



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

22 N. Union Street, Smyrna, Delaware 19977

A Faith Community Offering Hospitality, Hope and Healing

www.stpeters-smyrna.org

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 25)

The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

Sunday, October 25, 2020 – 9:00 A.M.

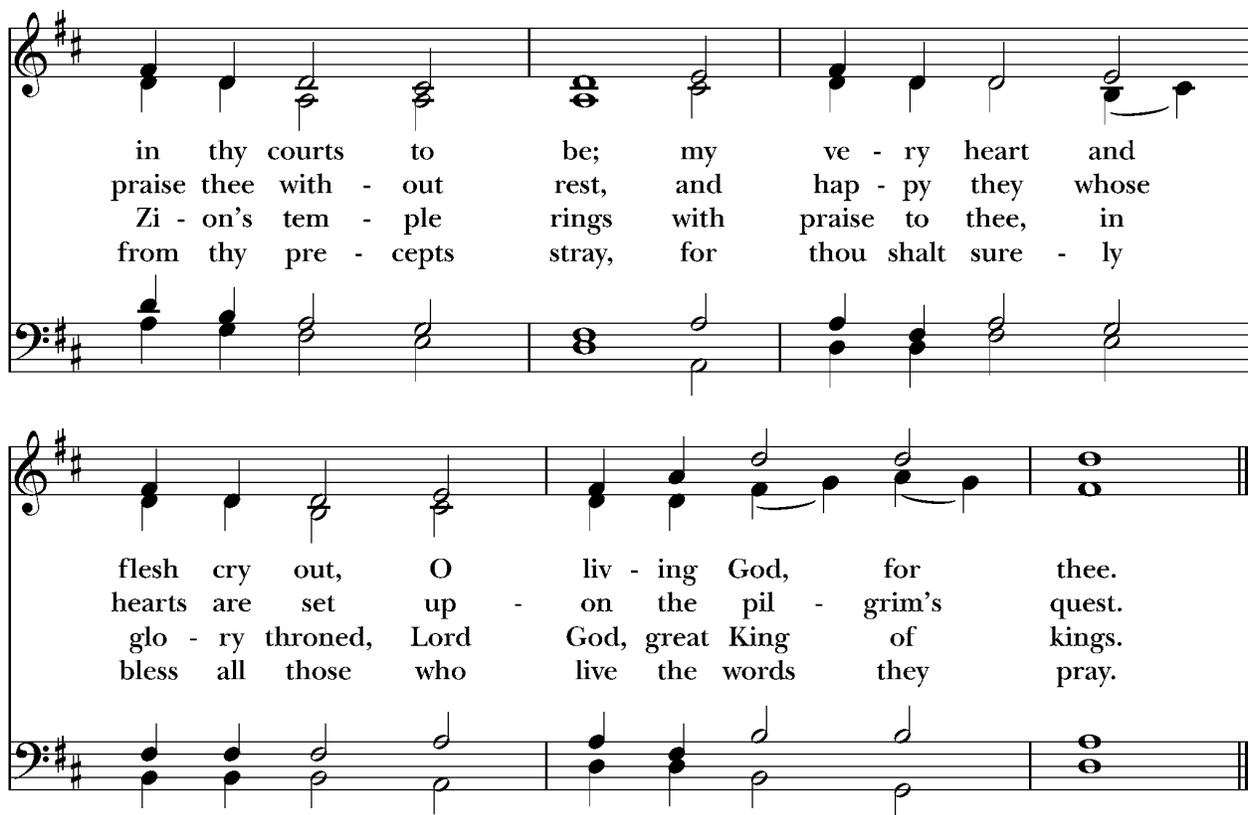
PRELUDE: *Rejoice, the Lord is King* by John Darwell arr. by Cindy Berry

The Word of God

ENTRANCE HYMN *How lovely is thy dwelling-place (Brother James's Air)*

1 How love - ly is thy dwell - ing - place, O Lord of hosts, to
2 Be - side thine al - tars, gra - cious Lord, the swal - lows find a
3 They who go through the des - ert vale will find it filled with
4 One day with - in thy courts ex - cels a thou - sand spent a -

me! My thirst - y soul de - sires and longs with -
nest; how hap - py they who dwell with thee and
springs, and they shall climb from height to height till
way; how hap - py they who keep thy laws nor



in thy courts to be; my ve - ry heart and
 praise thee with - out rest, and hap - py they whose
 Zi - on's tem - ple rings with praise to thee, in
 from thy pre - cepts stray, for thou shalt sure - ly

flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, for thee.
 hearts are set up - on the pil - grim's quest.
 glo - ry throned, Lord God, great King of kings.
 bless all those who live the words they pray.

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

A Reading from the book of Leviticus.

¹The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Thessalonika.

¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *Rise up, ye saints of God (Festal Song)*

[Verse 1]

1 Rise up, ye saints of God! Have done with less - er things, give
2 Rise up, ye saints of God! His king - dom tar - ries long: Lord,
3 Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod; and

heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.
bring the day of truth and love and end the night of wrong.
quick-ened by the Spi - rit's power, rise up, ye saints of God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

THE SERMON

THE 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

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (revised)

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants
give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all
whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world
by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your presence,
that as we lament our separation from one another during this time of disease, we
may continually show forth your praise, not only with our lips,**

but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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.**

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

“All things come of thee, O Lord...”

The Vestry of St. Peter’s wishes to thank all who are able to maintain their pledges and gifts to the Church during these challenging times. Offerings may be mailed to the Church office or made online using the information included:

To financial contribute to our ministry, click on <https://onrealm.org/StPetersSmyrna/Give> to give online *OR* text **RISENCHRIST \$amount** (ex: RISENCHRIST \$30) to **73256** to give by phone. *Thank you in advance for your generosity!*

ANTHEM: *Little Offertory in D* by Edward Broughton

OFFERTORY

Celebrant: All things come of Thee, O Lord

People: **And of Thine Own, have we given Thee. Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

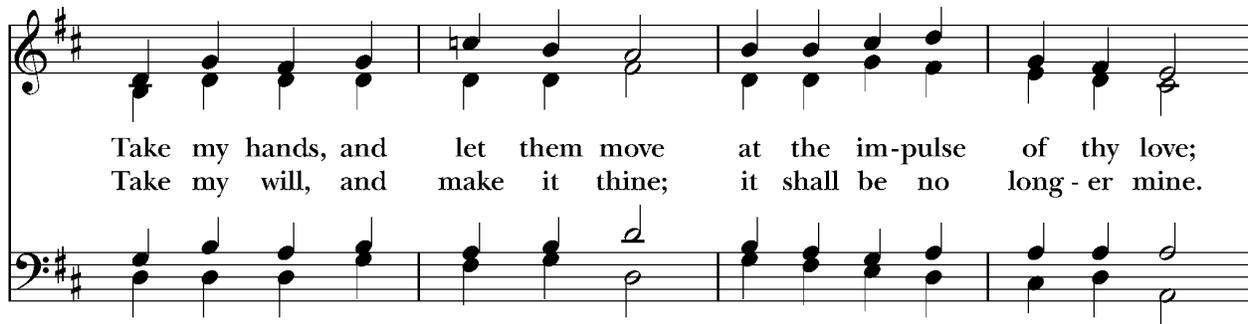
COMMUNION HYMN *Take my life, and let it be (Hollingside)*



1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;



take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.



Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.



take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Let us pray.

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.**

BLESSING

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world; and the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain among you for ever. **Amen.** *(source: Celtic)*

RECESSIONAL HYMN *Christ is the world's true Light (St. Joan)*

1 Christ is the world's true Light, its Cap-tain of sal - va - tion,
2 In Christ all rac - es meet, their an-cient feuds for - get - ting,
3 One Lord, in one great Name u - nite us all who own thee;

the Day - star clear and bright of ev - ery race and na - tion;
the whole round world com - plete, from sun-rise to its set - ting;
cast out our pride and shame that hin - der to en - throne thee;

new life, new hope a - wakes, for all who own his sway:
when Christ is throned as Lord all shall for - sake their fear,
the world has wait - ed long, has tra - vailed long in pain;

free - dom her bond - age breaks, and night is turned to day.
to plough-share beat the sword, to prun - ing - hook the spear.
to heal its an - cient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Theme from Sonata No. 6, by W. A. Mozart*

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Hymns: *How lovely is thy dwelling place:* Words, Music in the Public Domain. *Rise up, ye saints of God!:*

Words, Music in the Public Domain. *Take my life, and let it be:* Words, Music in the Public Domain.

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Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Donna Jean Kiessling, Rector

Music Minister: Mrs. Bonnie Forgacs

Choir Member: Mrs. Dawn Arnold

Reader: Mr. Larry Thornton

Thank you for worshipping virtually with *St. Peter's Episcopal Church* in Smyrna, Delaware this morning! Your presence and participation are important to us.

The video of this service will be posted to our Facebook page at **St. Peters Smyrna** as well as on the homepage of our website: www.stpeters-smyrna.org.

Stewardship Reflection on Today's Gospel

Freely giving our all to God

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind'And' ... 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' " - MATTHEW 22:36-39



There's a saying that the chicken who lays an egg makes a contribution, but the chicken who makes a sandwich offers a sacrifice. One could say that Jesus was alluding to the latter when he responded to the question as to which was the greatest commandment, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all of who you are.*" He was asking for more than a contribution; he was asking for the sacrifice of our all.

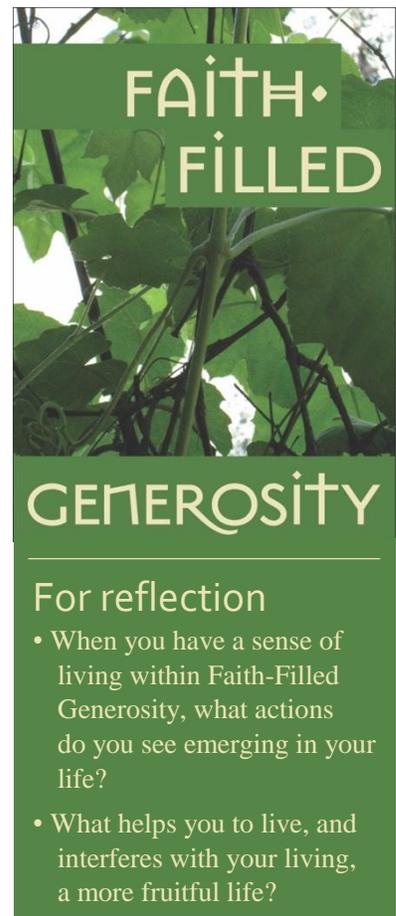
As the Latin root of the word suggests, a sacrifice — a *sacrum facere* — makes one holy. Giving generously of that of which you are a steward — your heart, soul, mind and all your possessions — is life giving. And it is countercultural. As the bumper sticker declares, "S/He who dies with the most toys wins." That's a powerfully seductive statement. Only with God's help can we avoid being allured into thinking that it is in acquiring possessions that our life gains meaning. May we grow in the wisdom that a rich life results in trusting that it is in God we live and move and have our being.

This reflection is written while visiting Green Bough House of Prayer in Scott, Georgia. Here the three residents, with the company of 77 associates, have dedicated their lives, their all, to God and have taken on a Rule of Life to embrace silence, prayer, simplicity and living in the present moment, and accept all as coming from God. Do all for God. Offer all to God. This to me is a beautiful example of Faith-Filled Generosity.

Very few members of the Church dedicate themselves to full-time contemplative living, but all of us are invited to learn to live Jesus' greatest commandment, trusting that in so doing, Faith-Filled Generosity will flourish in our lives.

As we move back into our church buildings, remembering only too well the COVID-19-caused absence of normalcy, may we re-enter with a renewed commitment to freely giving our all to God and faithfully loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Rob Townes received his Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology and has spent his professional career as a nonprofit and church fundraising consultant.



Prayers for this Week

All Members and Friends who have asked for our prayers

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Barnabas' Church, Wilmington

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Province of Wales

Smyrna/Clayton Ministerium Cycle of Prayer: Asbury United Methodist Church

Parish Cycle of Prayer: Keith, Genna, McKenna & Rhys Wisher;
Pat & David Womelsdorf

Welfare of the World: Healing for all those infected with the Coronavirus; Consolation for Loved Ones of those who have Died during this pandemic; For the development of a vaccine and medication to help those who are ill; and ALL medical staff and First Responders.

Aumbry Candle

Given to the Glory of God and

In Thanksgiving for the love and generosity of the members and friends of St. Peter's.

By: Mo. Donna Jean Kiessling

Announcements

Remember to return your *Estimate of Giving Card* to St. Peter's **before Sunday, November 1st** when we will bless them during the service. You can return it by mail using the self-addressed, stamped envelope or put them in the offering plate today.

Virtual AA Meetings Available: Many AA groups are no longer able to meet in-person due to restrictions surrounding the coronavirus. Please spread the word that virtual AA meetings are available on [the e-AA website](#).

The Episcopal Church in Delaware has a COVID-19 response page that includes all of the bishop's responses, State of Emergency and all modifications, worship service information, parish and worship resources, news from the Episcopal Church, and public health information. It can be found by following this link: <https://delaware.church/covid-19-response/>.

Our Church Office is open by Appointment. Please call the office Monday through Thursday from 8:30AM to 12:30PM or contact Mo. Donna Jean. We welcome Kathy back from her leave of absence and rejoice that her surgery and recovery went well.

Be assured of our prayers this week for Safety and Health!