



www.standrewskentct.org * 860.927.3486 * st.andrew.kent@snet.net



The Pharisees Question Jesus, by James Tissot (1836-1902)

St Andrew's Current COVID Status

THE PARISH IS OPEN. At its meeting on 16 May, the vestry decided, in accordance with the May guidance from the CDC and at the recommendation of the priest-in-charge and the wardens, to more fully open the parish for worship. In light of revised guidance from the CDC and the current surge being caused by the Delta variant, our worship protocols have now been slightly updated as follows:

- **We are asking everyone to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.** The variant is highly transmissible, even by people who are fully vaccinated, and according to the CDC, Litchfield County's level of community transmission is now **Substantial** (or higher)
- **Congregational singing has now resumed**, at the 10:30 service only

In addition, it is no longer necessary to sign-up in advance to attend worship, but we will record the names of those who attend, in case contact tracing becomes necessary.

We will continue to livestream our 10:30 liturgy on Sundays and our mid-week services, as there are parishioners who are choosing not to be in group settings at this time—a decision the parish fully honors and supports.

From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I hope you are doing well.

As I promised during last Sunday's sermon, I thought I'd share a few thoughts

on the difficult words we hear Jesus say in the gospel lesson we heard last week, when Jesus urges us to cut off a limb or pluck out an eye that is causing us to stumble in our faith; *and* this week, when He seems to take a very hard line against divorce. These teachings need to be unpacked a little bit, lest they be misconstrued.

Although neither of these teachings is a parable, that is always a good word to bear in mind when we are pondering Jesus' lessons about how we should live our lives.

Parables in the gospels are always riddles ... are always sayings or stories that we need to consider and turn over and over in our minds. They are capable of many meanings, and Jesus often tells them in veiled and/or exaggerated ways that reveal their inner truths only with effort and patience.

With this in mind, when we turn to the "cut it off" lesson in Mark 9, we must first appreciate that Jesus is *not* speaking literally: Our bodies are a creation of and gift from God. Jesus would never counsel intentionally injuring or wounding them. But He uses this arresting—perhaps even somewhat sickening—language to grab our attention and drive home His point: We are capable of putting the wonderful faculties with which God has endowed us to harmful or self-destructive purposes. Therefore, we must be mindful of what we touch ... where we walk ... what we look at (either with the eyes above our nose or the eye of our mind). And if we find our bodies—ourselves—indexing on the harmful, the denigrating or the ugly, we must step back and re-focus on what brings us closer to what Jesus hopes for us.

Just a paragraph or two later, in Mark 10, the pharisees ask Jesus about the divine lawfulness of divorce. This is another of their traps for the Messiah whom they've already rejected, for divorce was prevalent in the Jewish culture of that day (because arranged marriages were very common). The pharisees indicate that in the Book of Deuteronomy, a man could unilaterally divorce his wife and send her away. While this may be an over-reading of a fairly narrow provision in the Torah, Jesus won't be drawn into a cagey exercise of parsing. Rather, He that God's intent is that a married couple remain married until death; and goes so far as to say that someone who divorces and remarries is committing adultery vis-à-vis her/his former spouse.

It is not Jesus' intent, however, to outlaw or condemn divorce. As the fully human Son of God the Creator, He knows there are circumstances in which divorce is a legitimate—perhaps even gracious (that is, grace-filled)—option, and He acknowledges that holy law makes provision for this. But, He says, God instituted marriage for reasons of companionship and mutuality; as an expression of love and an antidote to loneliness; as a way to grow more fully into one's own identity by coming alongside another, intimately and for ever and forging another *joint* identity ... much as, in faith, we come intimately and for ever alongside Christ.

We should not, therefore, take Jesus' words as a blanket prohibition of divorce or a moral judgment upon those who seek it. Rather, they are an aspirational statement of what marriage is intended to be; and of what (and how diligently) those of us who are married should seek to both contribute to and derive from our marital relationships. God affords us the grace of divorce when it's necessary ... but also hopes this necessity arises only infrequently.

This week, I would also like to make a couple 'asks' of you, if I may:

- **Greeters needed** Warm welcome and ready hospitality are fundamental ingredients of our communal worship, and our greeters are essential in this effort. *We need more folks to volunteer to serve as greeters, at both Sunday services.* If you can do this one Sunday a month, please let KC know in the parish office.
- **Catching up your 2021 pledge** As autumn settles upon Kent and we enter the final quarter of the year, it's time to make sure your pledge giving is up-to-date. With travel and other enjoyable distractions, some of us fall behind during the summer. *Please review your records and make sure this year's pledge is current.* If you need to know how much you've given thus far this year, please be in touch with our treasurer Steve Morocco.
- **Names for the Music Commission** As the Music Commission prepares to launch its search for our next organist and music director, they want as deep a list of potential candidates as possible. **If you know a church musician who is (or may be) looking for a new position ... or whom we should otherwise be sure to consider ... please let Lynn Perry know.** Lynn is chairing the Commission.

Finally, just a word about a couple of seasonal changes in our Sunday liturgy. We've been using Eucharistic Prayer B since the beginning of June. Now, as we enter autumn and turn our minds to creation and stewardship, we will switch to Prayer C, until Advent. This is a beautiful, if slightly quirky prayer, that emphasizes the role we all play in God's creation and salvation of the world. It also is our only prayer in which the assembly—you!—participate actively: We all pray it together. The Church's eucharistic theology is that we *all* consecrate the Bread and the Wine. So, it is good to use, once in a while, a prayer that literally gives voice to this. At 10:30, we'll also use a different *Gloria* and *Sanctus* for the balance of the year, for musical variety.

Take good care, and may God continue to bless the work of the Kingdom you are doing.

In the peace and love of Christ,
 Douglas+
 Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com
 860-592-0171 (rectory, and *also* rings on mobile)

Weekly Calendar

Friday, 01 October	Prayer & Meditation (<i>Nave</i>)	5:30 pm
Saturday, 02 October	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	9:30 am
Saturday, 02 October	Music Commission Meeting (<i>Great Room</i>)	10:45 am

Sunday, 03 October	Holy Eucharist: Pentecost 19 <i>(in person only)</i>	8:30 am
Sunday, 03 October	Holy Eucharist: Pentecost 19 <i>(with music) (in person and live-streamed)</i>	10:30 am
Sunday, 03 October	Blessing of the Animals & Coffee Hour <i>(outdoors)</i>	11:35 am
Monday, 04 October	Bible Study: Genesis <i>(Great Room)</i>	11:00 am
Wednesday, 06 October	Stewardship Commission Meeting <i>(Great Room)</i>	10:00 am
Wednesday, 06 October	Confirmation Class <i>(Zoom)</i>	4:00 pm
Wednesday, 06 October	Mid-week Holy Eucharist <i>(in person and live-streamed)</i>	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 06 October	A.A. for Women <i>(Zoom meeting; email us for info)</i>	7:00 pm
Thursday, 07 October	A.A. meeting <i>(Parish House)</i>	7:30 am
Thursday, 07 October	Al-Anon <i>(Old Vestry Room)</i>	7:00 pm

THIS SUNDAY: Blessing of the Animals



This year we will hold our annual Blessing of the Animals—traditionally associated with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi (04 October)—on Sunday, 03 October, immediately following the 10:30 Holy Eucharist. Pets and farm animals are an integral part of many of our lives: dear members of the family who provide joy, companionship and support. On this day, we give thanks to God for their presence in our lives, hallow our relationship with our pets and commit ourselves to loving and caring for them as an act of Christian discipleship.

We encourage you to bring any and all pets and other animals who are dear to you. We will, no doubt, have an assortment of dogs and cats ... but what a joy it would be to have a real Noah's Ark of birds, fish, rodents, reptiles and maybe even a horse or two?!

As we did last year, we will 'pipe' the audio of the 10:30 service to the lawn, so that people and pets can fully participate in the Eucharist, if they wish. (Communion will be distributed outside as well as inside.) Or just come at 11:30 if you'd prefer.

In addition, whether or not you bring an animal, please remember to bring a can(s) of *dog or cat food for donation to local shelters and rescue agencies*. Please be as generous as you can, to help those animals who have no humans to love them.

Saturday, 09 October: Music in the Nave Returns!



St Andrew's Parish House
1 North Main St, Kent, CT
Presents

A Cabaret
with Rock Legend
Steve Katz
(The Blues Project, Blood Sweat & Tears, Lou Reed)



*Enjoy an Autumn Twilight
with Wine & Cheese, and Songs & Stories*
Saturday, October 9th at 5:00 PM
Admission \$10 - Under 18 FREE
Tickets at <https://bit.ly/SteveKatzCabaret> or at the door
www.standrewskentct.org/mitn.html ~ 860-927-3482

Some say life is a cabaret, others say it's blood, sweat and tears. Why not make it both? Enjoy an autumn twilight of wine and cheese while rock legend Steve Katz, founding member of Blood, Sweat & Tears and The Blues Project, entertains you with songs and stories.

This exciting event is coming Saturday, October 9th, 5:00 pm in the Parish House. Admission is only \$10 and free for those under 18.

You may purchase your tickets at <https://bit.ly/SteveKatzCabaret> or at the door. For more information, call 860-927-3482 or go to www.standrewskentct.org/mitn.html.

A BIG Thank-you to Jake Fricker!



Now that the growing season has ended, a great big THANK YOU to **Jake Fricker** for all of his hard work this spring and summer on the parish's plots in the Community Garden. Jake reports that the string beans, tomatoes, peppers and herbs were plentiful, and the cucumbers did well until critters got to them. This year Jake took our donations to the food banks in both Sharon and Kent, and both were grateful for all the fresh produce. And we are very grateful to *you*, Jake!

Please Sign up for Coffee Hour



After a spectacular extra-special Coffee Hour on Welcome Back Sunday, we will be settling into a pattern of less grand but every bit as convivial Coffee Hours every Sunday following the 10:30 Eucharist. (We will move these inside, beginning 10 October.)

Many hands make light work, and our Hospitality Chair Katherine Almquist is looking for volunteers to help host. As she's sagely reminded us, "Please remember that it NOT A BRUNCH! (Think of Welcome Home Sunday as Super Bowl Sunday or Opening Night.) What we need on a weekly basis is the equivalent of a pick-up game or a table-read. Easy-peasy. Snacks and coffee."

If you are able to host a week, please be in touch with Katherine at kt_almquist@hotmail.com.

Episcopal Migration Ministries and Afghan Refugees:

A Message from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry



As you well know, [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#) is one of the most direct and tangible ways that we embrace the invitation to become a Church that looks and acts like Jesus, by reaching out our hands in love to the dispossessed, displaced, exiled, and marginalized. For over four decades, in times of war, genocide, political persecution and upheaval, EMM has enabled the Church at all levels to welcome and care for God's beloved children, supporting them on their journey as new Americans, our neighbors.

At this moment in history, we face an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, an emergency relocation of our Afghan allies. Like the other eight official resettlement agencies of the United States, [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#) and its [network of 11 local affiliates](#) face critical challenges. In normal times, refugee resettlement is a process that is lengthy and planned well in advance. This current crisis instead meets the definition of a disaster: a sudden event that has overwhelmed the resources of the resettlement community to respond, requiring external and additional support.

The Most Rev Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate

[How you can help:](#)

Prayer. Refugee resettlement ministry includes professional staff, but also tens of thousands of volunteers, congregations, and community partners and stakeholders, who all come together to welcome and support our new neighbors. Click here for a [prayer list](#).

Volunteer support. To address the severe staffing shortages in the face of this crisis, EMM is in need of volunteer support, particularly those with experience in volunteer coordination, project management, and community organizing. experience If you are interested, please fill out this [interest form](#).

Financial support. In partnership with The Episcopal Church's Office of Development, EMM has created the Neighbors Welcome: Afghan Allies Fund,

recognizing that considerable funding is needed to support the housing, medical, legal, and other basic needs of the Afghan families we will welcome. [Give online](#), by texting "EMMALLIES" to 41444, or via phone at 212.716.6002.

IRIS. Connecticut's Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) is also in need of support. [Learn how you can help online](#).

Sunday, 03 October: Choral Evensong at St John's, Washington

The Choir of St John's Parish in Washington, under the direction of their new organist and choirmaster Tom Brand, will sing Evensong on Sunday, 03 October, at 4:00 pm. Choral Evensong (Evening Prayer) is one of the most revered and beautiful services in the Anglican liturgical tradition. Consider attending if you are able. The church is at 68 Green Hill Road in Washington, Connecticut.

THE MISSIONS WE SUPPORT: Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services



Perhaps you would like to know more about the charities and agencies that St Andrew's helps fund? Perhaps you might even want to get involved with one of them? Well, we will be highlighting some of the charities and agencies that our parish supports via the Mission & Outreach Commission. This week, we feature Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services of Connecticut, a New Haven-based agency whose mission is to help refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, strengthen hope, and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut's communities. Here is more from their website:

"Refugee families who arrive from overseas come to the U.S. with virtually no material possessions. They have lost homes, friends, family, country, culture, and jobs. Most do not speak any English. They have no income, and many are victims of trauma, with physical or mental health needs. As great as their initial needs are, their potential to enrich our community is even greater.

"Asylum seekers, asylees, and other immigrant families who seek assistance stabilizing their family situation often have many of the same needs as refugees coming from overseas. However, since they are already in the U.S., it is often the case that they have some limited resources or extended support

network that can be built upon with the help of IRIS.

"IRIS provides targeted wrap-around services for all clients, using a strength-based assessment model, that offers long-term support for successful integration."

The services IRIS provides include basic needs (shelter and furnishings); case management (integration into the local community); health and wellness support; employment assistance; additional education; immigration legal services; education and youth services; English-language instruction; and services for undocumented neighbors.

To learn more about IRIS, you can [visit their website](#).

Kent Food Bank



Please help the parish continue our support of the Kent Food Bank
by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund
P.O. Box 262
Kent, CT 06757

*Remember to put Food Bank in the memo of your check.

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of our town's Social Services Director, Leah Pullaro.

The Kent Food Bank is also taking food donations during this difficult time.

The Kent Food Bank is especially in need of:

*Staples such as beans, rice, tea,
coffee, sugar, nuts,
hot & cold breakfast cereals,
peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna*

Please remember that the Food Bank accepts
pet foods as well!

Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past!

You may drop off food items on Thursdays
from 9.00 to Noon
*in the back of the Community House
on Main Street.*

*Please DO NOT come into the Food Bank, but leave
outside the door.*

Lectons for this Week

The Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Year B

Job 1:1;2:1-10

Psalm 26

Hebrews 1:1-4;2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16



Past Services and Homilies

Please click on the link below in order
to view
past services on YouTube and to read homilies from previous Sundays located
on our website.

[Homilies and Past Services](#)

Worship Services

-Sunday-
Holy Eucharist

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.
Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays;
Healing Service at 8.30,
Third Sunday
In person
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.
(10.30 a.m. available live
stream on YouTube)



-Wednesday-
Holy Eucharist
6.00 p.m.



-Friday-
Prayer & Meditation
5.30 p.m.



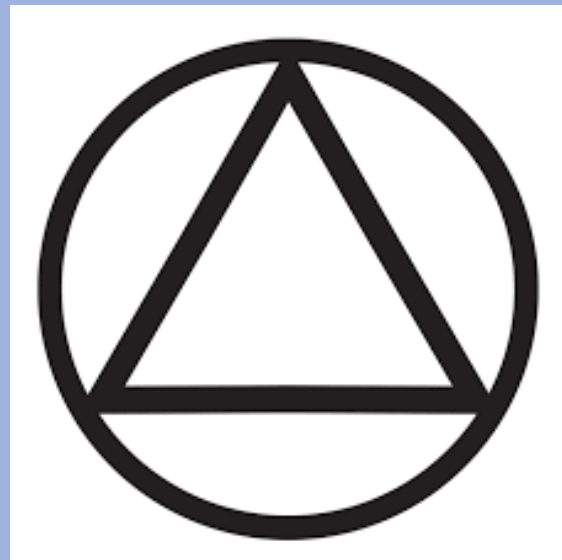
-Holy Days-
Holy Eucharist
6.00 p.m.

12 Step Meetings

Wednesdays
A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting
email us for info.

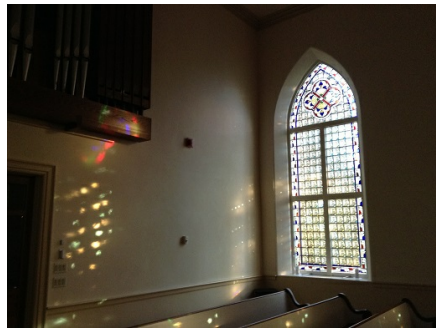
Thursdays
A.A. at 7.30 a.m.
(Parish House)
resumed
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Old Vestry Room)
resumed

Fridays
A.A. at 8 p.m.
(Great Room)
temporarily until First Church opens
resumed



Parish Staff

**The Rev Douglas S
Worthington,
Priest in Charge
frdouglas.sak@gmail.com
860-592-0171**



**Thomas W Holcombe,
Organist & Director of Choirs**

**KC Compton,
Parish Administrator**

**Joan I Cassel
Financial Secretary**

**Bill McLaren,
Sexton**

**Randy Osolin,
Verger**



**St Andrew's Church
P. O. Box 309
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Kent, CT 06757**

**860.927.3486
st.andrew.kent@snet.net**

**Parish office open everyday except Friday from 10 am- 5 pm
(2 pm on Thursdays)**

**Visit St Andrew's website at
www.standrewskentct.org**

**The Episcopal Church in Connecticut
www.ctepiscopal.org**

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