



~ **St. John's Church** ~
Weekly News
October 11, 2023

Readings for Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023

Isaiah 25: 1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

Loose Plate Offering
Food Shelves

Sunday Service

This Sunday Dick Perez will be the officiant for a Morning Prayer Service.





Blessing of the Animals

What a truly amazing - and unusual - Sunday service! Thank you, Antonia, for stepping to the fore and playing the piano in Jennifer's absence!

Several parishioners had such well behaved animals that they brought them into the church instead of leaving them in their cars. Everything proceeded as always until, suddenly, Heather Maxey's cat, Alfar, decided to make a premeditated break for freedom and he did just that! After taking advantage of an open window to peruse the great out-of-doors, he decided to venture behind the communion rail, and then proceeded to jump onto the altar and land on top of the ambrae where he could get a better view. The reserved sacraments must have had quite a jolt! What a cat!

Diane took it all in her stride and probably secretly loved Alfar's audacity. In her usual calm and deliberative manner she stepped forward and delivered one of her many memorable homilies. This one focussed on absolution and self-forgiveness - a topic that connected with every parishioner. Her insights were penetrating and deeply meaningful and they precipitated extended conversations after the service. Thank you Diane for so generously sharing your depth of knowledge and your wisdom!

Scottie and Ollie took center stage during Prayers of the People and the service ended as everyone followed crucifer, Bruce Stephan, and Diane out to the terrace for the blessing ceremony. Those whose pets were residing in their cars retrieved them and one by one Diane blessed each owner's furry friend as their smiling owners looked on. St. Francis would have been proud of our Blessing of the Animals at St. John's.



Prayer for the Blessing of the Animals

Celebrant: Creator God, we marvel at the beauty of your Creation; the variety and wonder of the creatures you have made. Give us the grace that we need to see our interdependent relationship with all your created order. Help us to be grateful and responsible in our interactions with all of the animal kingdom; those who give us food and those who give us love, laughter and joy. Guide us as we care for our pets. Open our ears to hear their language and our hearts to read their needs. May we delight in the many gifts they so freely bring us. In Christ's name we pray. AMEN

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English Tea Party at St. John's Church A Fundraiser for AFRI American Friends of Immigrants and Refugees

Despite torrential rainfall, the High Tea fundraiser for AFRI was successful and raised over \$550. It offered Bob Harsh to take the opportunity to visit and with the guests and inform them of AFRI's mission to raise awareness of the global crisis for refugees and immigrants.

Betsy Tisdale and Bobbi Perez spent most of Friday decorating Persell Hall with David sweeping the patio and sidewalk of our overabundance of nuts. Carole Harsh and Bobbi Perez poured tea into Lynn Shepherd's and Darcey Hale's delicate china teacups from Darcey's silver tea service. Both Betsy and Carole made fanciful centerpieces which enhanced the overall beauty of each lace and linen tablecloth and table setting of tea napkins. The counters were adorned with tiny, twinkling white lights from Lynne Goepper's Christmas collection. Carole brought salmon and cucumber sandwiches, cream cheese "delights", and fresh mint pieces both for flavor and decoration; Betsy made numerous egg salad sandwiches tiny squares of butter for the scones, pieces of lemon slices for the tea, and collected individual teapots. Others made contributions from their own kitchens. Nancy Sherman and Laura Newmark came as guests and stayed to help with the clean up. Thank you one and all!!!

There are already plans for next year's High Tea and those who were involved with the planning and execution have discussed ways in which to make improvements that will enhance every guests' experience.

In Memoriam

RIP The Rev. Fredrick Hogarth Dennis Our long-time Supply Priest and Dear Friend

It is with great sadness, but with the hope of eternal life that we report that The Rev. Fredrick Hogarth Dennis died peacefully on Friday, Oct. 6 at Adirondack Medical Center. At his bedside during his final hours were his beloved wife Connie, several of his children, step-children, and several good friends.

Father Rick was a Canonically Resident Priest in the Diocese of Albany and served as the priest of St. Luke the Beloved Physician Church in Saranac Lake for 20 years until his retirement in 2005.

Funeral services will be held at St. Luke's, on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023 at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Andrew Cruz-Lillegard officiating.

Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord; let light perpetual shine upon him.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the Search

Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we embark upon our search process. Help us to humbly discern and accomplish your will for St. John's. We know this will be a challenging journey for all of us, but we pray that it will strengthen our faith and our respect and love for each other. Help us to share more deeply our faith in you as we learn to listen to each other with open hearts and minds and to hear your voice in all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Search Update

The St. John's (OTM) Community Portfolio Information was finalized with the Search Committee's consensus and on Oct. 6th Dick Perez, Chair, sent it to Mtr. Elizabeth at the Office of Transition Ministry. He thanked her for her continued support and added that the Search Committee looks forward to meeting with her regarding our next steps.

Prayer List Updates

Periodically, it is important that we send the prayer list to those who have brought forth the names of family members, friends and others who are in special need of our prayers. We ask that you review the list below carefully. Perhaps you put someone the prayer list a while ago and forgot that the prayers are no longer needed because life circumstances have changed. Of course, those who are still in need of special prayers will remain on the list. If you wish to make corrections please email Bobbi Perez at perezgonehome@gmail.com or give her a call or text her at 518-837-1015.

Prayers for Those in any Kind of Need or Distress

We pray especially for: Hanna, Gavin, Ric, Tom, Karen, Ron, Jeff, Peggy, Bill, Eugene, Carolyn, Sarah, Lynne, Rae, Aaron, Matt, Geoffrey, Arthur, Anne, Stanley, Bobby, Trish, Eve, Bob, Judy, Abra, Noa, Lillian, Hazel, Thomas, Matt, Mike, Chris, Beverly, Jill, Louise, Cheryl, Olivia, Larry, Steven and John.

St. John's Zoom Passcodes

St. John's Sunday Service

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/worshipmeet>

Morning Prayer

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/morning-prayer>

Vestry Meetings

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/vestrymeet>

Finance Committee

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/financemeet>

Contemporary Bible Study

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/biblestudy>

Meditation

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/meditationmeet>

Sunday Service Zoom Recording

stjohnsessexnyzoom@gmail.com

Passcode: +W2t+Fwu

AA 12-Step Meeting

Zoom Meeting ID: 817 7797 4233

Passcode: 123456

Weekly Calendar

Tuesday Contemporary Bible Study (Zoom) 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Tuesday Community Potluck Supper 6 PM

Wednesday Meditation (Zoom/In Person) 5 PM

Thursday Morning Prayer (Zoom) 10 AM

Sunday Holy Eucharist 10 AM (Zoom/in person)

Sunday AA Meeting (Zoom/In Person) 7 PM

Your Vestry

Scottie Emery-Ginn and Bill Tribou (Wardens)

Louise Baietto, Bruce Hale, Diana Lawrence, Jon McBride

Bruce Stephan, and Julie Wever (Members)

Darcey Hale (Clerk)

Antonia Bullard (Treasurer)

