

Saint Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CANTON, OH



The Lion's Pause

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
CANTON, OH



Greetings!

I met on Monday with Sandy Paradis and Kathy Kennedy. They shared a terrific idea, that we revive the “informal discussions” we were enjoying when the pandemic arrived—but in a way that reflects the new reality and its precautions. We have scheduled the first gathering for **Wednesday, August 12** (two weeks from yesterday) from **10:30 to 12:00**.

There is no need for a long-term commitment. Come when you can. We plan to call these our “Hop-On, Hop-Off” discussions. But at least at first, we will limit the number of participants to 12 each week. Katie will set up an automated reservation system for us to use. If the demand appears to be greater, we may increase the maximum, but we will begin with 12. That was good enough for the disciples.

We will meet in the picnic pavilion behind the church, wearing masks and maintaining proper distance. If the weather becomes unpleasant, those who feel comfortable doing so will move to the family room upstairs. Within a few weeks, we hope to reconfigure the transept (the pews opposite the choir) for group discussion.

At our first gathering on Wednesday, August 12 (two weeks from yesterday), we will discuss a topic on the minds of many:

“How can our faith help us cope more effectively with a seemingly endless ordeal?”

But we will leave plenty of time to discuss suggestions of possible topics for the future. And at every session, we will save 20 minutes or so at the end for “What’s on your mind?” If you already have topics to

suggest, please send them to me at plgaston3@gmail.com, and we will discuss them on the 12th.

X

Last Sunday, service-goers once again were fortunate. The sky was clear and the temperature at 9:00 AM was a pleasant 76 degrees. Although I hope that our good fortune will continue, we cannot count on it. After all, this is Ohio!

If the weather forces us to move a service to the sanctuary to provide a "streaming-only" service, I hope that you will use the link emailed to you and join our remote congregation. I hope also that you might find helpful a few suggestions concerning making the on-line experience a meaningful one. (If you are among our many "regular viewers" who are not yet comfortable with the idea of joining us outside, these suggestions are meant for you as well.)

(1) Prepare the space around your laptop, iPad, or TV for worship by removing distractions such as mail, magazines, and newspapers. Some worshippers light a candle or position as small cross or holy image. Some place photographs of those they love but see no longer. You can be creative! After all, you are preparing your space to welcome a visitor—the Holy Spirit!

(2) If you can, print out or download the service bulletin. You will find a link in the email that provides the information about the online service. If not, locate your copy of the *Book of Common Prayer* and turn to Morning Prayer, Rite II. You will be able to follow along easily.

(3) Place your smart phone on "airplane mode" or "do not disturb." For obvious reasons.

(4) When the service begins, you might want to stand when the bulletin suggests that. But if you prefer to remain seated, that's OK, too. One exception. If you are celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary, you should stand as you are able for the blessing.

(5) Do you have other ideas for making the remote experience feel less "remote"? If so, let me know, and I will include a supplement in next week's Lion's Pause. You can reach me at plgaston3@gmail.com. Even when shared through technology, our prayer *in common* can remain *uncommonly* satisfying.

X

Listening Note: You should take the opportunity this week to listen to your favorite composition by J. S. Bach. Yesterday was "his day" in the church calendar. Or you could hum one of the hymns in our hymnal. I counted 20 hymns set to Bach's music—though some of

them are set to the same music. The collect for the day:

Sound out your majesty, O God, and call us to your work; that, like thy servant Johann Sebastian Bach, we might present our lives and our works to your glory alone.

Fr. Paul



Office hours next week are **Wednesday, August 5th**, from 10:00-2:00. No appointment is needed, but if you'd like to make one you may do so by emailing the [office](#).

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:

[Read This Week's Lessons](#)

To facilitate stewardship during this difficult time, the Diocese has launched an online giving resource. Simply set up your one-time or recurring gift and select your parish from the pull-down menu (Canton, St. Mark's).



The Diocese will transfer your gift to St. Mark's.

You can add instructions to your donation. (IE: operations, restoration, etc.) If you have questions on this, please contact the [office](#).

We thank you for your continued support and prayers.
[Designate a Gift to St. Mark's](#)

Join us Sunday at 9:00am for Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary in the Woods. We will continue to gather for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM in the Betty Fortney chapel--WEATHER PERMITTING.

Sunday Live Stream

You will be able to access the live stream by visiting our [Facebook page](#) (an account is not required.) Our video content will be the first posted content in the videos section and should indicate that we are "live".

"Marching to Zion." Bob Morrison

A few weeks ago I got a happy surprise. In looking at St. Mark's Facebook page up came a video of our priest at the grand piano in our sanctuary - playing a Gospel song "Marching to Zion" by Robert Lowry. This text was published in 1707 by Isaac Watts, the "father" of English hymnody, likely based on Jeremiah 31:6 "Arise, and let us go up to Zion..." The hymn appears in our 1982 Hymnal at 392, but not with Lowry's tune. It is set to the late National Cathedral musician Richard Wayne Dirksen's "Vineyard Haven." The same tune is also used for "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart: and it's a gem. The rousing refrain "Hosanna!" is a fine climax. We used to sing this at Westminster Choir College in Princeton NJ and you could have heard it in Trenton! But Father Gaston chose the Gospel song, which is vastly different from Dirksen's, but a masterpiece in its own way. Lowry was a professor of English literature (like our priest), a pastor (like our priest), a composer/author (Lowry wrote both words and music to "Shall We Gather at the River") and a publisher/editor at Biglow Press. Lowry added a refrain to Watts' text, and it's quite a rousing piece. More next week.

Parish Directory

Password: lion515

Paul Welch, Billie Robertson,
Ron and Peg Hill, Jack and Pauline
Briggs

Prayer Concerns

Family and Friends: Judy Provo (friend of Cricket Boyd), Marc Hostetler (brother of Susan Hostetler), Gabrielle Karam (friend of Diana Cornell), Landon Strobel (friend of Bradley Mull), Anna Brown (Eloise Hochwalt's sister), Dave Jarvis (family of Ron and Peg Hill), Cody Hixon (cousin to Bruce and Judy Hixon), Don, Corbin Angeli, Thelma (friends/family of Jan Hudson), Suzy Clark (friend of Hixons'), Stacy Biglin (acquaintance of Derek Gordon), Autumn (granddaughter of Kerry and Zev), Bob Patterson (friend of Diana Cornell), Adriana (Pam McCarthy's daughter's friend), Jacobo-Quijada Family (Mandy Pelger's Student), Lynn McBride (father of Beth Crawl), John Grandage (Kim Nadel's brother), Monica McGrath (cousin of Katie Cerroni-Arnold), Baby David (friend of the Schaub's), Linda Kendrick, Marianne L. (friends of Kieslings'), Amara (granddaughter of Ken Jaeb), Conrad Family (friends of the Rands), Nancy Sauer and Helen Carnahan (friends to Diana Cornell), Will Disman (friend of Sandy Paradis' son), John Streb (friend of the Mulls), Pastor Marilyn Roman (friend of St. Mark's), Lynnda Hoefler (friend of Sue Little), Linda Gibson (sister of Bobbi Gordon), Katie Campbell (friend of Boyds'), Johnny Willoughby, Bobby Guerin (friend of Pam McCarthy), Jim Mesko (friend of Jim Weaver), Michelle Gibson-Garber (friends of the Gordons) Donald Pentz (friend of the Rands)

For all those serving in the armed forces.

For all those who have died.

Emilie Korosi, Don Lovgren, Joan Werren, Kathleen Conley

Please share updates with Bobbi Gordon.

PRAYER CHAIN:

St. Mark's has a group of prayer warriors who pray for specific needs of those on the prayer chain. If you would like to place yourself or a loved one on the prayer chain, please contact Bobbi Gordon at ggordon24@sbcglobal.net

Please note, prayer requests may be placed on the Prayer Chain, in the Prayer Concerns list appearing here and in the Sunday bulletin, or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference.



We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.

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