



**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
30 Church Street, Hebron, CT**

Juneteeth Service

**Welcoming the Family of Cesar and Lois Peters
Sunday, June 18, 2023, 9 a.m.**

Opening hymn: LEVAS #1 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en
 2. Sto - ny the road we trod, Bit - ter the chast - 'ning
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

1. ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 2. rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had
 3. tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the

1. ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the list - 'ning
 2. died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wear - y
 3. way; Thou who hast by thy might, Led us in - to the

1. skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 2. feet. Come to the place for which our fa - thers sighed?
 3. light, Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

1. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 2. We have come o - ver a - way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 3. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we met thee;

1. Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
 2. We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
 3. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

1. brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new
 2. slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we
 3. get thee, Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for -

1. day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 2. stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 3. ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Lift Every Voice and Sing, #1 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938). Music: J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954). Copyright © 1921 by Edward B. Marks Music Company. Copyright Renewed. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

Opening Sentence

Ellen Kraemer: Blessed be God

People: Both now and forevermore.

Please be seated.

INTRODUCTION: John Baron

History of the Peters' family, Cesar, and other enslaved people in Hebron.

LITANY OF FORGIVENESS

Ellen Kraemer: Gracious God-
Thank you for creating a perfect world.
Forgive us for the mess we have made of it.
Heal our hearts, our communities, our world.

**People: HEAL OUR HEARTS
HEAL OUR COMMUNITIES
HEAL OUR WORLD**

HEAL OUR HEARTS *(led by a member of the Peters family)*

Leader: Forgive us for our tongues as swords against one another, for rude looks and cold shoulders.
Forgive us for angry tweets and for passive aggressive comments.
Forgive us for only seeing the good in ourselves and those like us and those we see as different and adversaries.
Forgive us when we fail to see your image in those we disagree with.
Forgive us for choosing ourselves over others. For prioritizing the rich over the poor.
For turning others into enemies. For trusting in the sword and power than our faith.
Softening our hearts and shape us to be more like you.
Fill us with the fruit of your spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control.

**People: HEAL OUR HEARTS
HEAL OUR COMMUNITIES
HEAL OUR WORLD**

HEAL OUR COMMUNITIES *(led by a member of the Peters family)*

Leader: We remember those who suffer from violence today—from all kind of violence, policies of violence, economic violence that goes all the way back to Cain and Abel, where blood cries from the ground. Forgive us for lives lost—the native lives, the African lives, the Asian lives. Heal the wounds of history. Help us get our history right so we can get our present and future right. Forgive us. For all lives lost. For those lost today in our towns and cities.

We pray for those who lived in the past under the yoke of slavery in this community. Let us name their names.

Let us Remember

Cuff, one of the first to taste the bitter root of enslavement in Hebron
Fortune and Sybil Watrous, who married once freed.

Cato, Rose, and young Francis, enslaved to Deacon Benjamin Buell

Sybil, Primus, Nathan, Peter, Cato, Tony and Chloe, enslaved to the Gilberts

Dinah and Ishmael, enslaved in the Phelps household

Prince and Rose, enslaved servants of Daniel Horsford.

The members of Boham family, who once freed found a home in Hebron

As well as

Jephthah Peters, sold to settle a debt

Pomp Mundo and family, who spent a lifetime waiting for eventual freedom

Lastly, Cesar and Lois Peters' family, rescued by neighbors, who made Hebron their home

Each a precious child. Have mercy on us for their blood. Today we pray for those on our streets today who suffer and die from the sin of violence due to prejudice, fear and oppression.

**People: HEAL OUR HEARTS
HEAL OUR COMMUNITIES
HEAL OUR WORLD**

HEAL OUR WORLD *(led by a member of the Peters family)*

Leader: Heal our world, O God. Forgive us.....

For disrespecting the earth.

For creating a world where so many have so little... and so few have so much.

For building prisons rather than schools. And building walls rather than bridges.

For forgetting the vulnerable among us. Forgive us.

Deliver us Oh God from the principalities and powers that stand against your love.

Deliver us from the tyranny of greed and power. From addictions to control.

From the seduction of wealth.

Deliver us, from the idolatry of nationalism.

Deliver us, from the ugliness of racism. The cancer of hatred. The paralysis of cynicism. The violence of silence.

From the ghettos of poverty. And the ghettos of wealth. Deliver us from ourselves.

**People: HEAL OUR HEARTS
HEAL OUR COMMUNITIES
HEAL OUR WORLD**

HEAL OUR LEADERS *(led by a member of the Peters family)*

Leader: We pray for the leaders of our country O God.

Break their hearts with the things that break yours.

Give them eyes to see those on the margins. your image in everyone.

Give them courage to overcome evil with good.

Give them a vision for justice that is big enough to heal both the oppressed and the oppressors.

Give them compassion for our most vulnerable citizens.

**People: HEAL OUR HEARTS
HEAL OUR COMMUNITIES
HEAL OUR WORLD**

GIVE US IMAGINATION *(led by a member of the Peters family)*

Leader: Give us fresh dreams and visions... for our nation. And for our world. Let your children prophesy... let the old dream dreams and the young see visions. Dreams of your upside-down Realm where the last are first and the first are last. Where the mighty are cast down from their thrones and the lowly are lifted up. Where we beat our weapons into farm tools and study violence no more. And every person has this day their daily bread. Make this a Land of Love. Help us to love big like you love... with a love that does not stop at borders and no wall can hold back dreams.

We confess all this in the name of God of infinite hospitality, acceptance and welcome of all.

**People: HEAL OUR HEARTS
HEAL OUR COMMUNITIES
HEAL OUR WORLD**

GATHERING PRAYER: *(In unison led by Ellen Kraemer)*

We stand together in hope. We stand together in faith. We stand together in love. We stand immediately as ambassadors of hope, vessels of faith, and sentinels of love. We stand as a community committed to making peace. We pray for an outpouring of your Spirit to inflame and enkindle our lives, our churches, our synagogues, our mosques and gathering places of faith and hope, our communities, our cities, and our nation with a passion for everlasting peace through the author of peace... you, our loving God. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 (read by Dr. Walton Brown Foster)

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready

quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Reader: Here ends the lesson

RESPONSE TO THE READING *(In unison led by Dr. Walton Brown Foster)*

The Song of Mary *The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)*

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; ***

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,*

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

**and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

SECOND READING MATTHEW 5:1-12 (read by Dr. Walton Brown Foster)

“The Beatitudes”

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Reader: Here ends the lesson

Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

DRUMMING RESPONSE: Bolokada Conde and family members

A WORD FOR THE DAY: Zakiyyah Peters Hasan

MUSICAL RESPONSE: "Stand Aside" by Yolanda Adams (*Sung by Edith Peters*)

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer (*Sung a cappella and led by Edith Peters*)

**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.

COLLECTS (*led by Ellen Kraemer*)

Collect of the Day:

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne. Amen

A Collect for our Country

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and

glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through your holy name. **Amen.**

Collect in Honor of Juneteenth

Almighty God, you rescued your people from slavery in Egypt, and throughout the ages you have never failed to hear the cries of the captives; We remember before you our sisters and brothers in Galveston, Texas who received the glad tidings of their emancipation; Forgive us for the many grave sins that delayed that liberating word; Anoint us with your Spirit to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of your favor; We ask this through your great and powerful as you reign now and forevermore. **Amen**

In unison (led by Ellen Kraemer): Prayer for Father's Day, (by The Rev. Leslie Nipps)
On this Father's Day, we give thanks to God for the divine gift of fatherhood in all its many and diverse forms. Let us pray for all the fathers among us today; for our own fathers, those living and those who have passed away; for the fathers who loved us and for those who fell short of loving us fully; for all who hope to be fathers someday and for those whose hope to have children has been frustrated; for all fathers who have lost children; for birth fathers, grandfathers, for godfathers and step-fathers; for all women and men who have fathered others in any way--those who have been our substitute fathers and we who have done so for those in need; and for the earth that bore us and provides us with our sustenance. We pray this all in the name of God, our great and loving Parent. Amen.

Offertory Sentences (Ellen Kraemer)

Today's loose collection will benefit the work of Bolokada Conde's efforts to support the health clinic in his village in Guinea. Please be generous. As we make our offerings this day let us offer ourselves in singing "Here I Am Lord."

OFFERTORY HYMN: "Here I am Lord" (Wonder Love and Praise - #812)

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in deep - est sin My hand will
 peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them, They turn a -
 poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will

save. I who made the stars of night,
 way. I will break their hearts of stone,
 save. Fin - est bread I will pro - vide

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
 Give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
 Till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

light to them? Whom shall I send?
word to them. Whom shall I send?
life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord,

if you lead me, I will hold your people in my

heart. heart.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (read by a member of the Peters Family)

Leader: There's never a drop of sweat on your upper lip from anxiety, worry or panic. Therefore, trusting not ourselves but you, we open our hearts to your strength and love today, giving over what we can't change so you can.

Keep a moment of silence

Loving God

People: Hear Our Prayer

Leader: For those ill or injured, anticipating surgery or recovering from it, for those who await test results or who are anxious for another: come, as our Healer; and dispel diseases of body, soul, mind and emotions. Speed recovery. Strengthen care-givers. Assuage fears and restore trust in your power.

Keep a moment of silence

Loving God

People: Hear Our Prayer

For those who mourn, whether grief is fresh or lingering: come, as the Resurrection and the Life; and console the grieving. Comfort and companion the lonely. Share in tears of sorrow and in laughter at remembering. Impart hope for this life, and hope for beyond the grave.

Keep a moment of silence

Loving God

People: Hear Our Prayer

For those with relationships coming apart at the seams; for families stressed by estrangement, separation, or divorce; for friends divided by anger; or colleagues separated by differences, for any alienated by sin from someone they've loved—Come great healer: break proud spirits—and replace them with humble hearts.

Keep a moment of silence

Loving God

People: Hear Our Prayer

Leader: Enable each to speak truth in love; to repent and to forgive; to be patient and gracious with one another and with their own selves. Restore us to the right relationship with each other.

Keep a moment of silence

Loving God

People: Hear Our Prayer

Leader: For peoples, countries and nations—including our own. For those in leadership—give them wisdom from above; and the courage to do what is right, not just expedient or politically correct.

Keep a moment of silence

Loving God

People: Hear Our Prayer

In dangerous places and in war zones: Protect the innocent. Guard combatants, especially our own sons and daughters, from harm—and their families from fear and anxiety. Ensure justice and mercy, truth and freedom, so your people may flourish in hard places, as your people live safely there.

Keep a moment of silence

Loving God

People: Hear Our Prayer

For all spiritual and religious leaders, for members of all faith communities, who live your truth and declare your truth in hostile nations or among indifferent people: come as Light and Truth, with grace and love: keep your people faithful. Strengthen those whose vigor flags; and encourage them when they're discouraged.

Keep a moment of silence

Loving God

People: Hear Our Prayer

CLOSING PRAYERS: *(in unison led by Ellen Kraemer)*

Leader: In thanksgiving for the many blessings of our lives, let us pray together.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days. Amen.

Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

CHORALE BLESSING: “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” (*offered by members of St. Peters Church to all gathered this day*).

CLOSING HYMN: LEVAS #217, “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "1. He's got the whole world in His hand, He's got the whole world in His hand, He's got the whole world in His hand." The score ends with a double bar line.

2. He's got you and me sister, etc.	4. He's got the pretty little baby, etc.
3. He's got you and me brother, etc.	5. He's got everybody here, etc.

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Hezekiah Brinson, Jr. (b. 1958). Arr. Copyright © 1990 Hezekiah Brinson, Jr.