



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

**The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 22, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

Our main entrance is open again!

Join us in person for our service. Or join us by going to our livestream on the St. Peter's YouTube page [here](#).

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

Coffee hour will be held after the mass.

This Sunday's Ministers:

Mr. David Savage, *Verger*

Mr. Fred Fowler, *Crucifer*

Ms. Gwyneth Stansfield and Mr. Matthew Cheney, *Torch Bearers*

Ms. Lenita Richard & Mr. Steve Booth, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Galen Weibley, *Lector*

Mr. Bob Simmons, *Usher*

Mr. Will Estrella, *Videographer*

Ms. Janene Gorham, *Altar Guild*

Mr. Garrett Keniston & Mr. Jonathan McCormick, *Counters*

Ms. Priscilla and Mr. Fred Madore and Ms. Anita Chandler, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

From the Consulting Priest

Dear Friends,

Today, March 19, Christians of various traditions remember and honor Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. If you look in *The Book of Common Prayer*, you will see that it is considered one of the major feast days of the Christian year.

We know little about him. What we do know is that Joseph was faithful to Mary and to God, and indeed to the child who would be born, by committing himself to all of them. The collect for this day asks God to “give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands.”

Shortly after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, I was composing the poem for that year’s Advent calendar. I found myself thinking about Joseph, and what it meant to bring a child into a world where violence seemed to reign supreme. Today, as we live in the midst of new wars and violence, perhaps we can imagine the faith and commitment of Joseph who was obedient in heeding God’s call.

Here is the poem I wrote then, and offer again now on his feast day:

The Song of Joseph

How can I craft you a cradle,
O child of my dream, so soon to be born?
How can I make something worthy,
with tools that are crude, and wood that is worn?

How can I welcome you, loved one,
when terror and strife still torment the earth?
How, when I cannot protect you,
can I yet rejoice in hope of your birth?

Show me, O child of the Spirit,

how love born anew will overcome death.
Help me to welcome you gladly,
with all of my heart, my soul, and my breath.

Faithfully,
Fr. Tom

Baptisms in the Easter Season

Eastertide is an appropriate season for baptisms. We have two dates when baptisms can take place, Sunday April 12, the Second Sunday of Easter, and at the culmination of the Easter season on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday May 24th. Please be in touch with Pastor Myrna if you are interested in baptism for yourself or for family members.

Preparing for The Sunday of the Pasion/Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, we not only celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, but also hear one of the gospel passion narratives. This year, we will listen as St. Matthew gives an account of the trial, suffering, and death of Jesus. If you would like to be part of the group of readers who will present the gospel, let Pastor Myrna know, and please plan to attend a rehearsal on Saturday March 28 at 2 pm.

Lay Ministers Are Welcome to Participate in the Great Vigil of Easter

Area parishes will join the congregation at St. Luke's Cathedral for the Great Vigil of Easter, the first celebration of Christ's resurrection. It will be held on Saturday evening, April 4th at the cathedral. If you would like to participate as an acolyte or eucharistic minister, please let Fr. Tom know. Of course, all of us are welcome to attend for worship as well.

Easter Flower Donations

Please make sure information for Easter flower donations is provided by Sunday March 29. You can submit information through the website [here](#), or by filling out a form at church and leaving in the offering plate. Donations of any amount are welcome.

Fr. Tom's Retirement Party

We will celebrate Fr. Tom's Retirement on April 12th, at 4 pm in the Undercroft. Please contact Anita Chandler, achandler@maine.rr.com, if you would like to help in the planning.



Evening Prayer Continues During Lent on Fridays at 5:30 pm

Do join us for this lovely service at the end of the day and the end of the week. Galen Weibley leads us, as we gather in the chancel to pray and offer praise to God.

Stations of the Cross: Tuesday March 24th at 4 pm

We will have a Zoom Stations of the Cross service on Tuesday March 24th, and it will be held at 4 pm. the Zoom link is [here](#).

Compline

Compline will meet on Wednesday, March 25th, at its usual time, 7:00 PM.

Connect with our gathering then by clicking the Zoom link [here](#).

This Week at St. Peter's
Evening Prayer, Fri. Mar. 20, 5:30 pm, at church

In the Coming Weeks

Stations of the Cross on Zoom, *Tue. Mar. 24, 4:00 pm*

Vestry, Tue. Mar. 24, 6:30 pm, Zoom

Chili and Chowder Fundraising Supper, Sat. April 11, 4:00 pm

Fr. Mousin Retirement Party, Sun. April 12, 4pm, Undercroft

HOLY WEEK and EASTER at ST. PETER'S

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday: Sunday March 29th

Mass at 9:00 AM

The service will include the distribution of palms and the reading of the Passion Gospel from St. Matthew.

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 2nd Mass at 7:00 PM

We recall the institution of Holy Communion by Jesus at the Last Supper.

Good Friday Service: Friday April 3rd at 7:00 PM

The Prayer Book Service for Good Friday, including the Passion Gospel from St. John

Easter Vigil Service at St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. Portland:

Saturday, April 4th

Vigil Service and the First Celebration of Easter at 7:00 PM

Easter Day: Sunday, April 5th

Festival Mass at 9:00 AM We celebrate the resurrection, including special music, incense, and a celebratory coffee hour after the service.

Sunday Minister Rota for March

March 22, 2026

Mr. David Savage, *Verger*

Mr. Fred Fowler, *Crucifer*

Ms. Gwyneth Stansfield and Mr. Matthew Cheney, *Torch Bearers*

Ms. Lenita Richard & Mr. Steve Booth, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Galen Weibley, *Lector*

Mr. Bob Simmons, *Usher*

Mr. Will Estrella, *Videographer*

Ms. Janene Gorham, *Altar Guild*

Mr. Garrett Keniston & Mr. Jonathan McCormick, *Counters*

Priscilla and Fred Madore and Anita Chandler, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

March 29, 2026

Mr. David Savage, *Verger*

Mr. Steve Koskinen, *Thurifer*
Mr. Jake Mahon, *Crucifer*
Ms. Anica Hickey and Ms. Marya Hickey, *Torch Bearers*
Ms. Emily Keniston & Ms. Janene Gorham, *Eucharistic Ministers*
Ms. Jan Tracy, *Lector*
Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*
Mr. Wayne Franklin, *Videographer*
Ms. Judy Howes, *Altar Guild*
Mr. Wayne Franklin & Mr. Rich Price, *Counters*
Rev. Dan Warren, *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
Pat Fowler
Mary Ann Hoy
Barbara Vessey
Fred Madore
Alan Biagiotti
Jane Noone
Marc Lombe and family
Linda Foster
Garrett Keniston
Kevin Curty
Paul Loven
Anita Chandler

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*
Stephen and Rebecca Seraniche, *friends of Dino Rice*
Marge Devine, *family member of Allison Schroth*
Jimmy Devine, *family member of Allison Schroth*
Fuji Spratt, *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
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
Peter Munro, brother of Emily Hickey
Todd Cheney, father of Matt Cheney
Jay Sprout, friend of Tom Mousin
Sandy Woolley, friend of Judy Howes
Amanda and Chris Conant, friends of Jane Noone
Pam, friend of Cindy Sherwood
Michael King, friend of Anita Chandler
Amy Carter, friend of Fred and Priscila Madore
Norma and Joe Kennedy, friends of Jane Noone
Mary Jo Floyd, relative of Fr. Tom Mousin
Frank Beal, friend of Lenita and Rodney Richard
Mary Lou Toy, aunt of the McCormicks
Cathryn Buckley, sister of Judy Howes
John Richard, brother of Rodney Richard
Jim Halstead, friend of Craig Mousin

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

Allison Schroth: 207-807-1315, Aschroth207@gmail.com

or

Emma Bond: 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 SUNDAY'S MUSIC

In 1896, the year before his death, Brahms completed a set of 11 chorale preludes for organ, of which "Herzliebster Jesu" (O Blessed Jesu) is the second. The tragic mood of the text (see Hymn

158) is underscored by poignant harmonies and a remarkable, sighing pedal motif.

The author of our sequence hymn, Edwin Hatch (1835-1889), grew up in a Non-conformist home, was educated at Pembroke College, Oxford, England, and ordained in the Church of England in 1859. A teacher of classics and church history, he taught at Trinity College, Toronto, Canada (1859-1862), and at a high school in Quebec City (1862-1867). In 1867 he returned to Oxford, where he served the academic world with great distinction, particularly as a specialist on early Christian history. His few hymn texts were published posthumously in *Towards Fields of Light* (1890).

The author of "Beneath The Cross of Jesus, Elizabeth Cecilia Douglas Clephane, was born in Scotland in 1830 and died in 1869. The daughter of a county sheriff, she lived most of her brief life near Edinburg, in the town of Melrose. Though in frail health most of her life, Elizabeth found the strength to help the poor and sick in her town. She and her sister gave all that they could spare to charity including, it is said, selling their horse and carriage for the benefit of the needy. The townspeople of Melrose referred to Elizabeth as "the Sunbeam."

"Beneath the cross of Jesus," focusing on the shelter of the cross, was first published three years after the author's death in 1872 under the title "Breathings on the Border," perhaps a double entendre referring to a geographical location near Melrose, the Scottish Borders, and a reference to the border between life and death. This poem and others of hers appeared in the Scottish Presbyterian magazine *The Family Treasury*, submitted by an anonymous source, perhaps a family member or friend. One hymnologist suggests that this hymn was written within a year of her death in 1868. Although the hymn has been sung to several tunes, the almost universal pairing is with ST. CHRISTOPHER, composed by the Bristol, England musician, Frederick C. Maker (1844-1927).

The composer of our postlude, Craig Penfield, was born in New Jersey in 1948. He continues to compose frequently, publishing the "Introduction and Fanfare" in 2019.~HT

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

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