

Saint Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CANTON, OH



The Lion's Pause

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
CANTON, OH



Greetings!

Today (June 25) we honor the memory of James Weldon Johnson, a remarkable poet and lawyer who served also as a diplomat (Venezuela, Nicaragua), an organizational leader (the NAACP), and a professor of creative writing (NYU, Fisk University). Devoted to the spiritual tradition, he was the author of many poems, the best known of which is the familiar "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Johnson describes the origins of the song as follows:

A group of young men in Jacksonville, Florida, arranged to celebrate Lincoln's birthday in 1900. My brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, and I decided to write a song to be sung at the exercises. I wrote the words and he wrote the music. . . . Shortly afterwards my brother and I moved away from Jacksonville to New York, and the song passed out of our minds. But the school children of Jacksonville kept singing it; they went off to other schools and sang it; they became teachers and taught it to other children. Within twenty years it was being sung over the South and in some other parts of the country.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46549/lift-every-voice-and-sing>

Today, of course, the song is sung throughout the US and throughout the world. You will find it on pp. 599-600 of *The Hymnal 1982*. Our collect for this day seems especially timely:

Eternal God, who gave your servant James Weldon Johnson a heart and voice to praise your Name in verse: As he gave us powerful words to glorify you, may we also speak with joy and boldness to banish hatred from your creation.



Each year I acknowledge the feast day of St. Alban (June 22) for both personal and liturgical reasons. I did so last year at this time. The personal reason? I was ordained in 1990 at St. Alban's, Hixson (Chattanooga), Tennessee. Liturgical reasons? Alban found himself in a position to do the right thing—and did it—and lost his life as a result. You can find the full story at <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/the-story-of-alban>



We hope for good weather on Sunday so that we may worship once again in the Betty Fortney Sanctuary. It is always good to gather there, and we will continue to do so, weather permitting. If the weather does *not* permit this Sunday, please remain at home and "tune in" according to the directions you will receive on Saturday. We will stream the service from the nave.

Beginning next week, on July 5, if the weather does not permit our worshipping outside, we can move together to a sanctuary that has been prepared according to diocesan recommendations with our safety as a principal priority. Everyone in the nave (including the ministers) will wear a mask. Anyone unable to wear a mask will be safely accommodated in the narthex. Ample distancing will be clearly indicated in both spaces. And our emphasis on meaningful but brief (40-45 minutes) worship will continue.

Whatever the location, we will continue to stream the service for the foreseeable future. Through our streaming, we reach many members of St. Mark's. But we also reach others—members of other churches, some who have no church, occasionally a diocesan staff member! You never know when a bishop might be watching. (One did join us a few weeks ago.) I keep that in mind as I work on the homily each week.



This Sunday and on the following Sunday (June 28 and July 5) I will invite your attention to issues raised at this time by our celebration of the Fourth of July. I am working on two homilies, both titled "The Christian Citizen." I don't expect you to agree with every observation, but I will avoid partisanship, and I will continue to give close attention to our appointed readings. Too often we approach the Fourth of July simply as a time for parades and cookouts and concerts. This year there will be few parades and even fewer concerts. Most of us will probably avoid large family or neighborhood gatherings. So we have a special opportunity to give at least some of our attention to the meaning of this holiday—this "holy day"—and what it may mean for

us as Christians and as citizens. The first sermon will focus on our responsibilities as individual Christian citizens. The second will focus on our responsibilities as Christians in society. I will welcome your responses.



On Wednesday afternoon I anointed Ken McPeck, who is a patient at the Compassionate Care Center of Aultman Hospital. I offered prayers that express our concern for him and our confidence in God's love for him in his illness. I told him that I would share with you my visit with him.

Fr. Paul

Guided by state and diocesan policies, we hope to resume regular mid-week office hours on **Wednesday, July 15**. Both the interim rector and the office manager will be present. Requiring no reservation, the hours will be 10-2.

In the meantime, office hours will continue to be available by reservation on Sundays from 10 to 12. If you wish to speak with Fr. Gaston or to reserve time alone in the sanctuary, please call Katie at 330-499-2662 or email her at office@stmarks-canton.org no later than noon on Saturday.

- (1) You may make an appointment for 30 minutes or for 1 hour.
- (2) Only two visitors may visit at a time—though exceptions can be made for members of the same family. All visitors must wear masks. Fr. Gaston will wear a mask as well.
- (3) Discussions with Fr. Gaston will take place in the library, which will be sanitized following each visitor. No one should enter the church office.

We hope that it will be possible to relax these limitations in mid-July. We will provide clarification early next month.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost:

[Read This Week's Lessons](#)

Join us Sunday at 9:00am for Morning

Prayer in the Sanctuary in the Woods.

Sunday Live Stream

On Sunday we will live stream Morning Prayer from the Sanctuary in the Woods. You will be able to access the 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".

Please note: If it is raining on Sunday morning or if there is a threat of morning thunderstorms, please do not make the trip to St. Mark's. We will live stream the service from the nave.



Celebrate

North Canton Hoover
Graduate

Lauren Hoot

June 28th from 6:30-8:00pm

Drive by or stop by and help celebrate our graduate. Kona Ice will be serving cool refreshments while we celebrate Lauren's next chapter in life. In the fall, Lauren will be attending Eastern Gateway Community College and will study Hospitality Food and Beverage Management.

9931 Derbyshire Ave. NW North Canton, OH

A Note from Mr. Bob Morrison:

My admiration for Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander knows no bounds - she, of *Jesus Calls Us* and *There Is A Green Hill Far Away*. She was born in Dublin in 1818 and married the Anglican Primate of all Ireland, William Alexander. One fall day, two years after their marriage, Dr. Alexander asked his wife if she would write a poem for his upcoming sermon - St. Andrew's Day, remembering the calling of Andrew by Jesus. Dr. Alexander closed his sermon the following Sunday with "As of old, Saint Andrew heard it, by the Galilean lake, Turned from home and toil and kindred, Leaving all for his dear sake." We know the hymn better by its first line, "Jesus calls us o'er

the tumult of our life's wild restless sea, day by day his sweet voice soundeth saying, Christian, follow me." As an aside to this text, many hymnals use the tune *Galilee* by English organist William Hebert Jude. It's written in waltz rhythm. It aroused the criticism of John Finley Williamson, founder of Westminster Choir College. In a hymn-sing with this leader he recommended doing this text with *Stuttgart*, a sturdy 4/4 piece which is better wedded to the words. None of these appear in our book, however. At 549 we have a tune by David Hurd which he called "St. Andrew," and, at 550, the vigorous *Restoration*, adapted from *The Southern Harmony* of 1835.

On another occasion, after her husband preached on the burial of Moses, she penned: "By Nebo's lonely mountain, On this side of Jordan's wave, In a vale in the land of Moab, there lies a lonely grave. But no man built that supulchre, and no man saw it e'er: For the angels of God upturned the sod, and laid the dead man there."

(To be continued next week...)

Paul Welch, Ken McPeck, Billie Robertson, Emilie Korosi, Joan Werren, Ron and Peg Hill, Conley Family, Briggs Family, Susan

Prayer Concerns

Family and Friends: 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 Crowl), John Grandage (Kim Nadel's brother), Monica McGrath (cousin of Katie Cerroni-Arnold), Kellie Shuman (family of Giammarcos'), Baby David (friend of the Schaub's'), Rose and Brian Gregory (friends of Ten Gall), 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 Russell, Erin Barr, Baby Hudson, John Streb (friends 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.

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.

Online Giving



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, mask initiative, 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](#)



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

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