



*Opening wide our doors and hearts
in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior*

**The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist
October 27th, 2024 9:00 AM**

Join us in person for our service.

Or join us by going to our livestream on the St. Peter's Facebook page [here](#).

The worship leaflet can be found [here](#).

There will be a coffee hour after the mass.

This Sunday's Ministers:

Ms. Janene Gorham, *Eucharistic Minister*

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Crucifer*

Ms. Anica Hickey, *Lector*

Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*

Mr. David Savage, *Altar Guild*

Ms. Ann Bay and Mr. Rob Ingham, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

Music Notes for this Sunday's service can be found at the end of Key Notes.

Dear Friends,

While I serve as your rector, I am technically a “priest-in-charge,” which means that my agreement to serve with the parish is for a designated time period. You will recall that I began my work with you in January of 2021 under a three year contract, and in 2024 agreed to serve for another year.

I am pleased to report that after conversation with our wardens and the vestry, I have agreed to extend that contract for another year, through the end of 2025.

This is an exciting and fruitful time in the life of St. Peter's. I can list many reasons why I am feeling called to continue my work with you. Among them are your active engagement in worship each week, my collaboration with our organist, Herb Taylor, your warm welcome of persons new to the parish, the faithful leadership of our wardens and vestry members, and the willingness of more and more of you to take on leadership roles in worship, formation, outreach, and the care of our buildings and grounds. In all of that activity, I perceive the presence of Jesus Christ and the energizing power of the Holy Spirit. And for that I am not only excited, but grateful.

May God continue to bless our work together, that we might be a blessing to the world.

Faithfully,
Fr. Tom

It Was A Wonderful Harvest Home Weekend

And here are a few photos, with more to come next week:





Look in the mail in the coming days for news about our fall

season of stewardship. We are being invited to "Walk in love as Christ loved us" as we prayerfully consider making a pledge to St. Peter's for 2025. You will receive a letter from the rector, a 2025 pledge statement that gives you an opportunity to express your commitment of time, talent, and treasure, and a sheet answering some of the most frequently asked questions about stewardship.

We invite everyone to bring their pledges statement on our Commitment Sunday/Ingathering of Pledges, Sunday November 24th. If you cannot be with us that day, you can mail your pledge to the church.

You also can access these materials below.

A letter from the rector is [here](#).

The 2025 Pledge Statement is [here](#).

Questions and Answers about stewardship is [here](#).

Feast of All Saints on November 3

On Sunday, November 3, we will celebrate the Feast of All Saints at our morning mass. On this day, we will name and remember those saints who have died in the past year. If there is a loved one whose name you want to have included, please respond to this email with their name(s) and date of death. You can also provide this information on a form at church this Sunday.

We combine our celebration with the Feast of All Souls, when we remember all those loved ones who have died. We list these names in the worship leaflet for Sunday the 3rd. If you have included names in the past, you will receive an email asking you to review your list – you do not need to submit a new one. If you are adding names for the first time, you can respond to this email with names, or fill out the form at church on Sunday.

An Update on Marc Lombe and the Lombe Family Fund

In the spring we heard from Marc Lombe, who is working to bring his family, who are in a refugee camp in Africa, here to Maine. We were invited to support him with donations for a US State Department program that assists such refugees. Marc's friend Jake Mahon gives us an update on Marc and the Lombe Family Fund:

Thank you all for the generous outpouring of support for Marc Lombe to help fund his family reunification! We are bowled over by the response from St. Peter's, St. Bart's in Yarmouth, and others. As we have already shared, Marc was able to save nearly \$9,000 over two years of working multiple jobs, which met the 60% financing threshold for me and four others to apply to the Welcome Corps to sponsor his wife and five kids as refugees. However, to support all six of them, the Welcome Corps requires us to raise \$14,550 to meet their needs for their first 3 months in Maine.

Amazingly, breathtakingly, you all have raised \$3,950 towards that goal, which leaves a gap of only \$1,870. We are confident that we will be able to close this gap in the time that we have left.

Which raises the question - how much time is left? The Welcome Corps recently shared with us that his application is under review, so we expect to hear back from them before the end of the year. If all goes well, then his family could be here sometime next year. While it is still painful for them to be apart that long, it is light years ahead of the time they'd likely have to wait for immigration services to grant Marc asylum, then permanent residence, and then his petition for family reunification. Thank you for helping us speed up this process by many, many years!!

In other news, Marc is actively pursuing an engineering equivalency degree from USM, and he has started a heat pump service business to continue saving money for his family, so if you know anyone who needs their heat pump cleaned or restored, he's your man.

A Prayer in the Midst of Natural Disasters

In these times when so many have been affected by natural disasters, Parish Earth Keeper Janene Gorham shares this prayer with us:

God of the rain, God of the wind, God of the storm
We stand humbled by the power of the world you have made
You have created this world in balance yet so often our efforts
disrupt that balance.

Even so we know that in the midst of the strongest storm,
you stand with us with us in love.

Help us now to stand with our brothers and sisters, as they
grieve, clean, repair, and rebuild.

Give us the compassion to mourn with those who mourn.

Give us the wisdom to rebuild in ways that work with your
Creation instead of against it.

Give us the courage to question our part in scarring your world.

May we be voices of calm in a volatile world.

May we be the presence of peace in a perilous world.

May we have hearts of compassion in a turbulent world.

May we be the helpers in a scary world.

We pray in the name of the One who walked on the waves and
spoke the storm into silence.

Amen.

Vestry Highlights

Your vestry met for their October meeting this past Tuesday.
Among items discussed and decisions made were these:

- Heard that a contract for snowplowing and shoveling had been approved.
- Authorized the junior warden to sign a contract with an arborist for preventative tree trimming to be done on the church property
- Authorized the treasurer to withdraw funds from the

endowment to support the ongoing expenses this year.

- Heard a recommendation from the rector to renew the contract between the rector and the parish for another calendar year.
-

Word of the Week

The word of the week is "**verger.**"

Who is that man in black at the beginning of the procession on special Sundays? Of course, we know it is David Savage. But did you know that he is serving in our liturgy as a verger?

A verger is one of our Sunday ministers who assists the clergy in the conduct of public worship. When David serves in this role on a festival Sunday, you may see him before the service coordinating and assisting the other Sunday ministers in their roles as crucifer, eucharistic ministers, or torch bearers. He then arranges and leads the processions in and out of church, and assists the priest in any other way deemed helpful.

The history of the verger dates back to the Middle Ages when the verger was the "Protector of the Procession." He would lead the way, making room for the procession to enter the church from the town square, and with his virge (mace) in his hand would literally clear the way if necessary. The basic vestment of the verger is a black cassock.

Thank you David, for this lay ministry of leadership in our midst.



Calling All Crucifers and Eucharistic Ministers

Plan to stay for a bit after coffee hour on Sunday October 27th. We will go upstairs and review our practices, including a few changes we will be making. And if you are interested in being part of one of these ministries, please speak to the rector.

The Holiday Fair Update

The Holiday Fair is fast approaching. If you have Turkey Dinner raffle tickets that you have sold, please get them to Patty Lamb this weekend. Please think of baked goods and crafts which you can donate to the tables to sell. And there is still plenty to do the day of the fair - check out the signup sheets in the undercroft. The fair is Saturday, November 9th from 9 to 3.

Upcoming Concerts at Neighboring Parishes

The Flukes: A ukulele concert to benefit St. Elizabeth's Pantry this Saturday, October 26 at 4 PM



Presents



In a Family Friendly Benefit Concert
Saturday, October 26 at 4 PM
Trinity Episcopal Church
580 Forest Ave., Portland

Suggested Donation \$10
Children under 12 free



More info: (207) 772-4758 <https://stelizabethsmaine.org>

A Concert for Climate: a multimedia event focusing on addressing climate change
Sunday, October 27 at 2:30 PM
St. Luke's Cathedral, Portland

Gabriel Faure's Requiem: presented by the Cathedral Choir
Sunday, November 3 at 3 PM
St. Luke's Cathedral, Portland

Looking Ahead

*All Saints' Mass, Sun. Nov. 3rd at 9 AM,
Holiday Fair, Sat. Nov. 9th from 9 AM -3 PM
St. Elizabeth's Volunteer Morning, Tue. Nov. 12th at 8:30 AM
Aging With Grace, Wed. Nov. 20th at 3 PM on Zoom
Merry Hearts, Thu. Nov. 21st at noon*

Compline Link

Join us for the Compline Prayer Service on Zoom on Wednesday, October 30th.

[Here](#) is the service for Compline.

The Zoom link will be in the Wednesday morning reminder sent out by email.

Sunday Minister Rota for November

November 3

Ms. Lenita Richard & Ms. Anne Whitman, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Jake Mahon, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Verger*

TBD, *Torch Bearers*

TBD, *Lector*

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Usher*

Ms. Judy Howe, *Altar Guild*

Ms. Anita Chandler, Ms. Patty Lamb, Mr. Bob Simmons, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

November 10

Mr. Galen Weibley and Ms. Emily Keniston, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Garrett Keniston, *Crucifer*

TBD, *Lector*

Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*

Ms. Anne Whitman, *Altar Guild*

TBD, *Coffee Hour Host*

November 17

Ms. Anne Whitman and Ms. Janene Gorham, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Steve Koskinen, *Crucifer*
TBD, *Lector*
Ms. Cindy Sherwood, *Usher*
Ms. Janene Gorham, *Altar Guild*
TBD, *Coffee Hour Host*

November 24

Mr. Galen Weibly and Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Eucharistic Ministers*
Mr. Fred Fowler, *Crucifer*
TBD, *Lector*
Ms. Lenita Richard, *Usher*
Mr. David Savage, *Altar Guild*
TBD, *Coffee Hour Host*

Weekly Prayer List

Prayers For Parishioners, Families, and Friends

Ann Marie Cady
Allison Schroth
Francisco Andreu
Diane Dalton
Dino Rice
Robert Stillings
Fred Fowler
Mary Ann Hoy
Barbara Vesey
Toby Goodyear
Cindy Sherwood
Galen Weibley

Peter Haskell, *friend of Allison Schroth*
Martha Gagliardi, *friend of Fr. Tom*
Tommy Valente, *friend of Don and Ann Marie Cady*
Jane Reiha, *friend of Judy Howes*
Brenda Pappalardo, *friend of Judy Howes*
Stephen and Rebecca Seraniche, *friends of Dino Rice*
Marge Devine, *family member of Allison Schroth*
Jimmy Devine, *family member of Allison Schroth*
Fuji Sprott, *friend of Dino Rice*
David Turner, *cousin of Craig Mousin*
Tammy, *friend of Craig Mousin*
Beth, *friend of Lee Walters*
Pam, *friend of Anita Chandler*

The Kutasi Family, *friends of Allison Schroth*
Glenn, *spouse of Caroline Loupe*
Janet Blessing, *neighbor of Jane Noone*
Kelly Marie Bell, *friend of Allison Schroth*
Earle, *friend of Cindy Sherwood*
Grace, *family member of Jessie Vega*
Kay Gross, *friend of Jane Noone*
Lisa Gorham, *daughter of John & Janene Gorham*
Gerald and Anita Talbot, *friends of Anita Chandler*
Janine W., *friend of Anita Chandler*
John Manchester, *friend of Fr. Tom*

If you wish to add or return persons to the prayer list, please contact our Prayer Ministry Coordinators:

Allison Schroth, at: 207-807-1315
ASchroth@maine.rr.com

or

Emma Bond at: 207-619-3662
emma.e.bond@gmail.com

A Prayer for Those We Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

NOTES ON THIS WEEK'S MUSIC

Born in Venice 346 years ago, Antonio Vivaldi ranks among the most important composers of the Baroque period. Ordained a priest in 1703, he was appointed music director at a girls' orphanage called the Pio Ospedale della Pietà which maintained an elaborate music program. For his talented and internationally celebrated young performers, Vivaldi composed a large body of choral and instrumental music, much of which was rediscovered during the 20th century and is now performed widely.

"Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above" is one of the great hymns growing out of the 17th century Lutheran tradition. The text speaks eloquently of God's creation, love, power, salvation, mercy and providence, with a closing call to remind all Christians that the glory belongs to God--a theme which Jesus emphasized to his

listeners. The tune shows some semblance to other tunes of the time, and with its uneven number of phrases (5), and its long-held gathering note for each phrase, compels and impels the singer through one of the most memorable tunes in the hymnals.

One of the best loved and most often sung hymns in North America, "Amazing Grace" expresses former slave ship captain John Newton's personal experience of conversion from sin as an act of God's grace. At the end of his life, Newton (b. London, England, 1725; d. London, 1807) said, "There are two things I'll never forget: that I was a great sinner, and that Jesus Christ is a greater Savior!" This hymn is Newton's spiritual autobiography, but the truth it affirms—that we are saved by grace alone—is one that all Christians may confess with joy and gratitude.

Dietrich Buxtehude, arguably the most significant German organ composer and performer before Bach, was organist of the Marienkirche in Lubeck where his splendid playing and famous evening concerts on the five Sundays before Christmas made the city a Mecca for visitors. The young Bach tramped 200 miles on foot to visit the aged master, and, as he recalled rather quaintly, "To listen to him and to study this and that in his art."
~HT

[Visit our Website](#)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church Portland ME | 10 Alton Street | Portland, ME 04101 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!