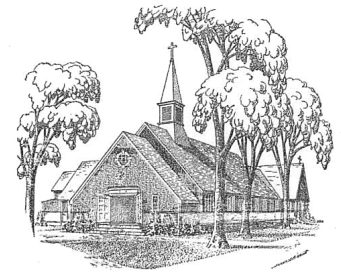


# St. John's Good News



May  
2022

## Pastoral Letter May 2022

Dear Friends,

I have recently returned from Credo, a weeklong clergy retreat in Tennessee. It was a time of prayer, refreshment, and fellowship with kind folks from across the country. Over the course of 6 days, we were asked to formulate our own rule of life and prayerfully consider how we might take steps to ensure that our lives were in line with our values.

I drew upon the Collect for Renewal of Life, found in the service of Morning Prayer in our Book of Common Prayer.

*O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

It is important that this prayer be used in the morning so that, over the course of the day, we might go to bed with a cheerful heart. I have discovered that the best way we can allow God to “guide our feet into the way of peace” is to embrace the Rule of St. Benedict. This rule, established by St. Benedict in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, is lived out by every person in their own unique way. It states that in order to be at peace in our soul, we should strive to include 5 disciplines in our life:

**We should incorporate a time of prayer and meditation into our day.** Be still in the presence of God that we might be open to his presence all day.

**Do something physical with your body (according to your ability).** Exercise helps has a profound affect on our body chemistry and equips our mind and soul to rejoice in the gift of life.

**Have useful work to do.** Whether we receive money or not, it is a source of peace and joy to devote a portion of our day doing something which contributes to the common good.

**Have meaningful relationships.** Even for those of us who are introverts, the presence of other people with whom we can share the concerns of heart is a source of delight.

*Cont'd.*

Sunday worship remains at 10am, in-person and virtually on Zoom. All are welcome to participate, and seating capacity is 75. Please note: we continue to monitor community Covid cases and will keep you updated about worship. The Zoom link is shared weekly via email.

Phone: 781-233-1242

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@StJohnsSaugus

Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus

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**Have meaningful relationships.** Even for those of us who are introverts, the presence of other people with whom we can share the concerns of heart is a source of delight.

In contemplating this rule, I have come to see that my life often goes askew and becomes off kilter. The way I can achieve some level of equilibrium is to tend to that portion of the rule where I am lacking.

I invite you to consider this yourself that you might *have life, and have it abundantly* (John 10:10)

Peace,  
John+

**Good-Bye** (Quote By Frederick Buechner)

A woman with a scarf over her head hoists her six-year-old up onto the first step of the school bus. "Good-bye," she says.

A father on the phone with his freshman son has just finished bawling him out for his poor grades. There is mostly silence at the other end of the line. "Well, good-bye," the father says.

When the girl at the airport hears the announcement that her plane is starting to board, she turns to the boy who is seeing her off. "I guess this is good-bye," she says.

The noise of the traffic almost drowns out the sound of the word, but the shape of it lingers on the old man's lips. He tries to look vigorous and resourceful as he holds out his hand to the other old man. "Good-bye." This time they say it so nearly in unison that it makes them both smile.

It was a long while ago that the words God be with you disappeared into the word good-bye, but every now and again some trace of them still glimmers through.

From Book, *Whistling in the Dark*

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**Lobster Roll Sale:** THANK YOU to T. J. Martin, Steve & Nancy White, Laura Geary, Janet & Bill Pothier, Rev. Beach, Bill Bidmead, and other helpful parishioners who volunteered with mailings, buying supplies, set-up, brownie baking, delivery, and other unseen but still-crucial duties to make our lobster roll sale a success. And many thanks to everyone who purchased them. We sold over 250 rolls and raised \$1,515.00 – your continued support is *greatly appreciated!*

**Saugus Community Garden Gifts**

Thank you to **Saugus~Everett Elks Lodge #642** and the **Saugus Garden Club** for their generous gifts to the Saugus Community Garden. We are deeply thankful for their support for this project.

**Nelson Scholarship Fund**

Any active, contributing member of St. John's Church who is graduating this year is eligible to apply for the Nelson Scholarship. Please reach out to Rose Holt at [mamarosie119\(at\)aol.com](mailto:mamarosie119(at)aol.com) for an application or if you have any questions.

## "Love wins": A message for Easter from Bishop Gates

"Love is not the alpha of creation but the omega. It is not the starting point of the journey, but its final destination." -Cynthia Bourgeault

More than once in my life I have taken a trip that took considerably longer than I had thought it would. Whether from wildly inaccurate map reading at the planning stage or unanticipated delays along the way, the destination was not reached anywhere near as soon as I had hoped.

"Are we there yet?" inquires the tired child from the backseat. "No," replies the weary parent, adding inwardly, silently: "not even close."

If, as Cynthia Bourgeault suggests, Love is the destination of Creation's journey, then it seems we are far distant from our end. Heartless power plays, normalized falsification, callous self-centeredness, barbaric warfare. The "peaceable kingdom" our world is not. Are we there yet? Not even close.

So it is that we claim, proclaim, and enact our resurrection faith with renewed determination. The destination of our journey-Love-is in its fullness yet distant, and even much embattled. But its centrality to human existence, and its need for devoted pilgrims on the way, is blindingly clear. "The journey is essential to the dream," said Saint Francis. If Love is our destination, then Love must be made manifest on every leg of the journey, in every step, at every opportunity, in every word and deed.

The Easter truth is that love wins.

Beyond the affirmation of Christ's definitive victory over death on that Easter morn, we claim that victory for ourselves and our world. Beyond the story of a humble local rabbi triumphing over the self-perpetuating political and religious powers of his day, we declare God's preferential care for the powerless in our day. Beyond the finery and feast of our Easter celebration, we proclaim this truth: Love wins. The dream is sustained by the journey, and our resurrection hope is sustained by our every glimpse of compassion, sacrifice, repentance, forgiveness, redemption, renewal, and love.

We are not there yet, not even close. But I find my own pilgrimage sustained by the commitment and creativity of weary leaders-clergy and lay-around our diocese; by kind words in the face of anxiety or grief; by the new bloom of chionodoxa and daffodil beneath my window; by the witness of indefatigable racial justice prophets and refugee caregivers; by advocates for truth, love, and beauty in their every genuine manifestation, around this nation and around the world. These are resurrection sightings.

The Easter truth is that love wins. May you be sustained and renewed by this conviction once more! Easter blessings to you.

Faithfully and fondly,

+Alan

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates

## Word Search

### Can you find these May blooms?

I S H O L L Y H O C K T C E G A U  
 Y S M X V X B V O V N L X S C Y U  
 P U K F N K B B O Y W M V R L Y U  
 H N S G C O R N F L O W E R E B E  
 L D A J F A I Z U M Q Y Y R M A H  
 O R D B R Z F W U Z I N N I A M M  
 X O A P D A D I J D F D E U T A G  
 D P H H R A N K A H X Q Z C I R P  
 B I L Z Y I N U U D W G Z U S Y A  
 P R I E H A H E N M O E S P Q L N  
 E X A P M T C H M C L G I X K L S  
 Y C L Q H J A I E O U H W G C I I  
 X E Q D S J U G N A N L L O E S E  
 D F R E E S I A A T T E U I O L S  
 H C P Q W W Q D K J H H I S L D A  
 X L I I N O O I I U E I E M D A D  
 V V K S U X X D V H M J C R D U C

Amaryllis ~ Anemone ~ Clematis ~ Cornflower ~ Dahlia ~ Delphinium  
 Dogwood ~ Freesia ~ Heather ~ Hollyhock ~ Hyacinth ~ Lilac  
 Pansies ~ Phlox ~ Ranunculus ~ Sundrop ~ Weigela ~ Zinnia

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*To all moms celebrating Mother's Day—may your day be happy and blessed!*

**Officers:** The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge, Brenda Caggiano, Sr. Warden, Daniel Casey, Jr. Warden, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Assistant Treasurer, and Kristina Palazzo, Clerk of the Vestry

**Vestry:** James Brown (2025), Duana 'Dee' LeMay (2024), Sandy Mears (2025), Donna Manoogian (2024), and Kenneth Webber (2023)