

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
42 Sweden Road, POB 134, Bridgton, ME 04009
Phone: 207-647-8549
Email: stpetersbridgtonmaine@gmail.com
Website: www.stpetersbridgton.org

"We are God's family. We welcome all at Christ's table. We embrace the energy of youth and honor the wisdom of one another. We serve our Lord with faith, love and joy."



April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter
10 AM

Welcome to St. Peter's. *All are invited to God's table and fellowship. We welcome those from many backgrounds into our time together on Sunday. We worship weekly and pray daily. We remember who we are in God's Spirit.*

The Gathering

Gathering Hymn #478 Jesus, our mighty Lord

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Collect for Purity: (All)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn of Praise A Celtic Prayer

Come I this day to the Father; come I this day to the Son; come I this day to the Holy Spirit heavenly light. Come I this day with God, Come I this day with Christ, come I this day with the Spirit, the Spirit of kindly balm. Amen.

Collect for the Day:

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Word of God

Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before

you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God;

and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Hymn #645 The King of Love my shepherd

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Sermon The Rev. Annette Joseph

Apostle's Creed

Presider We affirm our faith in the One, Holy and Living God.

Silence is kept for a time.

Presider Do you believe and trust in God?

People I believe and trust in God, the almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Presider Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

People I believe and trust in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of God, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Presider Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe and trust in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Thomas our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers; especially St. Philip, Wiscasset, For the spread of the Gospel to all the world,

For our Climate Justice Council

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Presider says Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:

Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace

Birthday's, anniversaries, announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn #304 I come with joy to meet my Lord

Doxology 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.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. We praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:
S130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and

said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
AMEN.

Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray
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 for ever and ever. Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Post Communion Prayer: (said together)

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

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

Hymn #518 Christ is made the sure foundation

Dismissal Let us go forth in the name of Christ! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Announcements

If you need to reach Rev. Annette Joseph call (207) 890-8188 and remember she at school between 7-2 Mon – Fri and she will call as soon as she is free.

NOTICE: St. Peter's will be emailing a weekly newsletter through mailchimp. Its called E-Phish-Tales newsletter. Please click on the link with Sunday Service Bulletin to view the weekly Bulletin

Lake Region Lifelong Learning, AKA Senior college of Bridgton: to sign up the Registration forms will be on the Narthex table.

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Parish LibraryParish Library:

Now is a time to learn more about how churches operate successfully in our always-changing times. The latest edition of The Vestry Handbook (4th Revised Edition) by Christopher L. Weber is available on the bookstand. This 2024 version has been updated

to reflect the current canons of our church with attention to the issues of diversity and inclusion; the needs of small congregations, including finances; and the spiritual needs of vestry, staff, rector, and volunteers. It can be a good resource for each of us.

Just for fun and a laugh, check out *Vestry Vice!* No, the book is not a "how-to" but is a cozy British "who-done-it" with an intriguing title. Boasting quirky characters and an inquisitive vicar with an extraordinary gift, this is the sixth book of the Isle of Wesberrey series of murder mysteries.

To broaden your horizon, take a dive into *A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community* by John Pavlovitz. With his captivating voice, Pavlovitz encourages us all to think about how we can invite others to join us and create a bigger table that welcomes all in this broken world. A must read no matter what side of the political and/or religious spectrum you find yourself on.

Reminder: You can look at all the titles in our collection by visiting the church website: stpetersbridgton.org

Next, click "MENU"

Then click "Our Church"

Scroll down and click "Our Library"

And finally, click "Visit our online Library Catalog"

You may also visit the library located in the church office. Please be sure to use the sign-out cards located in the back of each book.

If anyone has someone, they wish prayers for, please call Pat Sprackland or Carmen Doughty.

St. Peters is doing a Parish Directory update. Please email any changes with your address, email or phone to stpetersbridgtonmaine@gmail.com.

We have updated St. Peter's website: Click the link below to visit the website <https://stpetersbridgton.org/index.html>.

We are collecting food for the Bridgton Food Bank. There is a box on the table in the Narthex for the items.

Reminder: Bridgton Public Library started a program where they will deliver once a month, a box of free books to the church for anyone to take. Also, there is a form in the box of books that they would appreciate it if you could take the time to fill out, so that it can help them learn what theme or topics that are of interest. And the box of books are on the table in the Narthex.

Regarding the Chalice: Per the instructions from the Diocese, we have gone back to the Chalice for Communion, and we are not supposed to have Intinction (dunking) of the wafer into the Chalice. If you choose not to sip from the Chalice, touching the wafer to the Chalice is considered Communion In Kind.