The Episcopal Church and the Recovery Community

Before Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) was founded, its pioneer members came to recovery through the Oxford Group, originally known as “A First Century Christian Fellowship.” AA Co-Founder Bill Wilson wrote that nearly all the principles he later formulated into the 12-Steps had been passed on to him through Dr. Sam Shoemaker, an Episcopal priest, author, and leader of the Group in America.

Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church was created to support all those touched by addiction. Through its website, events, and publications, this ministry raises awareness and provides resources to encourage churches in their ministry to the recovery community as well as to minister to individuals. Their website is www.episcopalrecovery.org and is rich with resources and encouragement.

The Church understands the truth about addiction – that it is a disease and not a moral failing. The Episcopal Diocese of Texas passed certain resolutions to aspire to be a place in which conversations about alcohol, substance misuse, and addiction are not simply about treatment but also about renewal, justice, wholeness, and healing. For more about the disease and the Church’s response, visit www.episcopalrecovery.org/message.

Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church will be holding its national conference November 2-5, 2016 in Williamsburg, Virginia. The theme of the conference will be Called to Transformation: The Church’s Response to Addiction in the 21st Century. More information is available at their website.

Welcome to our Addiction & Recovery Worship Service

We are delighted that you have joined us this evening for this special worship. At St. Mary’s, one of our core beliefs is that all people are valuable without exception. We strive to intentionally welcome all those who may have been wounded by their church experience or excluded from Christian community. This service integrates the 12-Steps of Recovery with Episcopal traditions and ancient Christian liturgy.

A few tips about Episcopal worship

When do I sit, stand or kneel?

We pray with words and with our posture. Directions in the worship booklet will suggest that you stand, sit or kneel but these postures are only helpful if you are able. God welcomes your prayers no matter what your posture. We promise to help you so you can worship fully.

What is the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion?

Holy Communion, also called Holy Eucharist, is the remembrance of the meal of bread and wine that Jesus shared with his disciples. Tonight, grape juice has been substituted for wine. Jesus commanded his followers to continue in this sacrament as a reminder of his life, death, and resurrection, until his coming again. Since the altar is God’s table and not ours, all are welcome to come forward when the usher tells you it is your turn. If it is not your custom to receive Communion, simply cross your arms across your chest at the altar and the priest will pray a blessing for you. We also have gluten-free wafers (soy and water) available; please let the clergy know if you prefer a wafer.

How do I know when to participate during worship?

Your responses are highlighted in bold in this worship bulletin.
Prelude

That's Why I'm Here
Kenny Chesney

Gathering Hymn

Speak, O Lord
 Getty & Townsend

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your holy word. Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness, that the attitudes in the radiance of Your purity cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and grace we'll stand on Your promises and by faith we'll walk as You deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your thor i ty. Words of power that can never fail; let their walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the

pur - pos es for Your glo - ry.
truth prev ails o ver un be lief.
earth is filled with Your glo - ry.

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Celebrant  Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People  And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant  Without help it is too much for us. But there is One who has all power. That one is God. May you find God now. Half measures availed us nothing. We stood at the turning point. We asked God's protection and care with complete abandon. These are the steps we took, which are suggested as a process of recovery:

Step 1: We admitted we were powerless; that our lives had become unmanageable.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Step 2: We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Celebrant  The Lord be with you
People  And also with you.

The Collect of the Day

O God, your never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth: Put away from us, we entreat you, all hurtful things, and give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Step 3: We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand God.

The Lessons

Exodus 33:12-17 (sit)........................................................................................................Bible p. 79

The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Psalm 121 (sit)
I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from God,
the maker of heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot be moved;
the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Holy One watches over you
and is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
not the moon by night.

God shall preserve you from all evil,
and is the One who shall keep you safe.

God shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

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James 5:13-16 (sit)...............................................................Bible p. 1373

The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.
Blessed Be Your Name

1. Blessed be Your name, in the land that is plentiful,
   where Your found in the desert place,
   though I sun's shining down on me,
   when the road marked with suffering,
   though there's streams of abundance flow,
   bless-ed walk through the wilderness,
   bless-ed world's "all as it should be."
   bless-ed pain in the offering,
   bless-ed

2. Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise.
   When the darkness closes in, Lord,
   still I will say, "Blessed be the name of the Lord,
   Bless-ed be Your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, bless-ed be Your

Before the reading of the Gospel . . .
   People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the reading of the Gospel . . .
   People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon (sit)..................................................................................................................The Reverend Jim Liberatore

Litany of Healing (kneel, as you are able)

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding.

The Deacon continues:

God the Creator, your will for all people is health and salvation;
We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;
We praise you and thank you, O Lord.
God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;  
*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;  
*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;  
*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;  
*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;  
*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;  
*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;  
*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;  
*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

You are the Lord who does wonders:  
*You have declared your power among the peoples.*

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:  
*And in your light we see light.*

Hear us, O Lord of life:  
*Heal us, and make us whole.*

Let us pray.
O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. Amen.

Step 4: Made a searching and fearless moral inventory.

Step 5: Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Step 6: Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Step 7: Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Step 8: Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

Step 9: Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

Step 10: Continue to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.

Anointing for Healing
The Peace

Celebrant  The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People     And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Offertory Anthem  Let It Be  Lennon & McCartney

Step 11: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand God, praying only for knowledge of God’s will for us and the power to carry that out.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant  The Lord be with you.
People     And also with you.
Celebrant  Lift up your hearts.
People     We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People     It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Sanctus (Land of Rest)

American Folk melody; arr. Marcia Pruner © Church Pension Fund
The Lord’s Prayer *(stand)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

**Fraction Anthem  *Taste and See***

Words and music: James E. Moore, Jr., para. of Psalm 34
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The Communion of the People

All Christians are welcome to receive Communion with bread and wine or by bread alone. **Today we substituted grape juice for wine.** If you prefer not to receive, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.
Communion Hymns (Please join the choir in singing these hymns)

Seek Ye First ................................................................. Hymnal 711

Words: St. 1, Matthew 6:33; adapt. Karen Lafferty (20th cent.). St. 2, Matthew 7:7.
Stanza 2 is not part of the hymn as originally written.
Music: Seek Ye First, Karen Lafferty (20th cent)

Thank you for Loving Me  ~Sinead O'Connor

* Additional verses use: finding, hearing, healing

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Post Communion Prayer (stand)
Gracious God, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Step 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all affairs.

The Blessing

Procession into the World (stand)  I Saw the Light  Hank Williams

I wandered so aim - less life filled with sin. 
Just like a blind man wand'ring a - long. 
I was a fool to wan - der and stray. 
I would - n't let my dear Sav - ior in. 
Wor - ries and fears I claimed for my own. 
Straight is the gate and nar - row the way. 
Then Je - sus came like a stran - ger in the 
Then like the blind man that God gave back his 
Now I have trad - ed the wrong for the 
night. Praise the Lord, I saw the light 
sight: right.

I saw the light. I saw the light. No more 
darkness, no more night. Now I'm so hap - py, no 
sorrow in sight. Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

Dismissal
Response: Thanks be to God.
Resources for Recovery

Narcotics Anonymous www.na.org
Nar-Anon Family Groups www.nar-anon.org
Alcoholics Anonymous www.aa.org
Al-Anon Family Groups www.al-anon.org
Global Outreach for Addiction Leadership & Learning (GOAL) www.goalproject.org

Local Houston Resources

Alcoholics Anonymous www.aaahouston.org
Al-Anon www.houstonalanon.org
Narcotics Anonymous www.hascona.com
Codependents Anonymous www.greaterhoustoncoda.org
Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous www.houston-slaa.org
Nicotine Anonymous www.nicotine-anonymous.org
Council on Recovery www.councilonrecovery.org
Young People in AA www.ypaa.info/northamerica/usa/texas

Adolescent and Teen Resources

Sober High Schools www.archwayacademy.net www.threeoaksacademy.net
Palmer Drug Abuse Program www.pdaphouston.org

Episcopal Church Resources

Episcopal Recovery Ministries www.episcopalrecovery.org
Friends of Dr. Bob (Co-Founder of AA) www.friendsofdrbob.org
Two Way Prayer (early AA practice) www.twowayprayer.org
Sam Shoemaker Community www.samshoemakercommunity.org

Looking for local meetings or treatment?
www.sober.com

Your offerings will be given to the Palmer Drug Abuse Program.
Make checks payable to St. Mary’s and notate PDAP.
Celebrant: The Reverend Beth Fain
Preacher: The Reverend Jim Liberatore
Assisting: The Reverend Alan Bentrup
Deacon: The Venerable Russ Oechsel
Music Director: Celeste Booker
Worship Leaders: Peggy Norton, Ryan Carnes
Eucharistic Ministers: Tod Harrison, Alicia Calsyn
Acolytes: Caleb Carnes, Savannah & Courtney Lake
Usher: Jeff Lake,
Greeters: Scott & Suzanne Beaty, Molly Carnes,
         Doug & Marla DeWeese

Worship Times at St. Marys
Monday through Saturday
Daily prayer at 9:00am and 6:30pm

Sunday Worship
8:00am  10:30am  5:00pm

St. Mary's welcomes all people - no exceptions

We are a Christ-centered community
inviting those seeking
loving acceptance,
spiritual growth,
and sacred beauty.

Special thanks to The Rev. Jim Liberatore,
St. Mary’s Chancel Choir,
And all those that made tonight possible.
O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you:
Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy;
remove from them the fears that beset them;
strengthen them in the work of their recovery;
and to those who care for them,
give patient understanding and persevering love. Amen.