

“One thing that I do know, that though I was blind,
now I see.”



Church of St. Mary of the Harbor
March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Where the land, the sea and the sacred meet

Welcome to the Church of St. Mary of the Harbor

A warm welcome to you! Here at St. Mary's, we welcome you with open arms and open hearts, to share with you the love with which Christ has welcomed us. Whoever you are, wherever you may be in life, there is a place for you here. In this beautiful place, you will find sojourners like yourself who are searching for truth, meaning, and purpose. And we invite you to explore and experience the gift of God's love in this place where the land, the sea, and the sacred meet.

Worship Guidance

Everything you need to guide you through today's service will be found in this leaflet, or in the hymnals in the chair just in front of you. You are invited to join in prayers and responses when the words are in **bold-faced** print in the leaflet. Most hymns may be found in *The Hymnal 1982*, the large blue hymnal. Occasionally hymns may be drawn from the green hymnal *Wonder, Love, and Praise* (abbreviated WLP in your leaflet), or from *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (abbreviated LEVAS).

Holy Communion

Our worship is centered in the sharing of Communion, and no matter what your background, you are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine at this Table. For health reasons you may wish to receive only the Bread. Please be assured that you have made your full communion whether you receive the Bread only, or if you receive both the Bread and the Wine. Eager to do all we can to protect one another's well-being, we entrust you to take whatever health precautions seem best to you. Masks continue to be preferred throughout our worship services.

Hospitality after Sunday Services

Hospitality will be provided immediately after today's service in Nicholson Hall. All are welcome! New hosts for future Sundays are welcome, and may sign up on the kitchen pass-through counter.

Preparing for Easter – Compline and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

On the evenings of March 22 and 29, and April 2-5, I invite you to listen on the St. Mary's website to a pre-recorded service of Compline, followed by a reading of a bedtime story: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by CS Lewis. Each night will include the entire service of Compline, and several chapters from Lewis' timeless tale.

Supporting Our Neighbors – First Sunday Food Focus

On the first Sunday of each month, we will be carrying to the altar the basket of donations that you make to the "Little Free Pantry," hosted by our friends at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House. That pantry provides non-perishable grocery and toiletry items for anyone in need. Please consider picking up an extra item or two when you shop. Items may be left in the basket by the baptismal font at any time. Please, no perishables, no glass containers and *please check expiration dates*. The Pantry cannot use expired items.

Stewardship Update

We are grateful to all of you who have already sent in your pledge for 2023. As of Wednesday, we have received 67 pledges. This means we are 89% of the way towards our goal of 75 pledges. If you are still reflecting about your pledge for this year, we would welcome your pledge as soon as possible.

In Case of Need

If pastoral needs should arise, please contact the Reverend William W. Rich, Interim Rector, at 774-383-1236 or WWRich53@protonmail.com. Please make us aware of any needs for a pastoral conversation or visit.

Upcoming Weeks at St. Mary's

Wednesday, March 22 – bedtime

A pre-recorded reading of Compline, with a “bedtime story” reading of chapters from *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, available on the St. Mary's website.

Saturday, March 25 – 8:30 am

Strength for the Journey

An online lay-led service of contemplation and healing. Contact Gerri Spinella (gerri.spinella@gmail.com) if you'd like to be included in the email invitation to each week's service.

Sunday, March 26 – 10 am

Holy Eucharist – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, April 2 – 10 am

Holy Eucharist – Palm Sunday

The Church of St. Mary of the Harbor

517 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657 Phone: 508-487-2622

stmaryoftheharbor.org smothoffice@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesday (9-12), Wednesday (1-5), & Friday (9-5)

Julia Perry, Office Manager – smothoffice@gmail.com

This Sunday's Leadership

Interim Rector, Preacher, and Celebrant – *The Reverend William W. Rich*

Deacon for the Gospel and Intercessions – *The Reverend Bruce Mason*

Organist – *Bill Carlson*

Crucifer – *Andi Sawyer*

Lector – *Sharon Inger*

Healer – *Khristine Hopkins*

Ushers – *Scott Yagel*

Altar Guild – *Joan Gibbons*

Hospitality – *Anika Costa, Sandy Mason*

Livestream – *John Carroll-Yagel*

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Vestry Officers

Pat Penza, Senior Warden
Tim Brown, Junior Warden
John Loftin, Treasurer
Gerri Spinella, Clerk

Vestry Members

Harry Ellsworth	Andrea Sawyer
David Griffiths	Michael Sutilla
Anita McGahan	John Carroll-Yagel



Search Committee

Bill Glass, Chair
Joan Gibbons

Sharon Inger
Julia Perry

The Search Committee may be contacted via email: smothsearch@gmail.com

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude *Christum vir sollen loben schon*

J. S. Bach

Hymn 7 **Christ whose glory fills the skies**

Ratisbon

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **God's mercy endures for ever.**

The Penitential Rite

Celebrant

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **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 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.
People **Amen.**

The Kyrie

S 102

The Holy Eucharist

Holy God *Trisagion*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Setting: Ver. Hymnal 1982, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The First Reading

I Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Fifteen seconds of silence will be kept for reflection

Reader **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

read responsively by the half verse

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul; *

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; *
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
- 5 Though preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
 Rise from the dead,
 and Christ will shine on you.”

Fifteen seconds of silence will be kept for reflection

Reader **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.**
People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 466

Eternal light, shine in my heart

Jacob

The Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend William W. Rich

An Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.
We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

~ Profession of Faith from Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute

The Prayers of the People

~ from *Intercessions for the Christian People*, edited

Deacon God has consecrated us in baptism's gracious waters to be a holy people. That we may ever be anointed with gladness, let us turn to our God in prayer, saying: God of all gladness, have mercy upon us.

Deacon We pray for the church, for an end to division and indignation, for all the people washed and sent by Christ, and for a renewal of God's fulfilling Spirit: God of all gladness,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Deacon We pray for all who beg for life, for all baptismal candidates awaiting the pool of grace, and for hearts of devout faith: God of all gladness,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Deacon We pray for all who are called to govern in justice and peace, for an end to all works of darkness, for all who are blinded to the grace of God in Christ, and for a Spirit of wisdom and mercy to guide the mighty: God of all gladness,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Deacon We pray for all condemned to die, for all victims of illegal arrest and oppression, for all who are tortured, for their families, and for all who work for liberation: God of all gladness,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Deacon We pray for the forgotten and abandoned, for all who are in anguish, for the guilt-ridden, for all in need of the Spirit, for the sick, the grieving, and the dying, especially the people of Ukraine, the people of Russia, Elizabeth, Monique, Joan Boudreau, Julie, Ken Barry, Towanda deNagy, Bobby Taylor, Kent Taylor, Carol Studley, Diana Hardy, Scott Ashley, Sam Adams, Frank Milby, Priscilla McChesney, Maureen Cronin, Michael Mason, Terry Monaghan, Donna Pickener, Deidre Malloy, Ollie Ahmuty, Joan Walter, Phebe McPherson, Joan Marshall, Marcia McClure, Chip Bailey, John Mikorenda, Jim Neely, Ann English, Duncan Stewart, and for those whose names are spoken on our lips, those who are known to us in our hearts, and those known only to you.

[pause for names to be added]
that they may be uplifted: God of all gladness,

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Holy, holy, holy *Santo, santo, santo*

26

Em D

"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," an - gel hosts are sing - ing.
 "San - to, san - to, san - to," can - tan se - ra - fi - nes.

Am Em

"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord our God.
 "San - to, san - to, san - to, Dios es el Se - ñor.

E7 Am

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is God, the Lord of might. Your
 San - to, san - to, san - to es fuer - te nue - stro Dios. Tu

B7 Em B7 Em

glo - ry fills the heav - ens, your glo - ry fills the earth."
 glo - ria lle - na los cie - los, la tie - rra lle - na es - tá." Ho -

Am Em B7 Em

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na is our song.
 sa - na en las al - tu - ras, ho - sa - na la can - ción.

Words: based on *Isaiah 6:3*, English paraphrase Bert Polman, 1985.
 Music: *Mevengue*, Spanish; harm. AnnaMae Meyer Bush, 1985 © 1987 CRC Publications, 2850 Kalamazoo Avenue Southeast, Grand Rapids, MI 49560 [www.crcpublications.org].
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Celebrant Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

All **Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer *from A New Zealand Prayer Book*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and shall be,
Father, and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your beloved community of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People **Have mercy on us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People **Have mercy on us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People **Grant us peace.**

Communion Hymn

Hymn 671 **Amazing grace! how sweet the sound**

New Britain

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us a forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world, and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Hymn 490 **I want to walk as a child of the light**

Houston

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude **Little Prelude and Fugue in E minor**

J. S. Bach

