Prayer over the People

Presider

Let us bow our heads before God.

Grant, most merciful God, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with quiet minds; through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Please join in singing.

Closing Hymn

“Eternal Lord of love”

Hymnal, 149

This hymn is still under copyright and may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982, found in your pew rack.

Please be seated following the hymn.

Announcements

Please stand for the Dismissal.

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Hilf, Gott, dass mirs gelinge

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Ulysses Squitieri, organ



For healing, strength, and protection:

Rebecca Bryant; Phil and Patti Carroll; Terry Conroy; Steve Cooper; Austin Cox; Henry Cox; DJ Crane; Kenny Farnsworth; The Rev. Melissa Fauci; Katie Beck Fey; Nick Gilbert; Nancy Guthrie; Mary Jane and Terry Haight; Ben Hull; Patricia Mackenzie; Rick Nickles; Joyce Nugent; Linda Rogers; Shannon Rose; Curtis Shively; Nancy Thoreson; The Rev. Sara Thorne; Jack Tovornik; Matt Tovornik; Sandra Walters; David Wheeler; Ben; Bill; Craig; David; Griffin; JW; Karen; Katherine; Lindsay and William; Marty; Melanie; MT; Phyllis; Sherry; and Shiloh

For peace in the Middle East

Announcements

Today at St. Dunstan's:

- + **Welcome, Visitors!** We are delighted that you are here, and we hope you can stay for a few minutes after worship so that we can greet you properly. To learn more about St. Dunstan's, please fill out a **visitor form**, found on the table in the entry hall, and help yourself to a **welcome bag** as a token of our gratitude that you have joined us today.
- + **Fellowship Time:** Come share a cup of coffee or tea, a snack, and good conversation in the **Parish Hall** immediately following this service.
- + The next concert in our **"Jazz and More @ St. Dunstan's"** will take place this afternoon at **4 p.m. in the Parish Hall**. Celebrating the music of Ireland and Scotland, Champion Fiddler and Gaelic singer **Seán Heely** is joined by all-Ireland singing champion **Kevin Elam** and renowned cellist **Ellen Gira**. From toe-tapping reels to beautiful ballads, the trio will transport you to the Celtic landscape and beyond. Tickets are **\$35 per concert** (\$10 for students). Visit <http://tinyurl.com/STD-JAZZ> to purchase. Please support this principal fundraiser for our **Refugee Ministry!**

This Week at St. Dunstan's:

- + **Tuesday, March 3:**
 - **11 a.m.:** "What Now?!" (*Parish Hall*)
- + **Wednesday, March 4:**
 - **10:30 a.m.:** Midweek Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke (*Zoom*)
- + **Thursday, March 5:**
 - **7-8 p.m.:** Lenten Book Study (*Zoom*)
- + **Sunday, March 8:**
 - **10:30 a.m.:** Holy Eucharist and Children's Chapel (*Nave*). The Rector will be away next Sunday; **The Rev. David Crosby** will preach and celebrate in her absence.

Coming Up:

- + **Saturday, March 14:**
 - **8:30 a.m.:** Samaritan Ministry Next Step Breakfast (*National Press Club*). All are welcome to this powerful morning of hope, resilience, and transformation. You'll hear from Andy Shallal, the visionary founder of Busboys and Poets, who will give the keynote address, as well as from a Samaritan Ministry participant about his own inspiring story. Come celebrate SMGW and learn how we can do more for our neighbors in need as they take their next steps toward stability and self-sufficiency. Please visit www.samaritanministry.org to register.

Letter from Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe on the Military Strike on Iran

Dear people of God in The Episcopal Church,

Here in the United States, we awoke this morning with alarm to the news that the United States and Israel have launched a large military strike on Iran. This violent attack comes despite weeks of negotiations that many of us had hoped would prevent armed conflict in this fragile region, which is home to so many religious traditions and faithful people.

Bishop Jeffrey Mello of Connecticut and a group of pilgrims from that diocese are in the Holy Land now, and when we spoke this morning, he let me know that they are safe at St. George's College in Jerusalem. I ask you to pray fervently for them and their safe return.

Pray, too, for all the people of the Holy Land, and especially for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East and its leader, Archbishop Hosam Naoum. I had planned to be with Hosam today and tomorrow when he made a long-planned visit to our church. Many Episcopalians who had hoped to see him and assure him of our support will feel his absence keenly in the coming days. I commend to you the [letter that he has sent to the people of his diocese this morning](#).

As news reports tell us of fear and panic in Iran, I ask you to pray especially for the people of the Diocese of Iran and for all of the Iranian people. In recent weeks, we have mourned as the regime in Iran has killed peaceful protesters, and watched with alarm at both its increasing repression of the Iranian people and the escalating response of the U.S. government. As Christians who follow a Prince of Peace, we mourn that today's attacks will surely mean further hardship for the most vulnerable Iranians and, as retaliation inevitably follows, suffering that will spread across the entire region.

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father, to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.



The Most Rev. Sean Rowe
Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

Letter from Archbishop Hosam Naoum on the Military Strike on Iran

The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem
The Fifteenth Bishop of the Episcopal/Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem

28 February 2026



Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you are all now painfully aware, in the early hours of this morning, February 28th, a coordinated and massive military assault was launched by the United States and Israel against numerous cities and installations within Iran. This operation, described by the leaders of the two nations as a “pre-emptive” attack, has brought fire and destruction to the heart of Tehran, Isfahan, and beyond, striking at the very centers of governance and civilian life. Moreover, just prior to these events, Israel had also “pre-emptively” attacked various targets in southern Lebanon, where the number of casualties has yet to be determined.

Tragically, the cycle of violence has expanded with terrifying speed. In the hours following, Iran launched a widespread reprisal, with missiles and drones targeting Israel and U.S. military assets across the Gulf—striking installations in Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Kurdistan-Iraq, Jordan, and Qatar. Sirens also blared across the Holy Land, warning of incoming missiles from Iran. Suddenly, our people from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf find themselves once again huddled in shelters, fearing for their lives as the shadow of a total regional war looms over us.

These developments strike at the very soul of our Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East. Every single nation now engaged in this combat, and those bearing the brunt of the retaliatory strikes, resides within our ecclesiastical boundaries. Our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Iran are currently enduring the terror of aerial bombardment; our members in the Diocese of Cyprus & the Gulf are witnessing the arrival of war at their doorsteps; and our faithful in the Diocese of Jerusalem—extending across Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria—face an unprecedented threat of military escalation.

In the face of such overwhelming force, we recall the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matt 5:9). Today, that calling feels heavier than ever before. When the “spirit of fear” threatens to consume our hearts, we must anchor ourselves in the “spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Tim 1:7).

First, I call upon the global Church to join us in urgent, unceasing prayer. We implore God to protect the innocent—the mothers, the children, and the elderly—who are caught in the crossfire of this “Operation Epic Fury” and the subsequent “crushing responses.” We pray specifically for a “sound mind” for the leaders of the United States, Israel, and Iran, that they might recognize the futility of this bloodshed and turn back from the precipice of a global catastrophe.

Second, we must offer each other the sanctuary of Christian love. I therefore urge our clergy and laity to be beacons of comfort. In a time of “regime change” rhetoric and military ultimatums, let our message be the unchanging promise of Christ’s peace: to build each other up (1 Cor 8:1), for our hope is not in the strength of armadas or missile shields, but in the Prince of Peace.

Finally, we must remain “Bridge Builders.” Even as diplomatic windows seem to slam shut, the Church must keep the doors of reconciliation open. We refuse to see our neighbors as enemies, whether they be in Tehran, Tel Aviv, or the military bases of the Gulf. I extend an urgent invitation to the wider Anglican Communion and all people of goodwill: Intercede for us now. The hour is late, and the danger is great. We remain “battered and bruised, but not defeated.” May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

In Christ,

++ Hosam Jerusalem

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Serving this Morning

Presider:	The Rev. Patricia Phaneuf Alexander
Preacher:	Cami Caudill
Deacons:	The Rev. Jessica Ault and The Rev. Emily Elder
Musicians:	Diane Atherton, Ulysses Squitieri, and The St. Dunstan's Chancel Choir
Altar Guild:	Marsha Barnes, Ann Johnson, and Michelle Mesen
Greeter:	Donna Alvarez
Livestream Minister:	Karen Kosiba Edwards
Acolyte:	Connelly Anderson Gomez
Crucifer:	Elin Botha
Children's Chapel:	Julie Anderson and Pam Ostuw
Lectors:	Ray Donnelly and Michelle Mesen
Psalm Leader:	Carmen Petruzzi
Intercessor:	Sue Carroll
Healing Minister:	Sue Carroll
Lay Eucharistic Minister:	Cami Caudill
Ushers:	David and Janet Repka
Hospitality:	
Baristas:	Nancy and Walter Douglas
Snack Angels:	Nancy and Walter Douglas and Cindy Mathis
Set up:	Alex Lane and Cindy Mathis
Clean up:	Nancy and Walter Douglas
Vestry Member of the Day:	

Attributions

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The wind blows where it pleases
(Mixed media liturgical art by Sue Carroll)

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***Artist's Reflection:** "The wind blows where it pleases." Nicodemus came to see Jesus at night, in secret. This is probably because he is a Pharisee, a religious leader, and many of his cohorts were against this young rebel. He asked, "How can anyone be born after growing old?" He seems to be not so much challenging Jesus as trying to understand. Jesus gave him an oblique answer: the wind goes where it pleases. The Spirit – or breath of God – cannot be explained. Nonetheless, it is essential to a life with God.

The image is a simple monoprint of acrylic paint on paper, meant to depict the free and unpredictable movement of the Spirit.

~ Sue Carroll, *Liturgical Artist-in-Residence*

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Vince Leonard, *Senior Warden*

Fred Atwood, *Junior Warden*

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St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

Come share the journey with us