

# May 2022

## St. Peter's Anglican Church



Mathew 16:18: "Upon This Rock"

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### Priestly Precepts

Rev. Canon

John Jacobs:

### Earthly Preparation

Earthly Preparation

As we pass through

this time of The Church calendar between Easter and Ascension Day, the time when our Lord was physically present before He returned to The Father, we find that Jesus was preparing His followers for the difficult times that lay before them. What the disciples, soon to be Apostles, did not know during this time was that all but one of them would die a martyr's death similar to that which Jesus suffered.

Jesus was preparing them with both spiritual strength and knowledge so that when their time of trial came they would be equal to the task. We know that as they faced the many trials they had to go through that they were indeed prepared and ready for what lay before them. It must be the same with us as we go through this life as well.

Like the Apostles, we have no idea what life has in store for us. About the only thing we know for sure, is that there will be good times and bad times. During the good times of course, we are

happy and content, but it is the bad times that we must be prepared to face and go through just as the Apostles did.

It is during these good times that we must do what we can to develop the depth of our faith and our knowledge of it, so that when bad times come and the questions which come to our minds may be answered by the knowledge that we already have in God and the deep trust in Him.

So as we go through this time of joy in the shadow of Easter, let us remember that while the immediate future may be unknown, through our faith in Jesus Christ we know that our eternity is in the hands of The One who will bring us safely into His Presence.

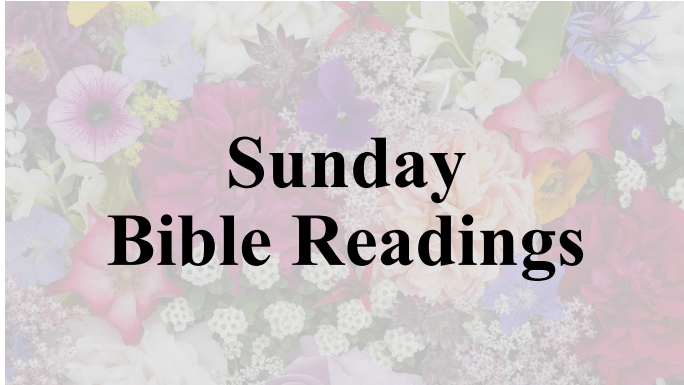
Let us therefore, read our Bibles, receive The Sacraments, and build our

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faith so that in the time of trial we too may be found worthy of the name Christian. Amen.

Father John



**Sunday Bible Readings**

**Sunday, May 1st**

Sts. Phillip & James:

*Epistle: St. James 1:1-12 (BCP 239)*

*Gospel: St. John 14:1-14 (BCP 239)*

**Sunday, May 8th**

3rd Sunday After Easter :

*Epistle: I St. Peter 2:11-17 (BCP 173)*

*Gospel: St. John 16:16-22 (BCP 173)*

**Sunday, May 15th**

4th Sunday After Easter:

*Epistle: St. James 1:17-21 (BCP 174)*

*Gospel: St. John 16:5-15 (BCP 175)*

**Sunday, May 22nd**

Rogation Sunday :

*Epistle: St. James 1:22-27 (BCP 176)*

*Gospel: St. John 16:23-33 (BCP 176)*

**Sunday, May 29th**

Sunday After The Ascension:

*Epistle: I St. Peter 4:7-11 (BCP 179)*

*Gospel: St. John 15:26-16:4 (BCP 179)*



**Come Worship With Us**

Sunday Holy Eucharist 10:30AM

Thursday Holy Eucharist 4:00PM



**Prayer Requests:**

**Healing:**

Fr. Tim

Fr. John

Mary Lou

Deacon Tim

**Special Needs:**

Father Rhae Kelley

Our Church, Our Community,

Our Nation

A Women's Resource Center

The Palatka Christian Service Center

All First Responders & the safe return of

our deployed military

The Persecuted Church worldwide

The People Of Ukraine



**May Birthdays**

Linda Priest	05/02
Candy Fleming	05/07
Rose Harlow	05/10
Fr. Dean Steward	05/18
Carol Lang	05/26



**May Anniversaries**

George & Mary Crawford	05/02
Deacon Tim & Candy Fleming	05/24
Rose Harlow	05/10
Fr. Dean Steward	05/18
Carol Lang	05/26



**Open Doors 2022 Watchlist  
May 2022**



**05/01** - #13 Sudan  
 Source Of Persecution -  
 Islamic Oppression  
 Total Population - 44,592,000  
 Christian Population - 1,984,000  
 Main Religion – Islam  
*Sudan eliminated punishments for apostasy in 2020.*

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Why is Sudan on the 2022 World Watch List?

Persecution remains incredibly high in Sudan and hasn't changed much in the last year. Churches were burned down, and Christians reported being beaten or attacked. Since the 2019 coup, the situation for Sudanese Christians has somewhat improved—but there are still systemic issues for believers.

Where is God at work in Sudan?

In Sudan, leaving Islam for Christianity can mean rejection from your family and your community. During the COVID-19 crisis, these converts faced starvation without access to aid. Fortunately, Open Doors partners were able to reach more than 1,500 believers, many of whom converted from Islam, showing them through the relief that they are not alone. The church was strengthened.

**PRAYER POINTS:**

- ◆ Pray for the political changes to be implemented and respected in lower government levels and society in general.
- ◆ Pray for believers who converted from Islam, that they would know they aren't alone.
- ◆ Pray that Christians who came out of Muslim families would grow in their faith.
- ◆ Pray for protection over our partners and much fruit from their work.
- ◆ Pray for Sudanese believers who have no access to aid during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ◆ Ask God to ease the ongoing political tension and uncertainty. Pray for

peace and reconciliation.

- ◆ In 2019, everyone was so hopeful that Sudan might finally open to religious freedom. Ask God to make that hope a reality.



**05/08** - #14 Iraq

Source Of Persecution -  
Islamic Oppression

Total Population - 42,612,000

Christian Population - 166,000

Main Religion - Islam

*Iraq is where the biblical prophet Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dreams.*

Why is Iraq on the 2022 World Watch List?

Persecution levels in Iraq have largely remained the same. Iraq remains plagued by conflict, despite the recent territorial losses of the Islamic State group, which continues to gravely affect the country's minority Christian

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population. However, encouragingly, there has been a substantial drop in reported incidents of violence in the last year.

Where is God at work in Iraq?

Iraqi politicians have passed a bill to make Christmas Day a national holiday, and a committee has been set up to enable Christians displaced by the Islamic State group insurgency to return to their homes (more than 80% have fled the country since 2003). These are positive developments that suggest Iraqi leaders may view Christians as vital parts of society.

**PRAYER POINTS:**

- ◆ Pray for peace and stability so that displaced Christians can return to their homes.
- ◆ Pray for the protection of all believers—pray that each one will be strengthened and encouraged in their faith.
- ◆ Pray that the new Iraqi government will protect the rights of Christians and other religious minorities.
- ◆ Pray that all religious minority groups would be able to live in peace with one another.
- ◆ Ask God to bless the efforts of Open Doors partners in Iraq.
- ◆ Even though Christians can legally return to their cities, many believers remain fearful about the possibility of violence. Pray for calm and security in these regions.
- ◆ Thank God for the positive political developments for Iraqi believers.



**05/15 - #15 Syria**

Source Of Persecution -  
Islamic Oppression

Total Population - 19,586,000

Christian Population - 638,000

Main Religion - Islam

*The constitution of Syria stipulates that the president must be a Muslim.*

Why is Syria on the 2022 World Watch List?

Violence against Christians decreased in Syria, which is news worth celebrating. And yet, the country remains high on the World Watch List. The pressure on all Christians is extreme, and church leaders are targeted for abuse and persecution. Christians who leave Islam continue to bear a large burden placed on them by government, society and their families.

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What is life like for Christians?

In the parts of Syria where Islamic extremists maintain control, Christians remain under significant pressure. Places where Turkey has supplied fighters and military support after its invasion in late 2019 are also dangerous for Christians. Christians who leave Islam to follow Jesus are at risk throughout Syria.

Where is God at work in Syria?

“Jamila” lost her family when she became a Christian. And yet, God hasn’t left her loved ones by the wayside. “I prayed and prayed for my family, and praise the Lord, my husband is a believer now too,” Jamila says. “He saw how my life changed and how I improved in all aspects of life. He wanted to know how and why, and now we come to church together.”

**PRAYER POINTS:**

- ◆ Lift up the political and military situation in Syria. The civil war has continued for more than a decade.
- ◆ Pray for Christians in Syria, particularly church leaders and converts from Islam. Pray God would protect them from violence.
- ◆ Pray that Christians would be lights in Syria, which has been so devastated by civil war and Islamic extremism.
- ◆ Pray for believers who have lost families or friends because of their faith. Pray these Christians would know they aren’t alone.
- ◆ Some parts of Syria are still under the control of Islamic radicals. Pray for the hearts of these extremists, that God would break through with His truth.

- ◆ Ask God to inflame the hearts of Syrian believers with love for Him, and to give them the knowledge the worldwide Church is with them.
- ◆ Pray that God will bring peace to Syria and soften the hearts of those in power to provide for the most vulnerable members of Syrian society.



**05/22** - #16 Maldives

Source Of Persecution -  
Islamic Oppression

Total Population - 466,000

Christian Population - Hundreds

Main Religion - Islam

*Persecution in Maldives happens on the places out of sight of the tourist islands.*

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Why is Maldives on the 2022 World Watch List?

Converts have no space at all to live out their Christian faith and expatriate Christians (often migrant workers) lack possibilities for worshipping together without fearing arrest and deportation. Government officials in Maldives proudly emphasize that the country is 100% Muslim.

Where is God at work in Myanmar?

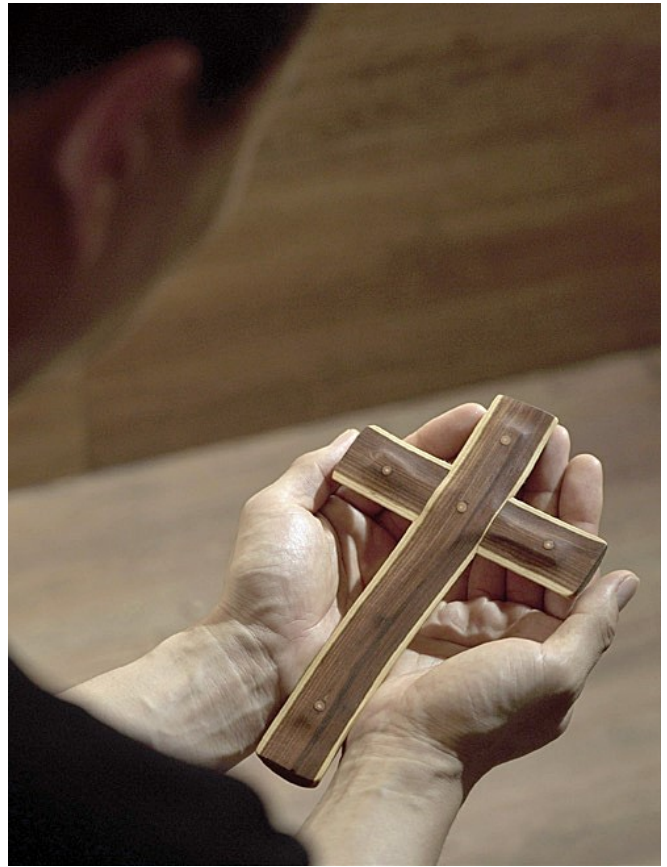
It's hard to see God's hand at work in Maldives. It's hard to even talk about any specific positive or negative developments in the country because persecution is so severe for secret believers. And yet, we trust that God has not forgotten His children in Maldives, and that people are finding Him, even when we can't talk about it.

**PRAYER POINTS:**

- ◆ Pray for believers in Maldives who must sustain their faith in isolation and secrecy.
- ◆ Pray that President Solih and his government would soften their stance toward Christians and other religious minorities.
- ◆ Ask God to guide and protect expatriate migrant worker believers as they interact with tourists and Maldivian residents.
- ◆ Pray for access to the Bible for Christians in Maldives. The full Bible is not available in the native language.
- ◆ Ask God to help fan revival among the people in Maldives, through whatever means He can use.
- ◆ Lift up Christians who risk everything to follow Jesus. Ask God to give them

a sense of His presence today.

- ◆ Thank God for His goodness, even in a place that seems as dark as Maldives.



**05/29** - #17 China

Source Of Persecution -  
Islamic Oppression

Total Population - 1,428,481,000

Christian Population - 96,700,000

Main Religion - Various

*No one under 18 is permitted to attend church in China.*

Why is China on the 2022 World Watch List?

Persecution levels in China have gone up slightly, largely because Christians are facing increased pressure from the Chinese authorities. In other areas of life, persecution has remained almost or completely stable, with church

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life still the place where Christians face the most persecution.

What is life like for Christians?

Surveillance in China is among the most oppressive and sophisticated in the world. Church attendance is rigorously monitored, and many churches are closed down—whether they are independent or belong to the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (the officially state sanctioned Protestant church in China). It remains illegal for under-18s to attend church.

All meeting venues had to close during the COVID-19 crisis, but some churches were forced to remain closed once restrictions began to lift, and were quietly phased out. Christian leaders are generally the main target of government surveillance, and a very small number have been abducted. Converts from a Muslim or Buddhist background from minority ethnic groups arguably face the most severe violations of religious freedom, because they are persecuted, not only by the authorities, but also by their families and communities.

Where is God at work in China?

“Herman” is a Chinese missionary who works in the Chinese Buddhist community. Conversion from Buddhism can lead to persecution from family and neighborhood, in addition to pressure from the government on all Chinese Christians. And yet, Herman practices radical obedience, inspiring in its simplicity. God honored Herman’s faith. After one outreach, Herman reported: “More than two dozen monks and de-

vout Buddhists came to Christ!”

**PRAYER POINTS:**

- ♦ Pray that, despite intense surveillance, faith will flourish in China and more people will discover God’s love.
- ♦ Pray that local Open Doors partners will be able to reach vulnerable Christians with vital Christian literature, training and fellowship.
- ♦ Ask God to be with converts from Buddhism and Islam, as they are doubly persecuted.
- ♦ Pray for the authorities in China to recognize the importance of religious freedom, and allow the church to gather and worship without restrictions.
- ♦ Pray for church leaders who are monitored and harassed for their ministry. Ask God to give them strength and wisdom.
- ♦ COVID-19 gave Chinese authorities a reason to shut down many churches—and keep them shut. Ask God to soften the hearts of officials, to allow believers to worship again.
- ♦ Pray for unity in the Chinese church, that their witness would be powerful in a place with constant pressure.

Brother Herman (a missionary in China)

“We’ve decided to hold an evangelistic meeting for a group of Buddhist monks and their followers. If they surrender to Jesus, there is every chance they will be persecuted. We might be attacked too. But like Jesus, that won’t stop us from declaring that the Kingdom of God has come.”





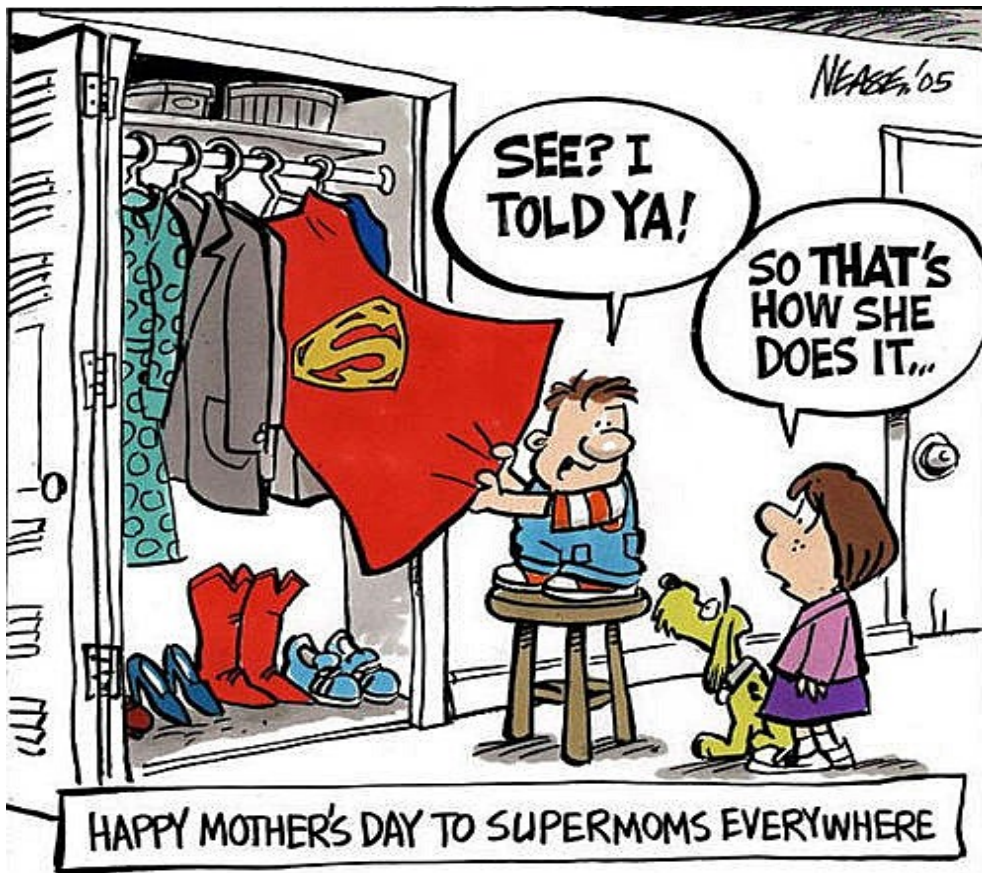
# Mother's Day Word Search



- APPRECIATE
- BEAUTIFUL
- CELEBRATE
- COMFORTING
- DEVOTED
- FLOWERS
- GIFTS
- HUGS
- JEWELRY
- KISSES
- LOVING
- MAY
- MOM
- MOTHER
- NURTURE
- PROTECTS
- WONDERFUL

S M C Y W D R M C A P K U M I  
 F L F T H R R O Q P P A P E N  
 C O A E M O M T R P R A R T A  
 R V R F T R E H E R E Y O J Y  
 V I T F E E X E D E V O T E D  
 E N D L G L I R X C I R E W A  
 R G C O M F O R T I N G C E R  
 R I N W L L O T I A T I T L E  
 A N C E L E B R A T E F S R D  
 X A I R R O T E C E S T O Y U  
 H U G S J F S O K I S S E S C  
 V W O N D E R F U L R E Y E E  
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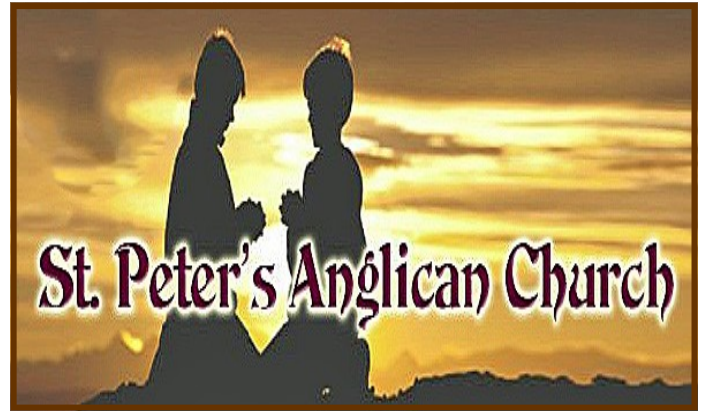




# May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <b>10:30AM</b> <i>Fellowship After</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <i>Mass</i> <b>4PM</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <b>10:30AM</b> <i>Fellowship After</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Mass</i> <b>4PM</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <b>10:30AM</b> <i>Fellowship After</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <i>Mass</i> <b>4PM</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <b>10:30AM</b> <i>Fellowship After</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Mass</i> <b>4PM</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <i>Holy Eucharist</i> <b>10:30AM</b> <i>Fellowship After</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

# Upon This Rock



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*St. Peter's Anglican Church—Upon This Rock*  
PO Box 757, East Palatka, FL 32131

**STAMP**

**Please Don't Throw Me Away Before Reading**

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