

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 10, 2024

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### 9AM Family Holy Eucharist,

The words of the liturgy and music are projected on the east wall.

Processional Song

Opening Sentences,

Book of Common Prayer 355

#### The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect of the Day

A Reading / Psalm

Song

The Gospel

Sharing the Good News

The Creed

The Prayers

The Confession & Absolution

The Peace BCP 360

#### Welcome & Announcements

#### The Holy Communion

Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord's Prayer BCP364

The Breaking of the Bread

The Administration

Communion Song

Postcommunion Prayer BCP 365

The Blessing

Song for the Procession Out

The Dismissal BCP366

### 11:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Procession In Forty Days and Forty Nights Hymnal 150

The Opening Sentences The Book of Common Prayer, 355

Song of Praise The Kyrie Hymnal S591 BCP 355

#### The Collect of the Day

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

#### The First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9

Note: The idea of God sending poisonous snakes among his complaining people in the desert doesn't sit well. Another way of seeing this story is one of natural consequences. These "fiery" (Hebrew) serpents are the result of self-destructive, negative behavior. If they get "burned" do they have some culpability in that? Where does that resonate in our lives?

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

#### The Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Note: The psalm continues the theme of natural consequences. "Fools" are "afflicted because of their sins." The good news is that even such fools are loved by God. When others act in ways we consider foolish or offensive, what is our response?

#### Confitemini Domino

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, \*  
and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 **Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim \*  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; \*  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.
- 17 **Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \*  
they were afflicted because of their sins.**
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food \*  
and drew near to death's door.
- 19 **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, \*  
and he delivered them from their distress.**
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them \*  
and saved them from the grave.
- 21 **Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy \*  
and the wonders he does for his children.**
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

#### The Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10

Note: Paul reminds the church in Ephesus (and us) that we all have made mistakes and poor choices but that God still invites us into his presence through grace, the free gift of his love. Faith is not only trusting that God will forgive me but also trusting that grace so much that I can forgive others. That is not an act of will. It is a gift of God. Where do we need that gift today?

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Sequence Hymn Sing Praise to God Hymnal 408

#### The Holy Gospel: John 3:14-21

Note: Jesus is presenting Nicodemus with a well-established biblical choice. How do you want to live your life, blessing or curses, light or darkness? God is not an arbitrary deity that takes delight in condemnation. God loves. If there is darkness in parts of our life, God offers light. More than that, God offers the instrument of the cross as the paradoxical device of healing. Where do we need light?

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The Homily The Rev. Harold Lockett  
Followed by silence for reflection

The Nicene Creed standing BCP 358

The Prayers of the People kneeling or standing  
Greetings and Announcements

The Confession of Sin BCP 359  
The Peace standing BCP 360

THE HOLY COMMUNION  
The Offertory Create in Me a Clean Heart Choir  
The Doxology standing Hymnal 380 v.3

The Great Thanksgiving - Prayer B BCP 367  
The Sursum Corda  
The Sanctus Hymnal S125  
The Canon kneeling or standing,  
THE GREAT AMEN, BCP 368  
The Lord's Prayer BCP 364  
Breaking of the Bread BCP 364  
Choir Anthem Come With Us Hymnal 336 vs 1,2  
Post Communion Prayer kneeling or standing BCP 365

#### Commissioning of Eucharistic Visitors

Priest: On behalf of this congregation, I give you these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: We send you forth with the body and blood of Christ.

Processional Hymn: At the Name of Jesus Hymnal 435  
The Dismissal Response BCP 366

Thanks be to God.

## WE PRAY FOR...

### Our Parish Family, especially

✠ MIKE, WAYNE, JOAN IMMKE & FAMILY, JOAN C., TONY, DALE, BOBBY, AL, JEAN, JULIA, HUBIE, MABRY FAMILY, ANNA MARIE, AMANDA, ROBIN, KIM, TED, FRED, REBA, JOHN D., SCOTT, MARTI, FRAN, DAKOTA, DEACON JUDITH, MARGARET C. & JOSEPH.

✠ FR . JAMIE.

✠ THE MINISTRIES OF ST. CLEMENT'S.

✠ HEIDI AND RUSS, missionaries to Chile.

### Those in the Armed Forces, especially

✠ MARNYCE, JERRY, NICK, BRANDON, MAGGIE, STEPHEN, JAKE, ROSE, DAVID, NOAH, KEVIN, NATHAN, JACKSON, NATHAN K. & ADRIAN.

### Others needing Intercessory Prayer:

✠ HEALING: HILARY, BONNIE, GRIFFEN, JOHN, JIM, COURTNEY, SHONDA, DIANE, SANDRA, BEVERLY, DAN, DON, MARTHA, PAM, CHUCK, MICHELLE, TROY, MICHELLE, KATHLEEN, STEVE, JAN, ANDY, ORSON, SHI SHI, PAPA RED, MAX, PATTI, PATTY, JUSTIN, ADRIAN, MICHAEL, ANN, TED, ROBIN, DEVENA, MARY, TOM, THE PEOPLE OF MAUI, ELLIOT, ELVIE, AMY, BETTY, HEATHER, WANDA, PAIGE, GAYLE, AMANDA, MARK, CHRIS, ELIZABETH, ROB, BILL, ANDREW, BRITTANY, SONJA, TOM, FRANK, MOLLY, MAUREEN, PARENTS OF CHAD MORGAN, LOU, TRAVIS, BRUCE, KRISTI & RAYMOND.

✠ COMFORT: RYAN, PEGGY & FAMILY & KENDRICK & FAMILY.

✠ ARBORS: PHYLLIS, MELANIE, MICHELLE, CAROLINE, TODD & SARAH, PETER & DONN.

### WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS.

Please take the bulletin home and pray for these concerns during the week.

Those from the parish family & intercessory prayer list remain on the list for two months and then are deleted unless notification is given to extend, update re condition, or delete sooner because special prayers are no longer needed. Those in the armed forces remain for one year with the same conditions as above. Notice may be given to Carlotta Ford at the Ministry Center, 770-345-6722 Prayer request cards are in the church pews, or requests can be made by calling Carlotta. Please email or call Trish Cole (770-377-4348) to update your prayer requests.

### If God Loves the World ...

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall have eternal life."

John 3:16 is well known. It is a statement made by Jesus to Nicodemus, the Jewish leader who has come to him by night with questions. Jesus tells him what God has done and why. It is a statement that begs a response.

The world needs saving. This Sunday, Paul reflects on our natural disposition toward self-destructive behaviors. The story from Numbers reveals the consequences of negative behavior and the rejection of the presence of God in our lives. It is deadly.

But God turns what is deadly into a source of life. The poisonous snakes in the wilderness become a sign and instrument of life in the hands of Moses. The bronze snake lifted up brings healing. Jesus reminds Nicodemus of this story as a prelude to the cross. The deadly execution device becomes an instrument of eternal life.

And what is eternal life? Jesus prays for us in John 17:3, "and this is eternal life, that they know you to be the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

Eternal life is to rely on the abiding promise of God to be present to the world in love. The appropriate (one might say logical) response is allowing God to shape us in a corresponding loving posture toward God and toward the world.

We are sent as Christ's body to join in the very sending mission God designed for his Son. That is our response to John 3:16. Not merely an acknowledgement, but action.

Where has God prepared for us an opportunity to share healing and hope? Where can we be a part of bringing life out of death?

Jamie

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Easter Baskets:

We are collecting Easter Baskets for MUST Ministries. Please leave your basket in the narthex. Deadline is 3/24

### Lent Cleanout Challenge:

Each day of Lent find a gently used item in your home (clothing, shoes, books, home goods etc.) that you no longer need and set it aside to donate to those in need. Bring donations to the narthex on Sunday mornings during Lent. Volunteers will collect and sort the donated items and arrange for them to be delivered to nonprofits and mission programs such as No Longer Bound and MUST Ministries. Contact Beth Vaughan elizabeth.m.w.vaughan@gmail or see any ECW member.

### Centering Prayer:

We are organizing a Centering Prayer group at St. Clement's! Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. The group will meet regularly for about half an hour once a week. More information can be found at www.comtemplativeoutreachatlanta.com. If interested contact Fr. Jamie (770) 324-2035 or Diane Hodgins (850) 339-8540

### Lay Eucharistic Visitors Ministry:

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) extend the hospitality of the Sunday Eucharist to those who, because of illness or other limitations, are unable to be present for community worship. Since the beginning of the church, the bringing of Holy Communion to the homebound has been a sacred duty. We continue in this ministry seeking to bring Christ to all people who desire Him. If you or someone you know would like to use this service, please contact either Fr. Jamie (770-324-2035) or Diane Hodgins (850-339-8540).

### Fish Fry

Annual Fish Fry continues through 3/22. Contact Katie McDonald to sign up.

### Daughters of the King Quiet Day

3/16 9am until 2p.m. a retreat held in Davis Hall. We invite you to join Confessing Joy: Living the good life by letting go.

### Episcopal Church Women

3/19 currently meeting via Google Meet. Regular meetings are the third Monday of the month. April meeting will be held 4/22. Contact Wanda Carr wandakiddcarr@gmail.com

### Book Club

3/11 1:30 p.m. Davis Hall to discuss **The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store** by James McBride. April is **The Year of Living Biblically** by AJ Jacobs. May is **The Villa** by Rachel Hawkins. June is **The Things We**

The Rev. Dr. James B. Stutler, *rector*  
770-324-2035

email

frjamie@stclements canton.org

Carlotta Ford, *administrator*  
770-345-6722

email stclements@stclements canton.org

**Cannot Say** by Kelly Rimmer, July is **The Personal Librarian** by Marie Benedict and is August **The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post** by Alison Pataki. Contact: Sallee Macknik sallee\_m@yahoo.com or (770) 714-6340

### Women's Group/Inbetweeners:

3/12 11:00 a.m. J. Christopher's, 1437 Riverstone Pkwy, Canton. Susan Gensel is leading contact: hickoryfarms@comcast.net

**The Altar Guild** has dates available on the flower chart if you have someone or something special you would like to commemorate. The chart is in the notebook in the narthex and cost is \$50. Please contact Trish Cole (770)-377-4348 or trishcole4@gmail.com

### The Men's Group

Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. (IHOP, 3010 Northside Parkway, Canton)  
Contact: stclements mensgroup@gmail.com.

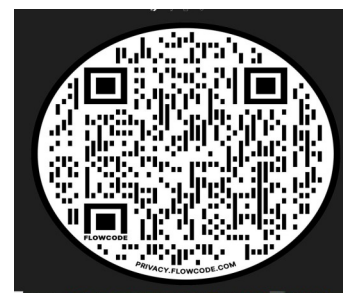
### Rector's Bible Study

Every Wednesday at noon via Zoom currently studying Proverbs. Contact the office for the link.

**Online Giving** available through our website www.stclements canton.org or by the Vanco app on your smart phone.

If you have an item you would like included in the newsletter or bulletin, please submit it to the office no later than 2:00pm on Thursdays.

Scan to visit our website for more information.



### Serving Today:

VPOD: Katie McDonald

Crucifer: Dell Lyons

Gospel Torch: Wayne Smoak

Epistle Torch: Margaret Whitley

LEM: Wanda Carr

Reader: Larry Ellis

Teller: Jamie Lyons



### Birthdays this week:

Mark Hammont 3/10

Carol Hammont 3/11

Gloria Blackburn 3/14

Gary Dorminey 3/15

### TREASURER'S SUMMARY

as of January 2024

Pledges YTD	\$12,978.56
Total Income	\$34,628.51
Total Expenses	\$34,628.51



## Welcome Visitors!

If you are visiting for the first time, let us know you are here by filling out a visitor's card and ask an usher about a gift we have for you in the narthex (foyer).

## WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

**SUNDAY SERVICES** // 9 a.m. Contemporary // 11 a.m. Traditional

### MONDAY

Morning Prayer (online) // 9:00am  
Grief Share // 3:00pm

### THURSDAY

Centering Prayer // 1:00pm  
Path to Shine // 1:40pm  
Canton AL-Anon // 7:00pm.

### TUESDAY

Men's Group, IHOP // 11:30am  
Alcoholics Anonymous // 8:00pm.

### FRIDAY

Morning Prayer (online) // 9:00am.  
Holy Eucharist @ The Arbors // 10:00am  
Women's AA // 12:00 noon

### WEDNESDAY

Morning Prayer (online) // 9:00am.  
Women's AA // 12:00pm.  
Rector's Zoom Bible Study // 12:00pm  
Holy Eucharist. // 6:15pm  
Meal // 6:40pm  
EYC // 7:00pm  
Bible Study // 7:00pm

**Mailing address:** PO Box 4156, Canton, Georgia 30114  
**Phone** 770-345-6722 | **Web** www.stclements canton.org