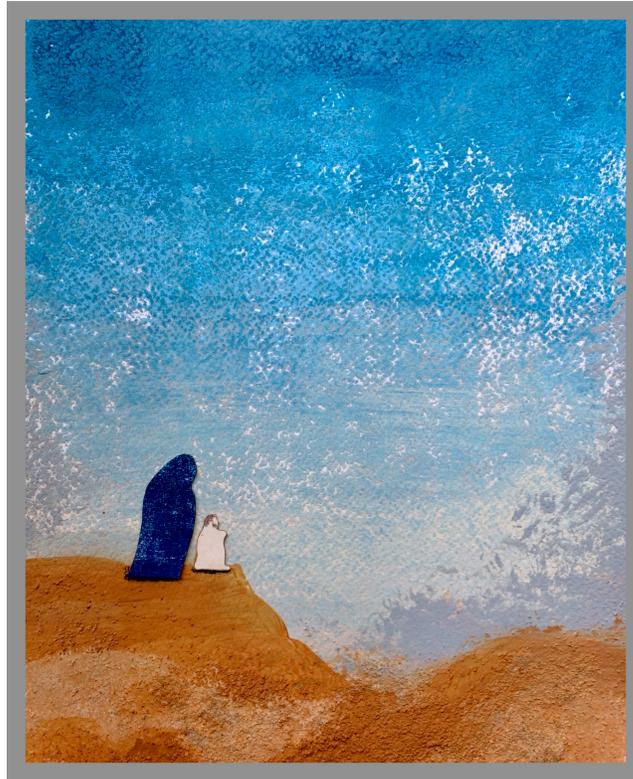


February 22, 2026
The First Sunday in Lent and
Annual Meeting Sunday
10:30 a.m.: Celebration of Holy Eucharist
with Children's Chapel



St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
Seeking God • Building Community • Growing Faith • Reaching Out
5450 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20816
301.229.2994
StDunstansBethesda.org

The Reverend Patricia Phaneuf Alexander, *Rector* rector@stdunstansbethesda.org
The Reverend Jessica Ault, *Deacon* deacon@stdunstansbethesda.org
The Reverend Emily Elder, *Sunday Assistant* eelder@w-e-s.org
Ms. Diane Atherton, *Minister of Music* music@stdunstansbethesda.org
Mr. Ulysses Squitieri, *Organist* organist@stdunstansbethesda.org
Ms. Jenna Monroe, *Children's Minister* familyministry@stdunstansbethesda.org
Ms. Cami Caudill, *Seminarian* ccaudill@vts.edu
Ms. Elisabeth Saidi, *Parish Administrator* admin@stdunstansbethesda.org
Mr. Rick Loucks, *Facilities Maintenance Coordinator* facilities@stdunstansbethesda.org
Lila and Sany Saidi, *Sunday Morning Childcare Providers*

Welcome to St. Dunstan's!

Faith is most fully itself and most fully life-giving when it opens your eyes and uncovers for you a world larger than you ever thought.

~ The Most Rev. Rowan Williams
Former Archbishop of Canterbury



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

Trio

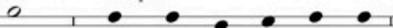
J. Rheinberger (1839-1901)

Ulysses Squitieri, *organ*

The Great Litany

*On this First Sunday in Lent, the Great Litany takes the place of the Processional Hymn,
the Creed, the Prayers of the People, and the Confession. Please stand and join in singing.*

Officiant  *People* 
Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, **Have mer-cy up-on us.**

Officiant  *People* 
Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world, **Have mer-cy up-on us.**

Officiant  *People* 
Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful, **Have mer-cy up-on us.**

Officiant  *People* 
Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, One God, **Have mer-cy up-on us.**

People 
Hear our prayers, O Christ our God, **Hear us, O Christ.**

Officiant 
Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that

People 
unity which is your will. **Hear us, O Christ.**

continued

Officiant
Give us boldness to preach the Gospel in all the world, and to make disciples

People
of all the na- tions. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Officiant
Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the

People
fruit of your Spir- it. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Officiant
Bring into the way of truth all who have

People
erred and are de- ceived. **Hear us, O Christ**

Officiant
Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways

People
of peace and just- ice. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Officiant



Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and



for the good of all. **Hear us, O Christ.**



Bless and keep all your people, **Hear us, O Christ.**

Officiant



Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved, the



fearful, and the oppressed. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Officiant



Heal the sick in body, mind, or spirit, and provide for the homeless, the hungry



and the destitute. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Officiant



Show your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees, and all



who are in trouble. **Hear us, O Christ.**

continued

Officiant
 Hear us as we remember those who have died, and grant us with them a share in

People
 your eter- nal glo- ry. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Officiant
 Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins, and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives

People
 accord- ing to your word. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider Holy God,
 Holy and mighty,
 Holy Immortal One

People **Have mercy on us.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray: Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, **Amen.**

Please be seated.
Children are invited to attend Children’s Chapel in the Youth Room.

The Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Lector A Reading from the Book of Genesis:
 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please join in reciting the psalm responsively.

Psalm 32

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven *
and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom God imputes no guilt *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you *
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to God;” *
then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.

continued

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding, *
**who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you.”**

Great are the tribulations of the wicked, *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Most High.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in God; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Please stand and join in singing.

Sequence Hymn

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

Music: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, 70

I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When the shades of life are falling, Lord,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my sorrows, Lord, walk with me;
In my sorrows, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart within is aching, Lord,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

The Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

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

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

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

Please be seated at the preacher’s invitation.

The Sermon

The Rector

After a moment of silence, please stand, as you are able.

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

This is the Truth Sent from Above

R. Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

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.**

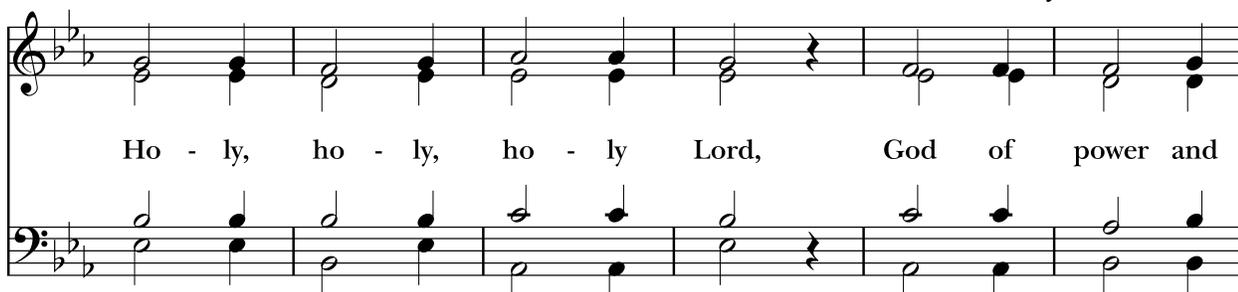
Presider

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 _____

continued

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.**

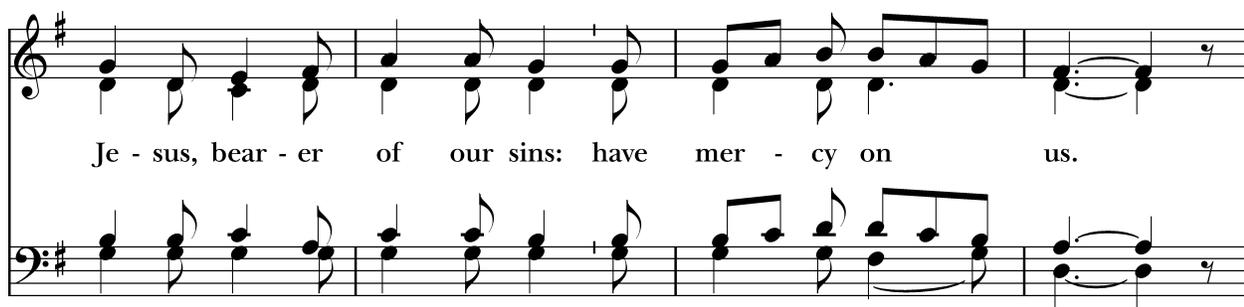
The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

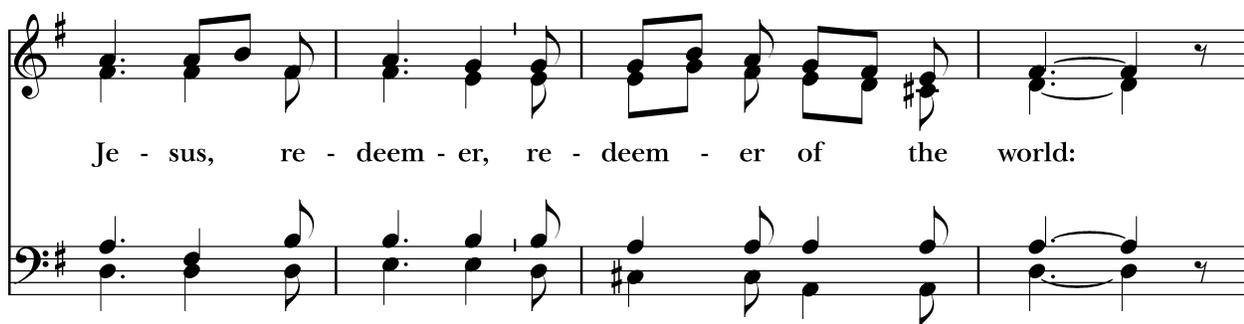
Agnus Dei

Hymnal, S-164

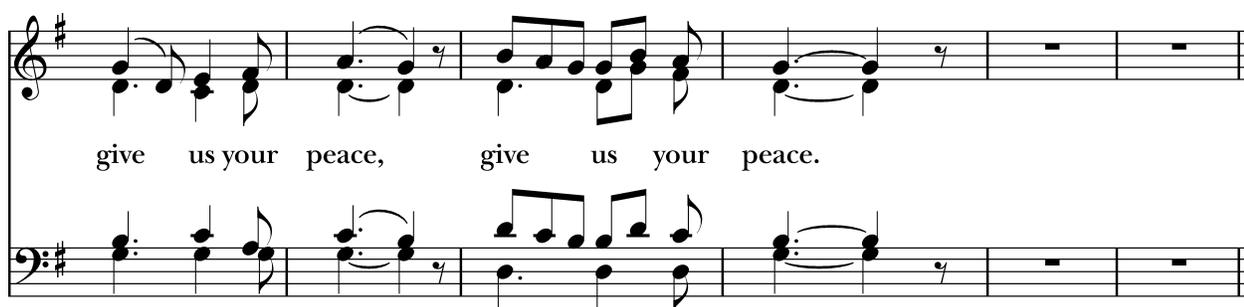
Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



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.

Music during Communion

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Trad. Spiritual
arr. A. Blackwell

Christopher Joseph, *soloist*

Remaining seated, please join in singing.

“It is Well with My Soul”

Music: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, 188

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like seabillows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

*It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed His own blood for my soul.

Refrain

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

And, Lord, hast the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump* shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
“Even so” it is well with my soul.

Refrain

**trumpet*

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

“O love, how deep, how broad, how high,” vv. 1-3

Music: *Hymnal*, 448

O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
how passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.

For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.

For us he prayed; for us he taught;
for us his daily works he wrought:
by words and signs and actions, thus
still seeking not himself, but us.

Please be seated following the hymn.

Announcements and Blessing Over the Brunch

Please stand for the Dismissal.

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist

D. Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Ulysses Squitieri, *organ*



The flowers adorning the Altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by:

Fred and Louise Smoak, in thanksgiving for the life of Fred's mother,
Mary Frances Meister; and

Doug McManus and Pam Ostuw, in thanksgiving for the life of
Carol Carraro Greer, mother of Brian Greer.

For Your Prayers

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; Jung Park;
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

May they rest in peace and rise in glory:

The Rev. Jesse Jackson

Carol Carraro Greer and Frances Meister
in whose memory the Altar flowers have been given

+++

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.
- + **All-Parish Brunch and Annual Meeting of the Parish:** *Everyone* is invited to the **Parish Hall** at **11:45 a.m.** for this important gathering in the life of St. Dunstan's, at which we will look back at 2025 and think prayerfully about what ministry opportunities God might have in store for us in the year ahead.
- + Children's Minister **Jenna Monroe** will offer **Children's Activities (with Pizza!)** during the Annual Parish Meeting so that parents can participate.
- + **The Children's Ministry Food and Toiletry Drive for Shepherd's Table** continues today. Donations may be placed in Founders' Hall; please visit the **Welcome Table** for a list of the most needed items. Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors and share God's love. We are grateful for you!

This Week at St. Dunstan's:

- + **Monday, February 23:**
 - **6 p.m.: Seminarian's Lay Support Team Meeting (Parlor)**

continued

- + **Tuesday, February 24:**
 - **7 p.m.: Cub Scout Pack 56 Meeting** (*Parish Hall*)
- + **Wednesday, February 25:**
 - **10:30 a.m.: Midweek Bible Study** (*Zoom*)
 - **6:30 p.m.: Sacred Ground** (*Zoom*)
- + **Thursday, February 26:**
 - **7-8 p.m.: Lenten Book Study** (*Zoom*). Are you looking for a way to grow your relationship with Jesus this Lent? Join seminarians **Cami Caudill** (St Dunstan's) and **Signa Strom** (Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria) for a Lenten book study and discussion on the thought-provoking book: *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*, by Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright. Please **register** at <https://forms.gle/98FBVQmuXPDamfVa6> to receive the Zoom link.
- + **Sunday, March 1:**
 - **10:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist and Children's Chapel**
 - **4 p.m.: Jazz and More @ St. Dunstan's** (*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), or **\$120 for the whole series!** Visit <http://tinyurl.com/STD-JAZZ> to purchase. Please support this principal fundraiser for our **Refugee Ministry!**

Other Upcoming Outreach and Mission Events:

- + **Saturday, February 28:**
 - **11 a.m.: Faith in Action ~ "A Witness for Haiti" Prayer Service and Lecture** (*Virginia Theological Seminary*). Please join the Diocesan **Haiti Advocacy Ministry** as we pray for God's guidance in Haiti. **The Rev. Dr. Chuck Robertson**, Canon to the Presiding Bishop, will preach.
- + **Saturday, March 14:**
 - **8:30 a.m.: Samaritan Ministry 40th Anniversary 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.

Serving this Morning

Presider and Preacher:	The Rev. Patricia Phaneuf Alexander
Deacon:	The Rev. Jessica Ault
Musicians:	Diane Atherton, Ulysses Squitieri, and The St. Dunstan's Chancel Choir
Altar Guild:	Marsha Barnes, Ann Johnson, and Michelle Mesen
Flower Guild:	York Flowers
Greeter:	Kiska Williams
Livestream Minister:	Vince Leonard
Acolyte:	Connelly Anderson Gomez
Crucifer:	Cami Caudill
Children's Chapel:	Julie Anderson and Jenna Monroe
Lector:	Michelle Mesen
Psalm Leader:	Diane Adams
Lay Eucharistic Minister:	Cami Caudill
Ushers:	David and Janet Repka
Hospitality:	
Barista:	Fred Smoak
Brunch:	Courtesy of the St. Dunstan's Men's Group (and friends)
Vestry Member of the Day:	Fred Atwood

Attributions

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On the Cover*:

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil
(Mixed media liturgical art by Sue Carroll)

The Great Litany:

Enriching Our Worship 1, © 1998, Church Publishing

The Scripture Readings:

New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

The Psalm:

The Saint Helena Psalter: A New Version of the Psalms in Expansive Language, © 2004, The Order of Saint Helena

The Lenten Prayer over the People:

The Book of Occasional Services, © 2018, Church Publishing, Incorporated

***Artist's Reflection:** "Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." In the book of Matthew, this comes after the Spirit is seen descending like a dove, and a voice from heaven says, "This is my son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Terrific! But... why would the Spirit immediately lead him into the desert in order to be tested?

And we ask: "Why do bad things happen to good people?"

Personally, I do not believe that God directs every little thing that happens. I think there is randomness and just bad luck in this creation. However, the narrative tells us that in this instance, Jesus was intentionally led into temptation. Why might that be? I can imagine that the fully human Jesus might be a bit puffed up after the announcement from heaven. Perhaps he needed to be reminded that the road ahead of him would not be easy. Perhaps he needed to practice and hone his ability to stay true to his mission. What do you think?

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