

# March 2025 From the Desk of The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok

"Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons, deposes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him. To you, O God of my ancestors, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and power, and have now revealed to me what we asked of you." (Daniel 2:20-23)

Daniel's prayer of praise comes after God reveals Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its interpretation. It is a hymn of gratitude, wisdom, and trust in God's sovereignty. During Lent, these words invite us into a deeper reflection on God's power, our dependence on divine wisdom, and the transformation that comes through surrender.

## Wisdom and Power Belong to God

In this passage, Daniel acknowledges God as the ultimate source of wisdom and power. In Lent, we are reminded of our own limitations. We fast, pray, and practice self-denial not to prove our strength but to make space for God's transformative wisdom. Just as Daniel sought insight in a time of crisis, we, too, must turn to God in humility, trusting that divine wisdom far surpasses our understanding.

## **God Changes Times and Seasons**

Lent is a season of transformation, a time to reflect on the cycles of life and the changes God brings. Daniel's words remind us that God is at work in the world, orchestrating events according to a divine plan. This truth calls us to patience and trust, especially when life feels uncertain or when we face the "winter" seasons of our faith. As we journey through Lent, we are invited to embrace the hope that comes with God's ability to renew and restore. Just as winter yields to spring, so, too, can God bring renewal to our lives, even in the darkest times.

## God Reveals Deep and Hidden Things

Daniel praises God for revealing the mysteries of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, but this passage also speaks to God's ability to uncover the hidden parts of our hearts. Lent is a time for introspection, a season to allow God to shine light on our hidden sins, fears, and struggles. This process of revelation can be uncomfortable, but it is essential for growth. As we invite God to examine our hearts, we open ourselves to the healing and transformation that only divine light can bring.

## Gratitude and Praise

Finally, Daniel's prayer models gratitude. Even in a time of exile and uncertainty, Daniel gives thanks for God's faithfulness. During Lent, we are reminded to cultivate gratitude, even as we repent and seek renewal. Gratitude shifts our focus from our struggles to God's steadfast love and provision.

## A Call to Trust

Daniel 2:20-23 invites us to trust in the God who holds wisdom and power, who reveals what is hidden, and who changes times and seasons. As we walk through Lent, may we surrender to God's guidance, allowing divine wisdom to shape and transform us. May we, like Daniel, lift our voices in praise, trusting that the God of light and truth will lead us through this holy season into the joy of Easter renewal.

## COFFEE HOST

02: Sally S. & Sandy S. 09: Hess Fam 16: Open 23: Open 30: Open



La vida cristiana requiere de esfuerzo y entrega para poder cumplir la voluntad de Dios.

Hebreos 12:1, 2 Esfuerzo. Mira que te mando que te esfuerces y seas valiente; no temas ni desmayes, porque Dios estará contigo en dondequiera que vayas. Josué 1:9

Esforzaos a entrar por la puerta angosta... Lucas 13:24. Desde los días de Juan el Bautista hasta ahora, el reino de los cielos sufre violencia, y los violentos lo arrebatan. Mateo 11:12. La ley y los profetas eran hasta Juan; desde entonces el reino de Dios es anunciado, y todos se esfuerzan por entrar en él. Lucas 16:16. Pero antes de esforzarnos, hay que entregarnos a la voluntad de Dios. Todos nuestros esfuerzos terminarán en frustración si nos esforzamos sin entregarnos primero.

## Entrega

Muchas de las veces la voluntad humana está en contra de la voluntad divina. Por eso el Apóstol Pablo dice en Romanos 12:1, 2 Así que, hermanos, os ruego por las misericordias de Dios, que presentéis vuestros cuerpos en sacrificio vivo, santo, agradable a Dios, que es vuestro culto racional. No os conforméis a este siglo, sino transformaos por medio de la renovación de vuestro entendimiento, para que comprobéis cuál sea la buena voluntad de Dios, agradable y perfecta.

Mateo 7:21 Cristo dijo, "No todo el que me dice: Señor, Señor, entrará en el reino de los cielos, sino el que hace la voluntad de mi Padre que está en los cielos."

Hay una lucha inmensa en el corazón y en la vida de muchos cristianos porque no se han entregado por completo al Señor y siguen esforzándose aún en contra de su voluntad, como si algún día Dios cambiara de opinión.

Algunos ejemplos bíblicos de personas que se entregaron a la voluntad de Dios:

Noé - hizo todo lo que Dios le mandó y resultó en la salvación de toda la raza humana. Cuando Dios preguntó, "¿A quién enviaré, y quién irá por nosotros?", Isaías respondió, "Heme aquí, envíame a mí." Su entrega resultó en un ministerio profético que sigue ministrando a millones de vidas hasta hoy. Cristo dijo, "Padre mío, si no puede pasar de mí esta copa sin que yo la beba, hágase tu voluntad." Y resultó en la salvación de nuestras almas y la de todo aquel que en cree. Es necesario que oremos, pidiendo la ayuda de Dios en rendirnos a su voluntad. Salmo 143:10 dice, "Enséñame a hacer tu voluntad, porque tú eres mi Dio." Cristo indicó que el hacer la voluntad de Dios era señal de una relación divina con él. "Porque todo aquel que hace la voluntad de mi Padre que está en los cielos, ése es mi hermano, y hermana, y madre." Mateo 12:50. Romanos 8:14 dice, "Porque todos los que son guiados por el Espíritu de Dios, éstos son hijos de Dios." Cristo es el ejemplo divino que seguimos. Él dijo, "No puedo yo hacer nada por mí mismo; según oigo, así juzgo; y mi juicio es justo, porque no busco mi voluntad, sino la voluntad del que me envió, la del Padre." El entregarnos a la voluntad de Dios, nos lleva a la vida eterna. Juan el Apóstol dijo, "Y el mundo pasa, y sus deseos; pero el que hace la voluntad de Dios permanece para siempre." I Juan 2:17

Lent is almost here once again in the cycle of the liturgical year and with that comes the new habits or declarations of many that they have decided to give something up. While this is to be expected with the penitential season of Lent rarely if ever do we stop to ask ourselves for what reason we are taking on or giving up something for a season. Often, I encounter folks who give up something that is entirely superficial. Like chocolate. Or in the spirit of being different than one's neighbor I will encounter an individual who has decided to take something on, such as praying the rosary every day. Worthwhile endeavor? Yes. But does this align with the penitential season of Lent and the greater themes at work during this season? Not so much. Often the season of Lent is met by many like Americans treat a new calendar year, with expectations for oneself to meet lofty and often hastily sought goals that when left unmet guide us to feelings of regret, shame, despair, or of lacking self-confidence.

Rather, the season of Lent is an opportunity to attend to your spiritual wellness and, for lack of a better image, take stock and refill our own 'well.' Lent is a season in which we are being asked in the life of the church to take a deeper look at ourselves, our innermost selves, and to engage with what we find. To seek understanding for where we find ourselves in our spiritual journey and to identify the ways and places within us that we need to repent, and turn back to God, or those places and means that to be nurtured and treated as gifts from God. Remember, in this coming season of Lent that repentance is not to be understood as the negative undertaking of acknowledging oneself to be inherently evil or unworthy of God, instead it is entirely a turning of oneself from the temporal powers of this world for the realities of the eternal; which begin in love - Gods love.

For instance, the season of Lent can serve you as an opportunity to explore the areas within us that fear has taken hold, perhaps a fear of neighbor that is different from you or feeling unable to empathize with your poor neighbor, simply because they are poor. These are the places and feelings that we are being asked to attend to in the season of Lent with intentions and practices that cultivate liberation over fear and seeking service to the outstretched hand rather than withholding our own. Lent is a time in which we can bring ourselves to acknowledge all that we currently are; made in the image of God, inherently called good, and called to fullness of life through Christ, our Lord.

I pray that we all may enter into a holy season of Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday, and that we all may come to know a deeper sense of our true selves in our life in Christ, knowing where we must repent, and where we must seek to go further into relationship with our God.

#### BIRTHDAYS

01 Tim Putnam, Kirby Newport 02 Carolina Martinez 03 Mikey Robertson 04 Cindy Rogers, Loren Erwin, Jory Mertens 05 Cheryl Hill 06 Melissa Slates, Paula Windham 07 Mike McDonald, Brianna Mertens 08 Peggy Ralston 09 Chase Taylor, Jon Haffner 10 Ginnie Wallace, Alyssa Hess, Owen Kester 11 Laramie Sweet, Cindy Thompson 13 Carolyn Cole 14 Angie Harwell 16 Connie Leek, Catherine Marsden, Brooklyn Rhymer 17 Angus Sprenkle 18 Dana Frazier, Jeanne Goolsby 19 Heidi Lazo 20 Jay Thompson, Chanleigh Miles 21 Becky Edds, Stephanie Palma, Sharon Figueroa 23 Betty Goodman 25 Mariah Marsden 26 Mary Kirby 27 Keri Kirby, Samantha Slates, William Tolle 28 Averi Heese 29 Bonnie Jones, Anne Maschger

#### ANNIVERSARIES

17 Bill & Melissa Stremke19 Mike & Jacque McDonald27 Will & Maggie Flanigan29 Dennis & Ginnie WallaceSawyer

### VESTRY

The February meeting was postponed due to inclement weather. Vestry will meet again at the Vestry Retreat on March 07 & 08.

## Living Well Through Lent 2025

We will cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind with our friends and neighbors of St. Philip's Episcopal Church. Wednesdays in Lent, follow the schedule of rotating Mass locations and Class Instructors as Grace and St. Phillip's journey together through the Living Well program.

#### Schedule for Wednesdays at 6:00 pm: March 05

Ash Wednesdays at respective Parishes March 12

Mass at St. Philip's with class taught by Deacon Carol Petersen

#### March 19

Spring Break Week, no class or youth group

### March 26

Mass at Grace with class taught by Fr. Joe Pierjok

## April 02

Mass at St. Philip's with class taught by Fr. Ryan Williams

### April 09

Mass at Grace with class taught by Fr. Collin Larimore

Light Lenten soup dinner will follow Mass with each class. Please note that March 12 and April 02, we **will not** have 6:00 pm mass at Grace, instead adults are invited to participate in Mass at St. Phillip's Episcopal Church located at 706 Byers Ave, Joplin, MO 64801. Youth Group will still occur at Grace all Wednesdays, except for Spring Break

## Men of Grace

Saturday, March 1 & 15, 9:00 am in Parish House

## Visio Divina

"Divine Seeing" Class/Meditation offered at formation 9:30 am every First Sunday of the month (March 02). Led by our Seminarian, Jory Mertens.

## Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Party

5:00 pm, Tuesday, March 04: Freewill donation for dinner to Men of Grace which goes toward helping: Hispanic Ministries, Crosslines, Carthage Family Literacy Center, Haiti Mission.

## Ash Wednesday Services

7:00 am, Noon, 6:00 pm on March 05

## Vestry Retreat

6:00 pm—8:00 pm, Friday, March 07 8:00 am—5:00 pm, Saturday, March 08

## **Giving Sunday**

March 09: Loose offerings on this day go to clergy discretionary funds so they may help members of our community in need, as well as charitable organizations.

## **Daylight Saving Begins**

Sunday, March 09, 2:00 am—Spring forward clocks by one hour on Saturday night, lest you arrive to church and find your service nearly over!

## St. Martha's Guild

Wednesday, March 12, 11:00 am—All women of the parish are invited to join at Cherry's in Carthage on West Side of Square

## Encore Luncheon: A Taste of Ireland

Noon on Friday, March 14. \$5.00 at the door, RSVP via sign up table in advance. Luncheon will be an Irish-themed menu crafted from chefs Julie Anderson and Susie Bewick with help from Michael and Jeanne Goolsby. The Goolsby's will share about their Ireland Adventures.

# Southern Deanery Farewell Eucharist & Potluck for Bishop Bruce

Saturday, March 15 over at Christ Episcopal Church - 601 E. Walnut Springfield, MO 65806. Eucharist begins 1:00 pm, potluck following.

## **Coffee with Vestry**

Sunday, March 16– between morning services. Come visit and chat with Vestry members.

## Submissions due for April Newsletter

Friday, March 21, 9:00 am

## Women of the Bible Book Study

Saturday, March 22, 10:00 am—11:30 am in the Parish House. The book is "Bible Women" by Lindsay Freeman. Informal discussion to follow after meeting. For more information call or text Beth Kang at 916.494.8359 or email at kang.beth@gmail.com.

## Mid-Lenten Evensong

Sunday, March 30, 6:00 pm

#### **Vestry Members**

Class of 2026: Jeanie Slates (*Sr. Warden*), Andy Lynch, Elaine Wurst (*Clerk*), Mike Robertson

Class of 2027: Ben Blair (*Jr. Warden*), Chuck Edds, Gloria Gubser, Alyssa Hess

Class of 2028: Clifton Kester, Jennifer Rhymer, Amanda Smith, Michelle Theerman

#### 136th Diocesan Convention Delegates

Julie Anderson, Gloria Gubser, Mark Jones, Andy Lynch,

Debby Orr, Spencer Orr, Jennifer Rhymer, Elisa White, Zelma Watts

Alternates: Leo Baird, Leigh Salyer, Sally Stuart

#### **Gift Shop Hours**

Thurs. 12:00 pm—5:00 pm Sunday Mornings, & via appointment

#### **Special Thank You:**

To Zelma Watts for cleaning and replacing the foam rubber in the kneelers used at the communion railings and the altar!

To the Cast, Crew, and the many Volunteers of the 2025 Dinner Theatre—thank you for your time preparing, cooking, serving, and performing. What a show to remember!

## **Prayer List**

St. Luke's: Tom Huntley Paula Windham Oak Pointe: Lida McCulloch Moberly: Eric Adams College View: Roger & Sherrie Stinnett OKC: Kay Graham Good Shepherd: **Edith Walters** Foxberry Terrace: **Connie Moss** 

Parishioners: Tom Flanigan Cheryl Hill Georgia Kinslow Frank Lane Barbara Mountjoy Steve Wampler Tracy Wilkowski Vincent Wilkowski Bill Wilson

\*Current Requests: Bob, Lewis, Flora, Nola, Anne, Jeremy \*Email, phone, or use prayer card to add current requests

#### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

02: The Moravian Church Center, Bethlehem, PA 09: The Anglican Communion, London, England 16: Central States Synod of the ELCA, Kansas City, MO 23: The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Topeka, KS 30: TBA All Sundays: St. Nicholas Noel; St. Andrew's Maracabee Haiti; Jory Mertens our Seminarian; Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce & Bishop Elect Amy Dafler

### Dearly Departed:

Meaux

Linda Rusk, 16-February Ann Carter, 22-February

Gary Kalinosky Tanner Marney Chris Orr Anastasia Painter Steven Sample Justin Slates Nic Smith Ian Stinnett Chase Taylor

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## **MINISTERS of WORSHIP**

## Sat., March 01

9:00 am Sacristan: Beth McDaniel 5:00 pm Reader: Bill Putnam Sacristan: Beth McDaniel

## Sun., March 02

8:00 am Reader: Ashley Rouse Prayers & Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer 10:30 am OT: Nic Smith NT: Elaine Wurst Prayers & Chalice: Mark Sponaugle Chalice: Elaine Wurst Cross: Elizabeth Frink Server: Connor Wilkowski Acolyte Mentor: Jennifer Rhymer Sacristan: Beth McDaniel AV: Elisa White & Alana Harris Ushers: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer Flower Delivery: Gloria Gubser & Peggy Ralston

Ash Wed., March 05 7:00 am Sacristan: Connie Leek 12:00 pm Sacristan: Elisa White 6:00 pm Reader: AJ Rhymer Chalice: Austin Rhymer Sacristan: Zelma Watts Fri., March 07 10:00 am Reader: Zelma Watts Server: Mark Jones Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., March 08 9:00 am Sacristan: Elisa White 5:00 pm Reader: Bill Putnam Sacristan: Elisa White

Sun., March 09 8:00 am Reader & Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer Prayers: Ashley Rouse 10:30 am OT: Michelle Theerman NT & Chalice: Andy Lynch Prayers & Chalice: Austin Rhymer Cross: Sam Hess Torches: Peyton Lynch & Carson Stremke Server: Alana Harris Acolyte Mentor: Jennifer Rhymer Sacristan: Elisa White AV: Jennifer Rhymer Ushers: Steve Erwin & Max Hill Flower Delivery: Zelma Watts & Julie Anderson

Wed., March 12 <u>6:00 pm</u>—Mass at St. Phillip's for Living Well Lenten Series. No Mass at Grace, so no Ministers of Worship this<sup>7</sup> night.

## **MINISTERS of WORSHIP**

## Fri., March 14

<u>10:00 am</u> *Reader:* Carole Pryor *Server:* Mark Jones *Sacristan:* Sue Neely

Sat., March 15 9:00 am Sacristan: Beth McDaniel 5:00 pm Reader & Chalice: Michael Goolsby Sacristan: Beth McDaniel

Sun., March 16 8:00 am Reader & Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer Prayers: Mark Sponaugle 10:30 am OT & Chalice: Ruth Hartman NT: Regina Newport Prayers & Chalice: Larry Hartman Cross: Sam Hess Torches: Lincoln & Barret Cook Server: Alana Harris Acolyte Mentor & Sacristan: Elisa White AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer Ushers: Zach Hess & Spencer Orr Flower Delivery: Cathy Thompson

Wed., March 19 <u>6:00 pm</u> *Reader & Chalice:* Jon Haffner *Sacristan:* Connie Leek

#### Fri., March 21

<u>10:00 am</u> *Reader:* Zelma Watts *Server:* Mark Jones *Sacristan:* Sue Neely

Sat., March 22 9:00 am Sacristan: All Clean 5:00 pm Reader: Bill Putnam Chalice: Michael Goolsby Sacristan: Connie Leek

Sun., March 23 8:00 am Reader: Ashley Rouse Prayers: Bill Putnam Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer 10:30 am OT: Michelle Theerman NT: Austin Rhymer Prayers & Chalice: Andy Lynch Chalice: Nic Smith Server: Trenton Lynch Cross: Peyton Lynch Torches: Walker Lasley & Carson Stremke Acolyte Mentor: Elaine Wurst Sacristan: Connie Leek *AV*: Mike Robertson & Brooklyn Rhymer Ushers: Larry & Ruth Hartman Flower Delivery: Jeanne Goolsby

# **MINISTERS of WORSHIP**

Wed., March 26	
6:00 pm	Thinking about becoming a Minister of Worship?
Reader: Regina Newport	
Chalice: AJ Rhymer	If you feel called to serve on a volunteer basis during worship, please do not hesi-
Sacristan: Zelma Watts	tate to reach out and ask for more infor- mation. We have various point persons
Fri., March 28	that would be delighted to share insights with you about these roles.
10:00 am	Mark Sponsusla
<i>Reader:</i> Carole Pryor	Mark Sponaugle: Readers, Prayers, Chalice, and Servers
Server: Mark Jones	Treaders, Flayers, Chance, and Servers
Sacristan: Sue Neely	Elisa White: Acolyte Training and Acolyte Mentors
Sat., March 29	Jim Wakefield:
9:00 am	Audio Visual (AV) and Ushers
Sacristan: Becky Edds	Debby Orr:
<u>5:00 pm</u>	Altar Guild (Sacristans)
Reader	
Sacristan: Becky Edds	If you aren't sure where to start, feel free to call the church office, and we will be more than happy to get you pointed in the right
Sun., March 30	direction.
8:00 am	Change in Reminders for Ministers of
Reader & Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer	Worship:
Prayers: Ashley Rouse	Moving forward, the church office does
10:30 am	not plan to mail an extra weekly
OT: Leigh Salyer	reminder for Ministers of Worship to indi-
NT & Chalice: Nic Smith	vidual households. Those serving will still
Prayers & Chalice: Austin Rhymer	receive schedule reminders in these ways: Printed on Mailed Newsletter, Saved Elec-
Cross: Larry Hartman	tronic Newsletter on our Website, Inclu-
<i>Torches:</i> Ruth Hartman & Elaine Wurst	sion in Weekly Email Update, and Printed
Server: AJ Rhymer	in Worship Bulletins for the week ahead.
Sacristan: Becky Edds	Readings for practice will be linked in the
AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer	This Week at Grace email. Printed copies
Ushers: Chris & Spencer Orr	of readings for practice will be made avail- able to pick up in the church office upon
Flower Delivery: Jeanne Goolsby	request.
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## DAILY READINGS in March 2025

Sat., March 01: Ruth 4:1-17; 2 Cor. 4:13-5:10; Matt. 6:1-16

#### Sun., March 02: Last Sunday after the Epiphany:

Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a] Mon., March 03: Deut. 6:16-25; Heb 2:1-10; John 1:19-28 Tue., March 04: Psalm 35:11-28; Ezekiel 1:1; 2:1; Acts 10:23b-33; Wed., March 05: Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:1-2,12-17; or Isaiah 58:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew6:1-6,16-21 Thur., March 06: Deut. 7:6-11; Titus 1:1-16; John 1:29-34 Fri., March 07: Deut. 7:12-16; Titus 2:1-15; John 1:35-42 Sat., March 08: Deut. 7:17-26; Titus 3:1-15; John 1:43-51

### Sun., March 09: First Sunday in Lent:

Deut. 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13 Mon., March 10: Deut. 8:11-20; Heb. 2:11-18; John 2:1-12 Tue., March 11: Deut. 9:4-12; Heb. 3:1-11; John 2:13-22 Wed., March 12: Deut. 9:13-21; Heb. 3:12-19; John 2:23-3:15 Thur., March 13: Deut. 9:23-10:5; Heb. 4:1-10; John 3:16-21 Fri., March 14: Deut. 10:12-22; Heb. 4:11-16; John 3:22-36 Sat., March 15: Deut. 11:18-28; Heb. 5:1-10; John 4:1-26

#### Sun., March 16: Second Sunday in Lent:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 Mon., March 17: Jeremiah 1:11-19; Rom. 1:1-15; John 4:27-42 Tues., March 18: Jeremiah 2:1-13; Rom. 1:16-25; John 4:43-54 Wed., March 19: 2 Samuel 7:4,8-16; Romans 4:13-18; Luke 2:41-52 Thur., March 20: Jeremiah 4:9-10,19-29; Rom. 2:12-24; John 5:19-29 Friday, March 21: Jeremiah 5:1-9; Rom. 2:25-3:18; John 5:30-47 Saturday, March 22: Jeremiah 5:20-31; Rom. 3:19-31; John 7:1-13

### Sunday, March 23: Third Sunday in Lent:

*Exodus* 3:1-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9 Monday, March 24: Jeremiah 7:1-15; Rom. 4:1-12; John 7:14-36 Tuesday, March 25: Isaiah 7:10-14; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 Tuesday, March 25: Annunciation of the Lord Wednesday, March 26: Jeremiah 8:18-9:6; Rom. 5:1-11; John 8:12-20 Thursday, March 27: Jeremiah 10:11-24; Rom. 5:12-21; John 8:21-32 Friday, March 28: Jeremiah 11:1-8,14-20; Rom. 6:1-11; John 8:33-47 Saturday, March 29: Jeremiah 13:1-11; Rom. 6:12-23; John 8:47-59

### Sunday, March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent:

Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Monday, March 31: Jeremiah 16:10-21; Rom. 7:1-12; John 6:1-15

