

October 26, 2023

### From Fr. John

I was watching a bit of the coverage of the mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine, last night. This was another of the seemingly endless string of such events in this country. The death toll in this tragedy stands at eighteen, with many more wounded. I don't know why this shooting affected me as it did. After all, we have had over five hundred and fifty mass shooting events in this country in 2023. Maybe it's just that Lewiston is almost the same size as Alexandria. I don't know. But I do know that we – Christians – have a responsibility with regard to, not just gun violence in America, but with regard to violence of any kind, anywhere.

As I have said before, Episcopalians have a covenant with God and with the world. It is called our "Baptismal Covenant." In it, we promise (among other things), to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and (to) respect the dignity of every human being." So, according to our Baptismal Covenant, we need to be striving for peace, which is the antithesis of mass shootings. And we are supposed to be working to respect the dignity of every human being. I cannot think of anything less dignified than being killed while you are just trying to bowl a few games with your family.

I am not pointing a finger at anyone here, except for those who choose to shoot other human beings as if they were prey. But I am calling on every one of you to spend time in prayer, specifically praying for an end to gun violence around the world. Make no mistake, this is not offering our "thoughts and prayers" to those who grieve after these events. "Thoughts and prayers," is a platitude that actually means, "I don't want to talk about this, so here is a conversation ender." Instead, I mean that each of us should set aside a specific time to pray for divine intercession in a problem that humans seem incapable of solving.

As a starting point in your personal prayer time, may I suggest pages 815 and 816 in the Book of Common Prayer. Begin with the Prayers for Peace and the one for "Our Enemies." But whatever resources you use, please set aside a time and pray that human beings everywhere will stop killing each other ... soon.

May God's peace, which surpasses all understanding, be with each of you.

Fr. John+

### Community Breakfast

Come meet some of our neighbors this Sunday as we enjoy our delicious and free Community Breakfast from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.!

If you wish to volunteer with meal prep and/or serving, plan to arrive at 7:30 a.m.



Adult Class is upstairs this Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

No Coffee Hour.



### HALLOWEEN at ST. JAMES

5:00 - 8:00 PM

Church Steps

We will gather on October 31st for Trick or Treating on the church steps. Please join us from 5 - 8 pm and wear a costume if you like. We will greet children and pass out candy and have a really great time. If you are unable to join us, please consider **donating bags of individually wrapped candies** to be distributed to the ghosts and goblins that visit us that night.

All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day will be celebrated on Sunday, November 5. This feast provides an opportunity to remember in a special way loved ones who have died. Please email a list the names of those whom you wish to remember or call the office with the names (rita@stjamesla.org; 445-9845). Please have the name(s) to the office by Monday, October 30.



## St. James Concert Series

Sub-organist of London's famed Westminster Abbey, Peter Holder, makes his Louisiana debut playing a concert of music fit for royalty on St. James' king of instruments. Admission is complimentary with a reception immediately following the concert in the Parish Hall. Mark your calendars and bring a friend.

A concert poster for Peter Holder at St. James Episcopal Church. The poster features a golden angel statue on the left and a photograph of Peter Holder at an organ on the right. The text includes the church name, concert title "KINGS, QUEENS & THE KING OF INSTRUMENTS", date "TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023 7:00PM", and location "ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1620 MURRAY STREET AND BOLTON AVENUE, ALEXANDRIA, LA". It also includes a bio for Peter Holder and contact information for the church.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2023-2024 CONCERT SERIES presents

# KINGS, QUEENS & THE KING OF INSTRUMENTS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023 7:00PM  
ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
1620 MURRAY STREET AND BOLTON AVENUE  
ALEXANDRIA, LA

**PETER HOLDER**  
WESTMINSTER ABBEY  
SUB-ORGANIST

Making his Louisiana debut, we are pleased to welcome Westminster Abbey's sub-organist, Peter Holder. Mr. Holder was principal organist for both the funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III and Queen Camilla. In addition to other organ masterworks with royal connections, Peter will play selections he performed at both the funeral and coronation.

With complimentary admission, this evening of beautiful music will be followed by a reception where the Abbey virtuoso may be greeted. For more information, please telephone the Church office at 318-445-9845 or visit the Church website.  
[www.stjamesla.org/st-james-concert-series](http://www.stjamesla.org/st-james-concert-series)

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH CONCERT SERIES  
funded by The McCormick-Smith Fund, Inc.

## WORSHIP



**October 29th**

**The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**

In-person Worship at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM  
Childcare is available for the 10:30 AM service.

[Click on this link to join the 10:30 AM service.](#)

[Click here for the service bulletin.](#)

**October 29, 2023**  
**Evening Prayer**  
**Online @ 5:00 PM**

[Click on this link to join Evening Prayer.](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077

Passcode: 1620

[Click here for the order of service & reading.](#)



## Prayer

**Parish Prayer List**

**Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:**

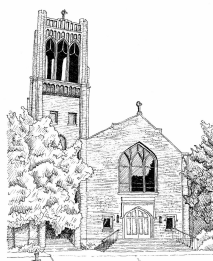
*Lynne Distefano, Nona Yeager, Ogden Middleton, Minnie Mikell, Edward Butler, Marietta, John Upton, Rita Clancey, Jackie LaCour, Linda Ittner, Gwen Jones, Sophia Frey Bradford, Becky Maxwell, Brady Brown, Heather Craig, Dr. Wesley Davis, Steve Caballero, Anna Stapleton, Ann Vanderslice, Charles Robinson, Bobbie Chatelain, Larry, Eleanor, Carli McGinty, Fr. John, Lacy Shaw, Sam Bejach, Lawrence, Beth Courtney, Holly Craig, Kip Hogue, Jim Bristol, Ellen Moore, Mother Meredith Ward, Beth Hebert, Jimmy Hurt, Barbara Baldwin, Louise Carter, John Brewer, Fred Alexius, Paula Lieberman, Jonathan Rhea, Massi Jordan, Pepe Rizzo, Bonnie McLellan, Michael Sterne, Jim Leggett, Cackie, Kristie Fresh, Andrea, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Jeff and Anne, Lillian DeVille, Wilma Filipi, Stephen, Natosha and Family, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Charlotte Sterling, Matthew Fontanille, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Chase Barnfield, Johnnie Hart, Jane Y. Harris, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Mesta Bain, Dean M. Tyree, Beverly Butler, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Bill Leibke, Wayne Moorehead, Donna House, Dayna Hill, Jane Tyson, and Mehre Hajighassem.*

**For those in the military:**

*Kyle Jordan, Samuel Hayes, Franklin Watson, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.*

**For those celebrating birthdays in November (day):**

*Frank Ingrish (3), Dee Drell (4), Ronnie Johnson (4), Massi Jordan (4), Michelle McCall (7), Harry Randow (8), Liz Ratcliff (10), Ogden Middleton (13), Chuck Fowler (14), Marti Hair (14), Kelly Texada (14), Susie Drell (15), Mark Weinzettle (16), Susan Menache (20), Amy Searcy (21), Margaret Deshotel (23), Brian Adams (25), Paige Quillin (25).*



Visit our Website

St. James Episcopal Church | 1620 Murray Street, Alexandria, LA 71301 | 318.445.9845



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