



THE Cornerstone

May 2020

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church
107 State Street, Albany, New York

From the Rector

What's on our Minds

Let's face it, fear has a way of focusing the mind. We seem to be hardwired for fear. "Fight or flight" is said to be the evolutionary way. Fear has its uses to be sure. Yet there is little question that we are all but feared-out, exhausted by this heightened state of concern for protection. This heighten state of concern will need to continue for a time, but what about our fear? The question has me thinking about what Jesus says about fear.

It is clear from the Gospels that Jesus' view of fear is uniformly negative. The only time our Lord seems to recommend it is when He tells us to worry not about this world's judicial powers, but our judgment in the next. Otherwise, Jesus everywhere calls us to trust in the Father's loving care. If we stay on the narrow way, we need not be afraid. We live in the Kingdom of God, not the kingdoms of this world. The kingdoms of this world are fear-driven. The Kingdom of God is the Father's loving providence. This is our soul's peace and place of residence.

Yet it is instructive to note that Jesus was prudent on occasion. He would outwit the Pharisees when they tried to entrap Him. He also escaped out of a few situations. It was not His time. Jesus still had the Father's work to do. But the core spiritual posture of our Lord is to say a big "No" to fear. Life's claim on us is to be limited to our daily bread. We consider the birds of the air. We remember the parable of the rich man and his barns. We hear in our heart's ear "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Mt. 14: 31.)

Episcopalians tend to be keen on nuance, and Jesus is nuanced. We know that He is a curer of bodies and souls. Both. His ministry was defined by physical and spiritual healing. However, the accent was on the latter, even as the feeding of the 5,000 was to point beyond the loaves and fishes. The nuance that I believe we are called to these days is the walk of faith with normal prudence. There is a place where we can do the things we are told to do for the common good and our own health and still be on our Lord's spiritual path for us. It is about which kingdom has our attention – has our faith and our heart.

Several areas of spiritual maturity call to us. We are right to take some of the present time to be thinking spiritually about our mortality and vulnerability. We also want to understand anew a common humanity beloved of God. We should become more reliant on God as Father and protector. We want to practice genuine love and not just social distancing. Most of all, we need to avoid falling into ourselves. The image that comes to mind is a Christian walking serenely along with a surgical mask on her face and her eyes cast up to heaven in prayer for the world. Perhaps not a perfect image, but something along those lines.

God is in charge. The Kingdom of God is our reality. The best thing to come out of this time for me has been to see you all loving one another, praying for one another, serving one another, treasuring one another. John tells us, "perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4:18.) I have seen a lot of that "perfect love" in this congregation. We will emerge from this stronger in love and faith. I know it. I've already seen it.

So, "...thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15: 57.) Carry on!

Yours in Christ, Fr. Hartt+

From the Associate Rector

Like most of you, I have been “sheltering in place” for nearly two months now due to the COVID-19 pandemic. My “work” continues, however, much as it had before: I pray, study the Bible, write sermons, organize and lead church services, talk and pray with parishioners, and even do paperwork! Yes, the means by which I do these things has changed dramatically. But ministry work continues, and thanks be to God!

We continue to hold in our deepest prayers those individuals who have taken ill from this virus, and also those who care for them. We especially pray for those who grieve the dead. We are forever grateful, also, that “essential workers” continue to care for all of us so that we can grocery shop, receive mail, put our trash out to the curb, enjoy dining “to go” and so on. Perhaps we’ve never been so focused on how reliant we are on one another as we are right now. Even sheltering in place is a form of “loving thy neighbor.”

One of the greatest blessings of ministry lately has been my personal contact with many of you. Yes, I miss our coffee hour and in-person conversations greatly. But they have been replaced with extended one-on-one telephone chats. The in-depth engagement I have with many of you means so much to me – I am very grateful. You have lifted my spirits and provided much encouragement, even from afar.

And when I’m speaking with you, I’m hearing many positive things. Yes, we all have some worries, doubts or fears about the present and even the future. But it appears that we aren’t dwelling solely on them. In fact, I hear many people counting their blessings: their good health, their homes and other provisions, their family members and neighbors who check on them. People are getting full nights of sleep. Young families, especially, have come to appreciate a slower rhythm to life. People greet their neighbors with a wave. Many people have finally realized their longtime desire to work from home. Pollution has decreased. People are eating more meals together at the kitchen table, and are playing games or doing puzzles, reading more, taking daily walks (the dogs are certainly happy about this), and so on.

Governor Cuomo has called this the NY Pause. I have heard others collectively refer to it as The Great Pause. Much of our lives have been put on Pause and there are some wonderful benefits that have come from that. It is good that we reflect on these benefits. It is also good to take that a step further and make decisions about how to move forward personally from this time and place as our leaders consider how to reopen our businesses and lives into the public sphere.

Some people are eager for things to return to “normal”. But is it really good that all parts of our lives return to how they were before? Will we miss the slower pace, the daily walks, and meals at the kitchen table together? Are any of these worthy enough to continue? Ask yourself: are you eager to return to your life exactly as it was before, or have you discovered Blessings that you are eager to remain?

This Great Pause has provided a season for rest and reflection. Many of us have grown spiritually. It has been faith-building for sure as we lean “not on our own understanding”. I suggest you use this time, to give some serious thought and prayer to your own return to “normal”.

What is truly important and essential to you? What have you gained during this “Great Pause” that you aren’t willing to give up? I would caution we shouldn’t give up the Blessings that have come to us through this time. Perhaps we will not return to “normal”, but rather have the opportunity to build an even better future? And that may be the greatest Blessing to come.

A Blessed Eastertide to you and yours. Please know that while we remain distant physically, you are ever close in my heart and prayers. With love, Mtr. Sue

For Your Information

Sunday Service Videos

Every Sunday a filmed Sunday Service from inside St. Peter's Church with Fr. Hartt and Mtr. Sue is available for your viewing. Each service also contains music from the St. Peter's Choir. Every Sunday, St. Peter's parishioners are emailed the YouTube video link for that day's service through a Constant Contact email from the church. Each video is also published on the church website on Sunday morning for that day as well as on the St. Peter's Church Facebook page. The leaflet and readings for each Sunday are also available on the church website as well. Click on the "Info Center" tab then click on "Weekly Leaflet" or "Weekly Readings" and then click on the appropriate date for each. Both the leaflet and readings can be printed out so that you may follow along with the service.



CROP HUNGER WALK

Yes, the CROP Walk is on! On Sunday, May 3rd, we will hold a virtual Walk, with walkers encouraged to gather in small family groups and to walk in their own neighborhoods or nearby parks in solidarity with the people who depend on the funds we raise in our CROP walk.

Contact the Capital Area Council of Churches office at (518)462-5450 or e-mail kitt82@verizon.net for more information or if you have questions. We won't let the coronavirus stop us from taking steps to make hunger disappear. Together, we can raise funds, walk together and help end hunger in our community and around the world!

Register for a team or donate towards the walk at:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/>

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Are you looking to increase your religious experience? We are looking for members of St. Peter's who might be interested in becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Experience the joy of serving God by assisting at both the Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharistic Sunday Services. If interested please call the parish office at 518-434-3502.

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALBANY

2020 Diocesan Convention

The June convention is postponed until the Fall – dates to be determined. When this year's convention does take place, it will be greatly abbreviated from our fabulous weekends in the past. Unfortunately, this means there will not be any exhibiting/vending or workshops. The convention will be confined to prayerful consideration and completion of the business of the Diocese. It is our hope and plan that in 2021 we'll return to our typical weekend format along with the many aspects of what a typical Albany Diocese convention offers!

Flower Guild

During the year, our Flower Guild arranges flowers to bring beauty to our sanctuary and joy to our congregation. Those wishing to make a donation for flowers for a memorial, thanksgiving or celebration should call the Church Office to confirm available dates. During Advent, we use only greens; during Lent, the altars are bare. Other Sundays, we welcome contributions. The cost of flowers is: Main Altar is \$50, St. Mark's Altar is \$35, and the Tower Altar is also \$35. All requests are payable in advance.

Saint of the Month Club



May 8: JULIAN OF NORWICH, Mystic and Theologian, c. 1417

Of Julian's early life we know little, only the probable date of her birth (1342). Her own writings in her *Revelations of Divine Love* are concerned only with her visions, or "showings," that she experienced when she was thirty years old rather than with the details of her biography.

Julian had been gravely ill and was given last rites; suddenly, on the seventh day, all pain left her, and she had fifteen visions of Christ's Passion. These brought her great peace and joy. "From that time I desired oftentimes to learn what was our Lord's meaning," she wrote, "and fifteen years after I was answered in ghostly understanding: 'Wouldst thou learn the Lord's

meaning in this thing? Learn it well. Love was his meaning. Who showed it thee? Love. What showed he thee? Love. Wherefore showed it he? For Love. Hold thee therein and thou shalt learn and know more in the same.' Thus it was I learned that Love was our Lord's meaning."

Julian had long desired three gifts from God: "the mind of his passion, bodily sickness in youth, and three wounds—of contrition, of compassion, of will-full longing toward God." Her illness brought her the first two wounds, which then passed from her mind. The third, "will-full longing" (divinely inspired longing), never left her. She became a recluse, an anchoress, at Norwich soon after her recovery from illness, living in a small dwelling attached to parish church. Even in her lifetime, she was famed as a mystic and spiritual counselor and was frequently visited by clergymen and lay persons, including the mystic Margery Kempe. Kempe says of Julian: "This anchoress was expert in knowledge of our Lord and could give good counsel. I spent much time with her talking of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Julian understood that God was both Father and Mother to us, and understood Christ as exemplifying this maternal face of God. "Thus Jesus Christ, that doeth good against evil, is our very Mother. We have our being in him, where the ground of motherhood beginneth...As verily as God is our Father, so verily is God our Mother."

Julian's book is a tender and beautiful exposition of God's eternal and all-embracing love, showing how his charity toward the human race is exhibited in the Passion. Again and again she referred to Christ as "our courteous Lord." Many have found strength in the words that the Lord had given her: "I can make all things well; I will make all things well; I shall make all things well; and thou canst see for thyself that all manner of things shall be well."



ATTENTION 2019-2020 GRADUATES



We would like to acknowledge all graduates for the 2019-2020 school year. If you, your child, or even your grandchild will be graduating from high school or college or **has already graduated anytime during this past year**, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by Thursday, May 21st so that it can be included in the June Newsletter. You may also email your information to: office@stpeterschurchalbany.org

1. **NAME OF GRADUATE:** _____

GRADUATING FROM: _____

(Name of High School or College)

**WHAT KIND OF
DIPLOMA OR DEGREE:** _____

(i.e. Regents Diploma, Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts)

**NAME OF COLLEGE
HE/SHE WILL BE ATTENDING:** _____

PURSUING WHAT COLLEGE MAJOR: _____

2. **NAME OF GRADUATE:** _____

GRADUATING FROM: _____

(Name of High School or College)

**WHAT KIND OF
DIPLOMA OR DEGREE:** _____

(i.e. Regents Diploma, Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts)

**NAME OF COLLEGE
HE/SHE WILL BE ATTENDING:** _____

PURSUING WHAT COLLEGE MAJOR: _____

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			
<p>3 The Fourth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>See Website for Video on You Tube</p> <p>Crop Walk</p>	4	5	6
<p>10 The Fifth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Mother's Day</p> <p>See Website for Video on You Tube</p>	11	12	13
<p>17 The Sixth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>See Website for Video on You Tube</p>	18	19	20
<p>24 The Seventh Sunday of Easter</p> <p>See Website for Video on You Tube</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>Thank You to all the Men and Women who have served our country</p>	26	27
<p>31 The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday</p>			

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 The Apostles Saint Philip and Saint James	2
7		8	9
14		15	16
21	Ascension Day	22	23
28		29	30
			 <p data-bbox="1104 1701 1526 1890"><i>Happy Mother's Day!</i></p>

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, May 16th ~

11:00am to 1:00pm



On the 3rd Saturday of every month St. Peter's Church is committed to preparing and serving lunch to 100+ people at the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen (formerly known as Grace and Holy Innocents) located at 498 Clinton Avenue in Albany. If you are interested in helping with this outreach program that is in such desperate need of volunteers, please call Laura Rulison at (518)368-4284.

The soup kitchen remains open every 3rd Saturday. We packaged 140 take out dinners plus goodie bags with fresh fruit, bread, toilet paper and a beautiful new handmade mask .



A Mother's love can not be measured.
It's a brilliant gem to be treasured.
Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms
You all are a true blessing from God.



An Update from Bishop Love

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I received notification earlier today from the Chairman of the Hearing Panel, Bishop Nicholas Knisely, that my Hearing / Trial, will NOT take place this Tuesday (April 21st), as originally scheduled. The Hearing Panel is trying to make arrangements through the Episcopal Church Center, for the Hearing to take place in a virtual online format. They are currently working through the logistical as well as legal requirements for such a meeting to occur. It is my hope and prayer that a new date will be set soon. I will keep you posted once I know more. In the meantime, I greatly appreciate your continued prayers for all involved.

In other matters, as you may have heard, Governor Cuomo (in an effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus) has extended the current New York State mandates regulating group-meetings and social distancing guidelines until May 15th. In cooperation with the Governor's mandate, all public worship services in the Diocese of Albany will remain suspended until May 15th at which time we will reevaluate the situation in an effort to determine when it will be safe to lift the suspension and return to our home church buildings for corporate worship.

I realize how difficult and disappointing it has been not to be able to worship together in our home parishes, but I am so appreciative to all the clergy and lay leaders throughout the Diocese who are working so hard to continue the work of the Church during these very difficult and uncertain times.

I have been richly blessed and encouraged by all the livestream and online worship services, Bible Studies, and other Church ministries that are being offered via the internet as well as an ever-growing phone call ministry. I encourage everyone in the Diocese to take advantage of the wonderful online services that are being offered at the parish and diocesan level. Every Sunday as well as most week-days, there are ample worship and study opportunities to take advantage of.

While it is easy to focus on all the pain and suffering brought about by the coronavirus pandemic, it is important not to lose sight of many of the positive things that are happening as well. All the online services mentioned above are a very positive development. Though the online ministry, we are reaching countless individuals we would never have reached otherwise. It is my hope and prayer that many of these online worship services and Bible studies will continue even after we are able to return to our Church buildings.

I pray that despite all that is going on with the coronavirus and the suffering and hardship it has caused, that you and your loved ones had a blessed and joyful Easter Sunday. Please know that you are very much in my prayers. May the Lord bless you richly this Easter Season and use you to be a blessing to others.

Faithfully Your Brother in Christ,

+Bill

Bishop of Albany

Easter Message by Bishop Love

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

There is no greater news in all the world, than that which we proclaim this Easter Sunday – that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, conquering the power of sin and death – paving the way for all who believe in Him to inherit eternal life.

Easter has always been a very special time for me. When I was a kid growing up in East Texas, my family and I would often spend Easter with my Dad's aunt, my Great Aunt Didder. Her real name was Maggie Lee, but all the family knew her as Didder. A devout Methodist, she was one of the kindest and most loving, Christ-like people I have ever known. Having never married, she lived by herself in Terrell, Texas, just outside town on a few acres of land, the remnants of the old family farm.

On Easter Sunday, my family and I would often go to the early Easter service at our home church of St. Dunstan's in Mineola and then drive to Terrell to spend the rest of the day with Didder. It was a wonderful time. We had Easter Egg Hunts in her yard. She had a white picket fence and flower beds everywhere that made for great hiding places for the eggs.

Afterwards, my sisters and I spent a lot of time out on her front porch swing. I can still hear it creaking as we swung higher and higher to see who could jump out the farthest. Often times in the afternoon, we would head down to the old pond in the cow pasture to go crawdad fishing. Didder would give us little strips of bacon that we would tie on a string and throw out into the water to catch the crawdads. We never ate them, but we had a great time trying to catch them.

One of the highlights of our time together was the Sunday meal. Didder wasn't particularly noted for her cooking, however the one thing she was known for was her fried chicken. It was always dripping in grease, but it tasted delicious. We would sit around the table visiting long after the meal was finished. Those were special times.

Perhaps today, some of you are reminiscing about Easters gone by with family and friends at a relative's home, or the glorious Easter celebration in your home parish. Tragically this Easter, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we aren't able to go in person to be with family and loved ones, nor are we able to go to our home Church to celebrate Easter with family and friends; listening to the Choir sing; kneeling in our favorite pew, quietly saying our prayers; hearing the Gospel read and preached; and best of all going up to receive Holy Communion, touching and tasting the consecrated bread and wine -- the blessed body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who would ever have thought that the day would come when Church buildings around the world would be locked, sitting empty on Easter Sunday of all days? Tragically, often times it is not until something is gone or taken away from us, that we come to realize how truly important and special it is.

Mary Magdalene, along with Peter and John and the other disciples of Jesus, could relate very much to that sense of emptiness, that sense of loss, that overwhelming sense of sorrow and confusion that many of us are feeling right now as we witness the world being turned upside down all around us. They experienced the same thing, but even more so as they witnessed firsthand the brutal death of Jesus on the cross. The One they had loved and believed in, the One they had dedicated their lives to follow, the One in whom all their hopes and dreams lay, was taken from them and they couldn't do anything to stop it.

In today's Gospel passage from John, we are told that Mary Magdalene got up early before dawn that first Easter Sunday and went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried three days earlier. She and the other women (who aren't named in John's Gospel account), went to the tomb hoping to properly prepare Jesus' body for burial, having been unable to do so earlier due to the Sabbath. This was to be their final act of love for the One they loved so much.

When Mary arrived at the tomb, she discovered that the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty. Jesus' body wasn't there. Not only had she lost Him through death, but now she would be denied that final expression of love on her part. Filled with grief and sorrow and confusion, all that she could think of was that someone must have stolen Jesus' body. Not knowing what else to do, Mary ran to tell Peter and the others about the empty tomb.

Upon hearing this news, Peter and John jumped up and ran to the tomb. John arrived first. He peered in the tomb from outside, but was unwilling to go in. Peter, in his normal bold manner, upon arriving at the tomb, went right in. John then followed. They discovered it was just as Mary had told them – the burial cloths were there, but Jesus' body was gone.

After seeing this for himself, the Scriptures tells us that John "saw and believed." What is not real clear, is exactly what John "believed." In seeing the empty tomb, was John finally able to believe what Jesus had been trying to tell him and the other disciples, about how He must die, but then on the third day rise from the dead? Or did he simply believe that the tomb was empty as Mary Magdalen had told them?

Whatever he "believed" in that moment, apparently he kept it to himself, at least for the time being. He and Peter left the empty tomb and went back to where they were staying, or more accurately, where they were hiding (for fear of the Jewish authorities), and tried to make sense of all that they had witnessed. Apparently, they did little if anything to try to comfort Mary, but rather left her weeping outside the tomb. Do you ever find yourself not knowing what to say to someone during times of trouble or sorrow, or tragedy, such as the times we are living in now?

Fortunately, while we don't always know what to say or do, the Lord does. He won't abandon us in our confusion or time of sorrow or loss. He loves us and promises to be with us always, whatever the situation, just as He was with Mary.

Finding her weeping outside the tomb, Jesus spoke to Mary saying, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Lost in her own sorrow and grief, she failed to recognize Him. Thinking he must be the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him." (John 20:15)

Once again, Jesus spoke to her, but this time He called her by name – "Mary" In that special sacred moment when Jesus called Mary's name, her eyes and heart and mind were opened and she recognized Him. The One she had seen die on the cross three days earlier, was now standing alive in front of her, having conquered the power of sin and death. She was not alone, she had not been abandoned -- Jesus was there with her.

What burdens are tearing at your heart and mind this Easter Sunday? What fear or sorrow or loss, what seemingly impossible situation are you struggling with right now? What brings tears to your eyes and a heaviness to your heart? Jesus wants to help.

- Perhaps you have lost, or fear losing your job or business as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and don't know how you are going to pay the bills or make ends meet;
- Perhaps you have just seen your hard earned retirement account that had been doing well in the stock market plunge in value these past few weeks, robbing you of the income you need now, or that sense of security and peace of mind you had thinking your retirement years would be taken care of;
- Perhaps you have gone to the store only to find the shelves empty of the food and supplies you need for yourself and your family;
- Perhaps you are worried about your children now that the schools and colleges are closed;
- Perhaps you are fearful for your own health or that of a loved one, afraid that you or they might catch the coronavirus, or have already done so and are now fighting for your/their life;
- Perhaps you are one of the healthcare workers that are exhausted and overwhelmed by the seemingly endless number of sick and dying people entrusted to your care;
- Perhaps you are mourning the death of a friend or loved one and are grieved that you are not allowed to go and show your final respects at their funeral due to social distancing rules;
- Perhaps you are feeling an overwhelming sense of loneliness and isolation or lack of freedom locked up in your home unable to go to church or work or school or just get out for some fresh air.
- Or, perhaps the burden you are struggling with is something you have been carrying for a long time and has nothing to do with the current issues facing the world.

All of these and countless other things that could have been mentioned are very real concerns. They can easily overwhelm us and rob us of all sense of joy and hope if we try to carry these burdens by ourselves.

While Jesus never promised that we wouldn't suffer pain or sorrow or loss, He did promise that He would be with us always as we go through whatever the world might throw at us, giving us that which we need most, even in the darkest and most painful moments.

Jesus is with you now, wherever you might be, whatever you are going through. Listen as He calls your name and speaks to your heart and soul and mind. My precious child, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* (Matthew 11:28-29).

Dear Friends, the coronavirus is indeed serious and must be dealt with. The Lord will help us get through this time of illness and economic uncertainty, if we turn to Him.

With that said however, there is a far greater enemy at hand – one that threatens not only our physical health and financial security, but our very souls. God didn't create us simply for life in this world, but rather He created us to be with Him for all eternity. Ultimately, we are all going to die, if not from the coronavirus than from something else. Long before the coronavirus entered the world in a distant city in China, people all over the world were dying every day from accidents, violence, disease, or simply from old age when their physical bodies wore out.

My great aunt Didder died on Wednesday, August 14, 1974. It was my 17th birthday. She had a massive stroke while attending the Wednesday Evening Church Service. Honestly, I can't think of a better way to die, than while worshipping God, surrounded by fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Earlier that day, before she died, Didder mailed my birthday card (post marked 14 Aug.1974). I still have that card along with the five dollar check inside. I keep it tucked away in her Bible that she gave me. Her very last written words to me at the bottom of the card was "I love you!" I will never forget Didder and all those special Easter Sundays and the other times we spent together. God's love radiated from her in a special way that has touched my life forever.

A few moments ago, I spoke of an enemy far greater than the coronavirus that has come into the world. If left unchecked, it would kill every human being beginning with Adam all the way through to the very last person born into this world.

All of humanity has been contaminated with this deadly enemy which will not only rob us of our physical lives, but far more importantly, our spiritual lives. If left unchecked, it will separate us from God and destroy our very soul. The enemy I speak of is sin.

The Good News is, that unlike all the doctors and scientists that are feverishly working around the clock to try to come up with a vaccine or medicine to battle the coronavirus, God, in His love for us, has already provided an antidote to save us from sin. He did so over 2000 years ago when He sent His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ into the world, taking our humanity upon Himself. Jesus became one of us, in order that He might save us.

When Jesus went to the cross on Calvary on Good Friday, He offered Himself as the one full perfect sufficient sacrifice for the sins of all the world, for your sins, for my sins, for the sins of every human being that has, or ever will walk the face of the earth. In an act of total, unconditional, all sacrificial love, Jesus stretched out His arms of love on the hard wood of the cross, shedding His blood in order to provide the only antidote effective against sin.

Jesus died in order that we might live and have life abundantly, not only in this world, but more importantly in the life to come when we pass from this world to the next. On this most special and holy day – Easter Sunday, we celebrate our Lord's glorious resurrection, through which He demonstrated His VICTORY over the power of sin and death.

Christians throughout the world today, even though we may be physically separated from one another and our Church buildings, cry out with one voice – **"Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!"**

Through His death and glorious resurrection, our Lord Jesus Christ has sent a message to the world – a message of Hope, a message of Peace, a message of Love. Jesus is the antidote to our greatest enemy. He asks us to believe in Him, to trust Him, to follow Him, and to share our faith with others. In so doing, we will have life and life abundantly in this world and in the life to come in His heavenly kingdom for all eternity. AMEN! Happy Easter!

In Christ's love,
+Bill
 Bishop of Albany

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt.....Rector
The Rev. Susan Troiano.....Associate Rector
Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O.....Organist & Choirmaster
Laura Rulison.....Director of Christian Education
Ian Mike.....Sexton
James P. Shortall.....Assistant Sexton
Ruth Manss..... Office Manager
Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

Vestry

James Chenot.....Senior Warden
Deborah Spath.....Junior Warden
George Scala.....Treasurer

Ashley Closson, Nancy Creagan, Christie Gordon,
Fred Hershey, Maria Holden, Mark Lundberg,
Tim Murphy, Jeff Russom

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E-Mail:

Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org

Website:

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Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

