The Fourth Sunday of Easter
HOLY EUCHARIST
May 7, 2017
10:30 a.m.
An Easter Message from the Rector

During Holy Week we walked with Jesus as he made his way to Jerusalem for the last time. We shared a last supper and washed one another’s feet as Jesus showed us what it means to love and serve others. Along with Mary his mother, and Mary Magdalene, one of his inner circle, we stood at the foot of the cross and witnessed Jesus’ agonizing death. We know too well the sting of death as we kept watch at Jesus’ tomb. But, as Christians, we know there is more. This Easter we sing our “Alleluias” as testimony to the world that love, not death, has the last say. For the 50 days of Eastertide we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ as we live into our calling to be the living body of Christ in the world. Life and love, not death and despair, have the last word. Together we celebrate the good news that death has been defeated once and for all as we join our voices, singing, “Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed!”

If you are with us for the first time, please make yourself comfortable. We look forward to meeting you. If you would like to learn more about the church, please fill out a card (hanging in each pew), put it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher or member of the clergy, and we will be in touch. It is our custom to be silent before the service, so as you take some time to pray, please turn off all electronic devices. All you should need to participate in the service is found here, in this bulletin and in the blue hymnal in the pew rack. Hearing assist devices are available, as is nursery care for young children. Please ask the ushers for assistance with these or any other requests. Again, welcome.

Cover image: Fresco at the entrance of St. Mark’s Basilica, Venice.

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY  Sheep may safely graze  Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Prelude on Dominus regit me  June Nixon (b. 1942)

Dr. June Nixon is organist emerita at St Paul’s Cathedral, Melbourne, Australia, where she was director of music for 40 years. She now divides her time among composing, teaching, examining, mentoring, and looking after her cat Tottie. She is a widely-published composer, writing music that is accessible and enjoyable for both musicians and listeners. Her works have been recorded by several English and American cathedral choirs, and her arrangement of the traditional carol The Holly and the Ivy was included in the Nine Lessons and Carols from King’s College Cambridge in 2010.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 495  Hail, thou once despised Jesus  IN BABILONE

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant  Alleluia. Christ is risen!
People  The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia.
Celebrant  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.
People  Amen.
THE HYMN OF PRAISE

Text: Revelation 5:12-13; adapt, John W. Arthur (1922-1980); Music: Festival Canticle, Richard Hillert (b. 1923)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray. 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.
People Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:42-47

All sit.

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common;
they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

*The people say the words in bold and sing the antiphon as indicated.*

Psalm 23

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 Thou preparest a table for 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.*

Antiphon

THE EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.
Reader  The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 646  The King of love my shepherd is
All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL

John 10:1-10
Minister  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
All  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

Minister  The Gospel of the Lord.
All  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE CHILDREN’S SERMON

The Rev. Susan Pinkerton
The children are invited forward for a brief message from the preacher. They will then be led to the education wing for the Word Alive program and will return at the Peace.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Susan Pinkerton

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.
THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
A period of silence is kept. The people say the words in **bold**.

For all who care for needy souls: for therapists, medical personnel, and chaplains, for social workers and volunteers and mentors, that they may bring life and health and joy to your people. The Lord is our shepherd, **he opens the gate and leads us out**.

For those afflicted by tornados and floods, that they may find refuge and hope; for all who are sick and broken, that they may be healed and renewed; for those on our parish prayer list and those we name aloud and in our hearts. [Pause for silent or spoken prayers.] The Lord is our shepherd, **he leads us to green pastures beside still waters**.

For the unemployed and underemployed, that they may find work that brings them dignity and satisfaction. The Lord is our shepherd, **he revives our souls**.

For those who are lost, those who feel like outsiders, those who have followed the wrong voice, and for ourselves, that like the Good Shepherd we may seek out your scattered flock and welcome them home. The Lord is our shepherd, **his rod and his staff, they comfort us**.

For those who mourn, and those who walk through the valley of the shadow of death. [Pause for silent or spoken prayers.] The Lord is our shepherd, **we shall fear no evil**.

We give thanks for students preparing for graduation, for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, for the signs of spring around us, and for **Pipes Alive!** and the gift of music. The Lord is our shepherd, **our cup runneth over**.

*Celebrant* Holy Shepherd, you know your sheep and call us each by name. Open our eyes to see your goodness and mercy around us, that we may serve you in all our life and dwell in your house forever.

*People* Amen.

THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE WELCOME

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM   The Lord is my shepherd  Thomas Matthews (1915-1999)  Words: Psalm 23  Soloist: Julia Foust, soprano

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues.
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed 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:

THE SANCTUS

Music: From A Community Mass; Richard Proulx (b. 1937); Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

All remain standing or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.
On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
We remember his death.
We proclaim his resurrection.
We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

All 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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Music: Jeffrey Rickard, 1986; used by permission.
THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant  The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at St. John’s.  
Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the clergy at the communion rail.
If you would like a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.
If you would like to receive Healing Prayers, go to the baptismal font at the rear of the nave after receiving Communion.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM  Lord, lead us still  

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Words: Helen A. Dickinson, 1916

Along the varied paths of life,
Through hours of joy and sorrow keen,
In grim temptation’s mortal strife,
In doubt or confidence serene,
Lord, lead us still, O lead us still.

Through all the changes of the years,
Whate’er of good or ill betide,
In laughter gay or bitter tears,
O keep us ever at thy side;
Lord, lead us still, O lead us still.

And when at last the tale is told,
The vict’ry won by thy good grace,
May we thy glory, Lord, behold,
In that blest homeland see thy face;
Lord, lead us still, O lead us still.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All stand or kneel.

Celebrant  Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant gives the blessing and the people respond. Amen.

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 205  Good Christians, all, rejoice and sing!  

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the people, and the people respond. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!
The closing voluntary is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for God’s Word as it has been experienced this day. All are invited to say Amen at the end of the Voluntary as a conclusion to our worship.

Vestry members are on hand today to welcome you to St. John’s.

The Participants in the Liturgy

Celebrant: The Reverend William Eakins
Preacher: The Reverend Susan Pinkerton
Deacon: The Reverend Walter McKenney
Layreader: John Hardy
The St. John’s Adult Choir
Organist/Choirmaster: Scott Lamlein
Acolytes: Gus Murchie, Margaret Babbitt, Emma Evica, Genella Evans
Ushers: John Amamoo, Shirley Blean, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Sarah Kieffer, Philip Chapman
Healing Prayers: Wes Winterbottom
Altar Guild: Michael Wilkinson and Conny DeLuca

At Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center
Layreader: Paul Shaker
Musician: Helen Hughlett

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of:
Thomas Riggs Cox III, Dorothy and Jim Brierley, Daniel Nelson Adams III,
Robert F. and Abbie V.S. Peterson, Thomas R. Tight

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In your prayers this week, please pray for:

Peace in our world, for those serving our country in armed services, and for all victims of war and violence.

The parish of Santa Cruz del Norte, our companion parish in Cuba, and Saint Sauveur School, Les Cayes, Haiti.

Séinaire de Théologie d’Église Épiscopale d’Haïti (STEEH), the Episcopal Seminary in Haiti.

Residents of the Caleb Hitchcock Center at Duncaster; the George Beach Apartments, Allen Place, Hartford; and the Hughes Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Our postulants, Stacey Kohl and Michael Corey, and our missioner in Haiti, Dr. Lucinda Mosher.

All those whose hurts, burdens and fears are unspoken or unknown.

Those in need of healing:

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Those who are celebrating birthdays this week:

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In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for the church of Ndokwa (Nigeria).

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for St. Mark’s, New Britain; St. Mark’s, New Canaan; Christ Church, New Haven; and for parish prayer groups and intercessory prayer chains.
The final Pipes Alive! concert of the program year will feature Peter Niedmann playing the mighty Austin organ TODAY at 12:30 p.m. Peter is a long-time friend of St. John’s, a prolific published composer, and director of music at First Church of Christ, Newington. He is a Hartford native, having graduated from the Hartt School at the University of Hartford.

The final Music at the Red Door event for the spring is a concert featuring Chelsea Chen on the organ and Joseph Lee on cello, on Saturday, June 4 at 4 p.m.

The Faith Forum on Sunday, May 14 at 9:30 a.m. will feature brainstorming/planning for the 2017-2018 youth program. Everyone is welcome to join the conversation, whether or not you currently have kids in the church. You’ll hear about planned special events and the year’s program theme (for both youth and adult education) of “Telling Our Stories.” Please bring ideas for how to share your favorite Bible stories and how to encourage our kids to tell their own stories and see God at work in them. We need YOUR ideas and participation to make our children and youth programs the best they can be. Even if you’re not sure how you can contribute, please come! The children and youth will be preparing for Youth Sunday (May 21) during the Forum.

A special coffee hour will honor the Cloister Garden on Sunday, May 14 (Mother’s Day) after the 10:30 service. Weather permitting, we’ll serve coffee and snacks in the garden, celebrating spring’s beauty in this unique, welcoming spot. The Cloister Garden—which serves as a memorial garden, summer worship space, wintertime feeding spot for the birds, and a place for quiet reflection all year long—is entirely funded by donations, and we welcome your support to help purchase supplies for the growing season. Contributions in any amount are appreciated; please put your contribution (with “Cloister Garden” in your check’s memo line) in the offering plate any Sunday, or look for a collection basket at the May 14 coffee hour. But whether or not you can provide financial support, please join us for this special event (and hope for sun!).

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!**

- Midweek Bible study — Every Wednesday at noon, with the rector
- Men’s Bible study — Every Thursday at 6:30 a.m
- Women Together book study — Tuesdays in May at 3 p.m.
- Pipes Alive! organ concert with Peter Niedmann — TODAY at 12:30 p.m.
- Chili Cook-off — May 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- Special coffee hour in the Cloister Garden — May 14 after the 10:30 service
- Youth Sunday & Parish Picnic — May 21 at the 10:30 service
- Cello and organ concert, Joseph Lee and Chelsea Chen — June 4 at 4 p.m.
- Summer service schedule begins (9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays) — June 18
- SAVE THE DATE: Women’s Retreat with author Jennifer Grant — October 21, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Bring in nonperishable food items. We donate these items to the food pantry at the Hartford United Methodist Church. Needed items include peanut butter, cereal, canned soup and pasta, tuna, dried pasta, pasta sauce, rice, canned vegetables and beans, and canned fruit/applesauce. Please place your items in the wagon in the back of the nave. We can also use paper grocery bags.

Donate small-denomination gift cards ($5 or $10) for Walgreens, CVS, ShopRite, Subway or Dunkin Donuts to give to neighborhood residents who stop by with basic needs for food and toiletries. Please pick some up when you’re able and either drop them off at the office or hand them to any staff member. And THANK YOU to those who have faithfully brought in cards. This ministry is a simple way to let people in need (sometimes desperate need) know that St. John’s is a place of refuge and welcome.

Sign up to host a Sunday coffee hour on the Faith Forum bulletin board in Hubbard Hall.

Walk Against Hunger with students from Grace Academy and other St. John’s folks. The walk is TODAY with “step off” at 2 p.m. from Liam McGee Park in Hartford (across from The Hartford headquarters at 690 Asylum Avenue). Meet up with our group by 1:30 p.m. at the team picture area. Contact Julia O’Brien at 860-573-8044 for more information or to track her down at the event.

Gather a team of women for Habitat’s Women Build project on May 10 - 13. You will learn to frame, install siding and windows. The Habitat staff will be on site! Recruit your friends, sorority, church or civic group to come together for a worthy cause. Each team member must raise or donate $100 to participate. Call 860-541-2208 ext. 2204 for details.

Interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent? Now more than ever, Connecticut children need your help to find happy, healthy homes. If you are willing to commit to the challenge, have a light heart, patience, and the willingness to grow with a child, then consider becoming a Therapeutic Foster or Adoptive Parent today! Single and two-parent families are both welcome. For more information, contact Klingberg Family Centers at (860) 832-5536 or at www.klingberg.org.

Child care job opportunity: A family moving to the area is looking for someone to provide afternoon transportation/supervision for their two school-aged children. They need someone with their own car who is available 3:30 - 6 p.m. on weekdays year-round. The job is a good fit for a local college student or a parent of older/grown children. Contact Ellen in the parish office if you’d like the employer’s contact information.
Youth Sunday Service & Parish Picnic

Sunday, May 21
10:30 a.m.
with picnic to follow, rain or shine

Last name A-M:
Bring salad, fruit, or side dish

Last name N-Z:
Bring chips or dessert

Beverages, paper goods and hamburgers & hot dogs provided
Smile for the camera!

Look for roving photographers at coffee hour this week, and get your photo taken for our updated parish directory.

OR

Send a recent photo (individual or family) to Ellen in the parish office.
ellen@sjparish.net

And make sure the office has your most current address, phone and e-mail address.

Free!
All are welcome!

St. John's Annual Chili Cook-Off

Friday, May 12
6:30 p.m.
Come sample our cooks' best chili recipes & decide on your favorite!

Please bring a side or dessert to share!

679 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford
860.523.5201 sjparish.net
St. John’s Episcopal Church

_A place to discover connections with God and one another_

www.sjparish.net

679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut 06119
860 523 5201 office@sjparish.net

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. each Sunday morning
5:00 p.m. Evensong on selected last Sundays of the month
5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer each Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Christian Education at 9:30 a.m. September – May

**STAFF**

The Rev. Susan Pinkerton (susan@sjparish.net) ................................................................. Rector
Scott Lamlein (scott@sjparish.net) .................................................................................... Director of Music
The Rev. Walter McKenney* (walter@sjparish.net) ............................................................... Deacon
The Rev. Hope Eakins* (hope@sjparish.net) ..................................................................... Priest Associate
The Rev. William Eakins* (bill@sjparish.net) .................................................................... Priest Associate
The Rev. Helen M. Moore* (helen@sjparish.net) ................................................................. Director of Pastoral and Spiritual Ministries
Janet Babbitt (janet@sjparish.net) ...................................................................................... Director of Religious Education
Ellen Painter Dollar (ellen@sjparish.net) ................................................................. Parish Manager and Assistant to the Rector
Dwight Latif (dwright@sjparish.net) .................................................................................. Sexton
Mary Scripko (mary@sjparish.net) .................................................................................... Religious Education Assistant
Ralph Valentine .................................................................................................................... Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus

*These positions are non-stipendiary. These clergy give generously of their time and expertise to support St. John’s mission and ministries.

**VESTRY**

Buffy Ineson ................................................................................................................. Warden
Wes Winterbottom........................................................................................................... Warden
Beth Grieco and Chris Byrd ...................................................................................... Co-Treasurers
Ellen Painter Dollar ........................................................................................................ Clerk

2015-17: Courtney Bass, Jan Hickcox, Heather Simson
2016-18: Bess Amamoo, Tim Goetz, Ginny Kemp, Will Smith
2017-19: Geoff Emerick, Douglas Hyland, Virginia Van Dyk, Andrew Worrell

**ST. PAUL’S DEAF CONGREGATION**

Sundays, 10:30 a.m., in the church