

# #MeToo-charist

St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
910 Hudson Road, Greenville  
Sunday, December 16th - 4:00 p.m.

*a time for prayer & healing*



A little more than a year ago #MeToo became an expression of solidarity among the survivors of sexual assault and violence. The speaking out by a small and growing number of victims of sexual trespass by celebrities began to embolden others who live with the pain and—often—shame of having been violated in intimate ways. What started with a few voices grew into a chorus of people who said, “Me too.”

The highly respected Centers for Disease Control—the U.S. federal government agency responsible for public health—estimates that one in three women has suffered contact sexual violence at some point in their lives (and one in six men). If this were an infectious disease, it would be described not just as an epidemic, but as a *pandemic*—because of its widespread effects.

In the midst of such a widespread, debilitating, and *preventable* dis-ease; the Church has an important role to stand up and speak out with those who have suffered or are suffering now. Following in the way of Jesus, the Church is called to align with the vulnerable and to firmly reject behaviors that are evil.

We hope tonight’s worship will be a time of prayer and healing as we listen to what God’s Spirit is saying to us through the ancient Scriptures and contemporary voices. Thank you for including your voice in our prayers for healing, justice, and peace. You are welcome to come forward for anointing and a private prayer for healing if you would like. And finally, you are welcome to gather with us around the Lord’s Table to receive solace and strength from the Holy Communion.



# Ministry of the Word

## Prelude

1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for  
2 From ev - 'ry ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies  
3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -  
4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -

health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to  
clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we  
nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -  
mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -

be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends.  
would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.  
clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
rich - ing us, shall reach and pros - per hu - man - kind.

Text: F. Pratt Green, 1903-1988,  
Tune: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prospect  
L M

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*Presider* Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
*People* ***You come to your people and set them free.***

## A Collect for Healing

*Presider* God be with you.  
*People* ***And also with you.***  
*Presider* Let us pray.

Gracious God, we commend to your loving care all who suffer, especially those who come here seeking your healing grace, for themselves or others. Give them patience and hope in their distress; strengthen and uphold them in mind and body; and grant, by your intervention, that all your people may be made whole according to your desire, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## The Lessons

### A Reading from 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel

13:1-22

David's son, Absalom, had a beautiful sister whose name was Tamar; and David's son Amnon fell in love with her. Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister, Tamar, for she was a virgin and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her. But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab, the son of David's brother, Shimeah; and Jonadab was a very crafty man. He said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed, and pretend to be ill; and when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Let my sister Tamar come and give me something to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, so that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'" So Amnon lay down, and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, so that I may eat from her hand."

Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him." So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, where he was lying down. She took dough, kneaded it, made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes. Then she took the pan and set them out before him, but he refused to eat. Amnon said, "Send out everyone from me." So everyone went out from him. Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the chamber, so that I may eat from your hand." So Tamar took the cakes she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her, and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister." She answered him, "No, my brother, do not force me; for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do anything so vile! As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the scoundrels in Israel. Now therefore, I beg you, speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you." But he would not listen to her; and being stronger than she was, he forced her and lay with her.

Then Amnon was seized with a very great loathing for her; indeed, his loathing was even greater than the lust he had felt for her. Amnon said to her, "Get out!" But she said to him, "No, my brother; for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me." But he would not listen to her. He called the young man who served him and said, "Put this woman out of my presence, and bolt the door after her." (Now she was wearing a long robe with sleeves; for this is how the virgin daughters of the king were clothed in earlier times.) So, his servant put her out, and bolted the door after her. But Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore the long robe that she was wearing; she put her hand on her head, and went away, crying aloud as she went.

Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? Be quiet for now, my sister; he is your brother; do not take this to heart." So Tamar remained, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house. When King David heard of all these things, he became very angry, but he would not punish his son Amnon, because he loved him, for he was his firstborn. But Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad; for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had raped his sister Tamar.

### **Psalm 16:1, 5-11**

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; \*  
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,  
my good above all other."

O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; \*  
it is you who uphold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; \*  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; \*  
my heart teaches me, night after night.

I have set the LORD always before me; \*  
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; \*  
my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave, \*  
nor let your holy one see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life; \*  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

*The people respond, **Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.'

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'

*After the Gospel, the reader says, The Gospel of the Lord.*

*The people respond, **Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## **The Sermon**

*The Rev. Carrie Nettles, Chaplain at the Julie Valentine Center, Greenville, S.C.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*Presider* Let us kneel together as we pray for ourselves, one another, and the world.

*Ms. Barbara Ellis, parishioner at St. Peter's and concerned grandparent*

I pray for all who have survived any form of sexual assault or abuse, and those who have died at the hands of their perpetrators.

*People: **Me, too. Lord hear our prayer.***

*Ms. Rachel Morse, parishioner at St. Peter's and therapist with concentration in sexual trauma*

I pray for those who choose to journey with survivors: for families, friends, counselors and those who advocate for the rights of the abused.

*People: **Me, too. Lord hear our prayer.***

*Ms. Carrie Silver, parishioner at St. Peter's and Director of Bridges to a Brighter Future*

I pray for those in our communities who want to be supportive, that they might recognize the value of genuine empathy and healing encouragement.

*People:       **Me, too. Lord hear our prayer.***

*Ms. Laura Lipscomb, Director of Youth Ministry at St. Peter's*

I pray for our faith and community leaders, that they use their power and prophetic voice toward building communities of support, accountability, and peace-making.

*People:       **Me, too. Lord hear our prayer.***

*Mr. Tom Priddy, Junior Warden at St. Peter's*

I pray for those who wrestle with guilt, that those who feel complicit in their own suffering or that of others may find peace within themselves.

*People:       **Me, too. Lord hear our prayer.***

*Mr. Gil Goodman, parishioner at St. Peter's and retired law enforcement officer*

I pray for our justice system, that perpetrators will be held accountable, our safety may be protected, and the falsely accused may be set free.

*People:       **Me, too. Lord hear our prayer.***

*Ms. Anna Voss, parishioner at St. Peter's and therapist with concentration in sexual trauma*

I pray for those who abuse others in intimate ways, that they may find freedom from wrong desires and courage to seek help.

*People:       **Me, too. Lord hear our prayer.***

*The Rev. T.J. Remaley, Associate Pastor at St. Giles Presbyterian Church*

I pray for the families and friends of perpetrators, that they not blame themselves for the choices of their loved one.

*People:       **Me, too. Lord hear our prayer.***

*Master Harrison Hitner, parishioner at St. Peter's*

I pray for our world, that it can become a place where violence and fear and degradation are no more, where peace and life and wholeness can be fully embraced by all.

*People:       **Me, too. Lord hear our prayer.***

## **Concluding Prayer**

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

*The Rev. Furman Buchanan, Rector at St. Peter's*

## Laying on of Hands and Anointing

*The people are invited to come forward and receive a prayer of blessing and anointing with holy oil from one of the priests. The Episcopal Church observes the sacrament of anointing which is based upon the teaching from the Letter of James in the New Testament: “Are any among you in need of healing? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.” (James 5:14)*

*The prayers include one of the following:*

*The ancient prayer of blessing used by the Jewish priest, Aaron*

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

*Traditional Prayer of Healing and Anointing from the Book of Common Prayer*

I anoint you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, asking our Lord Jesus Christ to surround you and uphold you with his grace, that you may know the healing power of his love.

*A Prayer of Healing composed by the Rev. Marie Cope*

I lay my hands upon you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, asking the God who created, redeems, and sustains you to drive far from you all that prevents you from the fullness of life and health and wholeness.

## The Peace

*Presider*            The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People*              ***And also with you.***

## The Offertory

*All of the offering received this afternoon will be given to the non-profit organizations in Greenville which provide daily ministry to the survivors of sexual assault and violence. Checks should be made payable to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church with a reference to “#MeToo Offering” in the memo line.*

## An Offertory Hymn

*The Hymnal 1982, #674*



# Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*Presider* All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we proclaim with joy:

*Presider and People*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

*The Presider continues*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us. We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Presider and People*      ***Dying, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!***

*The Presider continues*

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Peter, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Presider and People Blessed are you now and forever.

*People*      ***AMEN.***

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Presider*      We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*People*      ***We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.***

**Communion**—*All are welcome to come forward to our altar. All baptized Christians of any tradition are welcomed to receive the Holy Sacrament. Simply extend your hands to receive the Consecrated Bread. You may either gently guide the chalice to your lips or take the Bread and dip it into the Consecrated Wine. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, you may indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.*

*The ushers will direct you to the rail. Simply fill in the spaces on the side of the Church where you are seated, from right to left.*

*It is acceptable to stand or kneel. You may return to your seat by way of the side aisle.*

## Communion Songs from Taizé

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:

All my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the wellspring of life. (*repeats*)

\*\*\*

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life. (*repeats*)

\*\*\*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

\*\*\*

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia! (*repeats*)

## Postcommunion Thanksgiving

*All* Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## Blessing

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. **Amen.**      *A prayer of blessing composed by St. Clare of Assisi, 1194-1253 A.D.*

## Closing Hymn

*I heard the voice of Jesus say*

*The Hymnal 1982, #692*

## Dismissal

*Presider* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**A Prayer for #MeToo**  
**by Molly Brewer**

Spirit of Life and of Love,  
Holy One that reaches wide to encompass all beings,  
Hold us to Yourself in this moment.  
We come to this place carrying so much in our hearts.  
Around us we hear the laments of a broken world,  
Torn by fire, storm and strife,  
Crying, "I too have suffered.  
I too have been hurt and oppressed by power, by pain, by loss and by neglect."  
We open our ears and lift up the words of all who join in this sorrowful song:  
"Me, too."  
Spirit, comfort us.  
Descend around us as a cloud of peace and compassion,  
Abide with us in our mourning.  
Help us to gather ourselves,  
To face each day with bravery, or equanimity, or even just to face it at all.  
Help make each movement lighter, less leaden.  
Give us the grace to once again give thanks,  
And the strength to be kind to ourselves over and over.  
One day, may our cries of shared sorrow give way to songs of joy.  
May we sing, "I too am healing my broken heart.  
I too see the faces of justice and mercy.  
I too am filled with light, love, and compassion.  
Me, too."

**Resources**

CrisisLine: (864) 271-8888  
Jasmine Road: (864)-325-6916 [www.jasmineroad.org](http://www.jasmineroad.org)  
Julie Valentine Center: (864) 331-0560 [www.julievalentinecenter.org](http://www.julievalentinecenter.org)  
Safe Harbor: (864) 242-1751 <https://safeharborsc.org>  
Shepherd's Gate: (864) 268-5589 <https://miraclehill.org/>



**ST. PETER'S**  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  

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**Greenville, South Carolina**