

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | Walpole, NH
All are welcome – no exceptions – to worship, love, serve & grow.

A MORNING SERVICE OF WORD & PRAYER
with Administration of Holy Communion
Sunday, March 1, 2026 | Second Sunday of Lent

PRELUDE

Vladimir Odinokikh

WELCOME

OPENING WORDS

Celebrant: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

CONFESSIO

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant & People

**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.***

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

JUBILATE

Psalm 100

The Celebrant and People say in unison.

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone
astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast
faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus
Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for
ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

People may be seated while the Lector reads.

A reading from the book of Genesis:

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 121

Lector and people read responsively by whole verse

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; *from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵The LORD himself watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

⁶**So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.

⁸**The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

Following the Psalm, all say in unison:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

People may remain seated while the LEM reads.

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Romans:

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

LEM: The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

1 As longs the deer for cool - ing streams in
 2 For thee, my God, the liv - ing God, my
 3 Why rest - less, why cast down, my soul? Hope
 4 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the

parched and bar - ren ways, so longs my soul, O
 thirst - y soul doth pine: O when shall I be -
 still, and thou shalt sing the praise of him who
 God whom we a - dore, be glo - ry, as it

God, for thee and thy re - fresh - ing grace.
 hold thy face, thou Ma - jes - ty di - vine?
 is thy God, thy health's e - ter - nal spring.
 was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

*People stand to hear the gospel**Celebrant*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People***Thanks be to God.**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Celebrant

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People***Praise to you, Lord Christ.****THE HOMILY****Andrew Wilking**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE MAGNIFICAT

After a time of reflection, all stand as you are able.

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith in the words of Mary:

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The LEM and the People pray responsively. All remain standing as you are able.

Behold, children of God, it is the Lord who watches over you. As people sent forth into the world, let us pray, saying, "Lord, bless us, *so that we may bless others.*"

Lord, preserve your Church from all evil. May we, who have been born of water and the Spirit, proclaim the kingdom of God in all the world.

Invite the congregation to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

O God, may the leaders of the nations ever seek the truth. Open their hearts to true conversion and divine guidance.

Silence

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

Maker of heaven and earth, you have blessed us with a wondrous and dynamic creation. Protect us from its rage; comfort us by its tranquility. Give us eyes to see your handiwork in the world around us.

Silence

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

Lord, your eyes never close on your people. We thank you for your mindfulness of us and our community. Be our help and our safety.

Silence

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

You did not send your Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world may see and experience your salvation. Bring wholeness to those who look to your Son for their help, especially for Beth & Josh, Betty Williams, Bob Lindberg, Charlie & Mary Lou Montgomery, Chris Cooper, Emily & Family, Erik Lindberg, James Armentrout, Jeanne Phillips, Kathy DePasquale, Oscar Ghelber, Peggy Pschirrer, Rachael Crowe, Rebecca Cooper, and Sara Crosby.

Invite the congregation to add their petitions, followed by silence

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

O God, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist, keep the dying and the dead from this time forth and for evermore. Give eternal life to all those who trust in you.

Silence

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant 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.

THE PEACE

All stand. People may greet one another from their seats.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Therefore, let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to God.

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,

Sa - vior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day; wipe sor - row's

guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine.
 love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire.
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.

DOXOLOGY*All stand.***Praise God from whom all blessings flow.****Praise God all creatures here below.****Praise God above, ye heavenly host.****Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SOLEMN DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION (from the reserved sacrament)

The previously consecrated elements are reverently placed upon the altar from the front. Standing at the head of the congregation and facing the altar, the Celebrant leads the people in prayer.

All **In the beginning, the Holy Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being. Through Mary, the blessed Mother, the Word was made flesh in the body and blood of Jesus. Out of the Earth, Christ is born again and dwells among us.**

Celebrant O God, Creator of time and space, your Spirit abides with us and with all creation. We thank you for these gifts of the land and for these, our bodies, which we offer in your service. We thank you for this holy food we are about to receive, a miracle of new and unending life in you.

All **Gathered here today in your presence, may our hearts and souls be set on fire. May we bound to this good Earth in love, and to all your creatures from every people and tribe and faith and language and nation and species. May we be transformed by the same self-giving love that has transformed this bread. May we, taking into our humble bodies this holy food, become the love that creates all things, bears all things, renews all things. In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you wish a blessing, instead of the bread or wine, cross your arms over your chest.

*The People receive Communion through bread consecrated at a previous service.
Gluten free wafers are available; let the priest know at the altar that you'd like one.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

Vladimir Odinokikh

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

People stand as you are able.

Let us pray. (*Celebrant and People say in unison*)

Eternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,

and you have fed us with spiritual food

in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace,

and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you

with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BLESSING

Celebrant: The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Vladimir Odinokikh

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PARISH INFORMATION

Working Together at St. John's

	<i>This Sunday</i>	<i>Next Sunday</i>
<i>Celebrant:</i>	Andrew Wilking, Homilist	The Rev. Frederick Chisolm
<i>Rector:</i>	The Rev. Frederick Chisolm	The Rev. Frederick Chisolm
<i>Deacon</i>	The Rev. Deacon Bill Clark	The Rev. Deacon Bill Clark
<i>Organist:</i>	Vladimir Odinokikh	Vladimir Odinokikh
<i>Acolyte:</i>	Conor O'Donnell	Conor O'Donnell
<i>Lector(s)</i>	Lynne Reed	Mairin Keleher
<i>LEM</i>	Sarah Downing	Joe Cuoco
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Patti Sparks	Audrey Henderson
<i>Flowers</i>	<i>No Flowers During Lent</i>	<i>No Flowers During Lent</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	Chuck & Jane Loomis	Andrew Wilking & Drew Street
<i>Hospitality</i>		Taylor Royle
<i>Counters</i>	Alison Brule & Patti Sparks	Chas Street & Marilyn Wilking

St. John's Working Together

Please pick up a sign-up sheet located at the back of the church and in the church hall to identify how you are willing to lend a hand at St. John's this year. You might opt to engage in rotational support during our worship services, take a turn at coffee hour hospitality, join in outdoor efforts to ensure a warm welcome in all seasons, or by supporting one of our Outreach projects. There is something for everyone to do in making St. John's 'home' as we all Work Together! **Please complete and return today.** Place in the collection container on the small table as you enter the church hall, or hand to Alison Brule or one of the ushers. Thank you!

Fill Your Red Bag for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf

All parishioners are invited to take a "Red Bag" (a red cloth shopping bag with St. John's name on it) and fill it with items for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf every month. You can return your full Red Bag to the back of the church and obtain an empty one from the supply in the library any Sunday. Betsy McGuire is our Fall Mountain Food Shelf Coordinator.

Outreach Committee Potluck Supper and Meeting

Saturday, March 7 | 5.30p | St. John's Parish Hall

Come one, come all to the first meeting of the new year for the Outreach Committee. Anyone who wants to participate in the outreach ministries of St. John's is welcome. Bring yourself and a dish to share. A signup will be available at the back of the sanctuary and in the Parish Hall.

Blood Drive | Coordinated by the Outreach Committee with the American Red Cross

Thursday, March 19 | 12p-4.30p | First Congregational Church, Walpole

There is always a need for blood. Please come and give if you are able. (Note: It is being held at the Congregational Church here in Walpole, as their space is more suitable for this event.)

Ashuelot Concerts presents: The Doric Quartet

Friday, March 20 | 7:30p | Stonewall Farm, Keene

Saturday, March 21 | 1p | Alyson's Orchard, Walpole

This internationally acclaimed chamber group will be playing a program - '*Inspired by Beethoven*' Tickets are available online at www.ashuelotconcerts.org at the door.

Our Rector: The Rev. Fred Chisolm can be reached at (802) 649-6495 (cell) or via email at rector@StJohnsWalpole.org.

St. John's Vestry 2026: Marilyn Wilking (Senior Warden), Drew Street (Junior Warden), Lisa Cuoco (Treasurer), Alison Brule (Clerk), Josh Beer, Mairin Kelleher, John Proctor. Both wardens may be reached at info@StJohnsWalpole.org.