

# The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

Holy Eucharist 9:30<sup>AM</sup>



## **St. John's Episcopal Church**

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570  
(914) 769-0053 [www.stjohnspleasantville.org](http://www.stjohnspleasantville.org)

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

## AN INVITATION TO THIS SERVICE

This service is taken from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. **Words printed in bold are spoken by the congregation.** All are welcome at Christ's table. We welcome baptized

Christians of any tradition to share in the bread and wine. If you have not yet been baptized, or would prefer to receive a blessing from the Priest, indicate this by crossing your arms over your heart.

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

### *PRELUDE*

### THE WORD OF GOD

✠ *Please stand as you are able and join in singing!*

### OPENING HYMN #68

“Rejoice! rejoice believers”



1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

## ANTHEM (LUCERNARIUM) AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING

*Celebrant:* You, O Lord, are my lamp; my God you make my darkness bright.

***People:* You, O Lord, are my lamp; my God you make my darkness bright.**

*Celebrant:* You have been my helper:

***People:* My God, you make my darkness bright.**

*Celebrant:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

***People:* You, O Lord, are my lamp; my God, you make my darkness bright.**

*Celebrant:* Let my prayer be set forth, O Lord:

***People:* As incense in your sight.**

*Celebrant:* Come and save us, O Lord God of Hosts

***People:* Come and save us, O Lord God of Hosts**

*Celebrant:* Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved:

***People:* O Lord God of Hosts**

*Celebrant:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

***People:* Come and save us, O Lord God of Hosts**

*Celebrant:* Show us your mercy, O Lord:

***People:* And grant us your salvation.**

## KYRIE

*missa de Sancta Magdalena, Healey Willan*

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

✠ *Please be seated for The Lessons.*

A READING FROM THE HEBREW TESTAMENT

Zephaniah 3:14-20

*Read by: Elaina Vietz*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

## CANTICLE 9 THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

*Led by: Elaina Vietz*

**Surely, it is God who saves me; \*  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.  
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.  
And on that day you shall say, \*  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;  
Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.  
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

A READING FROM THE EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS :

4:4-7

*Read by: Elaina Vietz*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Reader:** Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

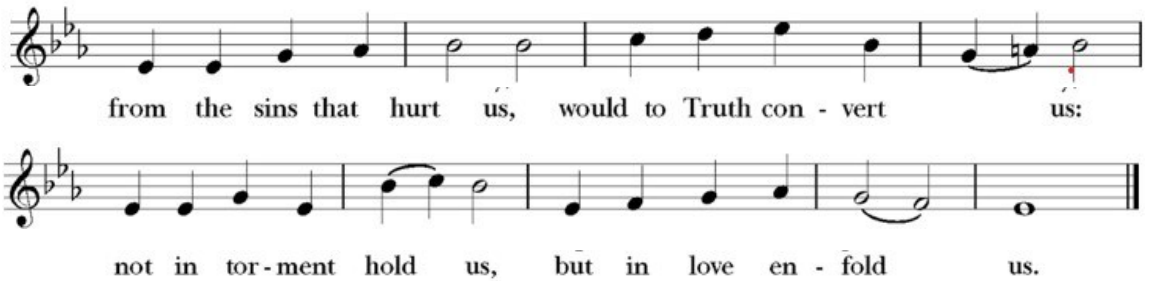
✕ *Please stand as you are able and join in singing:*

**SEQUENCE HYMN MHSO #53, vs.2 ONLY**

*Once he came in blessing*

2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us

The image shows a musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes for the first two measures, followed by a half note in the third measure, and quarter notes for the final two measures. The lyrics are written below the staff, with a '2' indicating the start of the second measure.



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3: 7-18

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People: Glory to you Lord Christ.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.,

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord.

**People: Praise to you Lord Christ.**

✠ *Please be seated for:*

✠ *Please stand as you are able and say:*

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM IV)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for **Edwin Sanchez and the students at El Hogar School, and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.** We offer prayers of thanksgiving for all those who celebrate birthdays this week

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **Frederic, Peter, Bob** Gowen, **Yumi, Ronald** Garvey, **Ed** Meddaugh, **Max, Anne, Cathy, Barbara, Howard** Flemming, **Hudson** Beauregard; **Ellie** Ruvo, **Joyce** Makimi, **Rosemary** Recine, **Robert** Lynch, Sharon, and **Angela** Carrozzo.

We pray for those who are homebound: **Esmerilda** Hastings, **Margaret** Vaccaro, **Lee** Williams, **Dorothy** Dushin, **Roberta** Darrigrand; **Jim, Marge, Joe** Smith, **Carolyn** Damiano, **Deanna** Ammirato, and **Bill & Dorothy** D'Amato.



We pray for those for whom our prayers are asked, especially: **Hank Kennedy Liz & Jeff Daniele, Andrew Tom, Rebecca, Vince Servio, Sarah Paruolo, Annaliese Haag, Gerald, Marilyn Griffin, Joyce, Paul Ruvo, Helene, Jason, Joe Smith, Peter, Hannelore, Marina Brandt, Linda Hill, Carol White, Steven Schubert, Paul Seltzer, Jeff and The Rt. Rev Andrew St. John**

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. We pray for those who have died, especially John Williams and the over 790,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

***Silence***

*Officiant:* Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## CONFESSON OF SIN

*Deacon:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

*All:* God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. *Amen.*

*Officiant:* 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**

✠ *Please greet one another with:*

## THE PEACE

Celebrant:     The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People:        **And also with you**

## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Storyteller this week

**Mother Mary Gregorius+**

telling the story of

Angel Gabriel Visits Mary



## **STEWARDSHIP:**

One of the most important efforts we make as a congregation to be good stewards in our care for one another is participating in the big celebrations of the Church year. Especially those times when company comes.

For example, Christmas Eve! If you have not yet signed up for your role in the Pageant, or you would like to take on the fun task of filming the Pageant, or decorating the church with beautiful poinsettias, or your part in the Service or on the Altar, please do so today!

The Pageant list is available through a sign-up Genies previously emailed to you. We also need ushers, acolytes, Lectors and Chalice Bearers for both Services. Thank you in advance!

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us; an offering and a sacrifice to God.

✠ *Please join in singing:*

### OFFERTORY HYMN #61

“Sleepers awake!”



1 “Sleep - ers, wake!” A voice a - stounds us, the shout of ram-part  
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her heart with joy - ful  
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let saints and an - gels



guards sur-rounds us: “A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!”  
hope is spring - ing, she wakes and hur - ries through the night.  
sing be - fore you, as harps and cym - bals swell the sound.



Mid - night's peace their cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum-mons  
Forth he comes, her Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in  
Twelve great pearls, the ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to



clear - ly spo - ken: “The time has come, O maid - ens wise!  
truth vic - to - rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.  
join the im - mor - tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.



Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in sight.  
Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate Word,  
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de - light:



Al - le - lu - ia!      Your    lamps pre - pare      and has - ten      there,  
 Al - le - lu - ia!      We    fol - low    all      and heed your      call  
 Al - le - lu - ia!      There - fore we sing      to greet our      King;



that      you      the      wed - ding      feast      may      share.”  
 to      come      in - to      the      ban - quet      hall.  
 for      ev - er      let      our      prais - es      ring.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) Copyright ©1982, Carl P. Daw, Jr. All rights reserved. Used with permission.  
 Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); harm. Jakob Praetorius (1586-1651)

## DOXOLOGY

*Old Hundredth*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
 Praise God, all creatures here below.  
 Praise God above, you heavenly host:  
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

*In this prayer, the lines in bold are spoken by the People*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Priest inserts Proper Preface*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant Continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory again.**

*Celebrant Continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your

sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever . **AMEN.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

The first song of Isaiah

*Sung by Angela Berg*

✠ *Please stand as you are able*

### THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**All: Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

### THE BLESSING

✠ Please join in singing:

## THE CLOSING HYMN #76

“On Jordan’s bank the Baptist cries”

The musical score is written on three staves in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are arranged in five lines, with the first line of each staff corresponding to the first line of lyrics. The lyrics are as follows:

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,  
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

## THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2021 CHRISTMAS SERVICES**—Mark your calendar!

Friday December 24th	4:30PM	Pageant and Holy Eucharist
Friday December 24th	7:00 PM	Pageant and Holy Eucharist
Saturday December 25th	10:00AM	Spoken Eucharist

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGN UP** Will you be part of the Christmas Pageant this year? We hope so. Use our new [sign up genius](#) to grab your favorite part! Filming on Dec 19th!

**A-HOME HOLIDAY GIFT CARD DRIVE:** Gift cards to Stop and Shop, Shoprite, Target, Visa and MasterCard are requested. Please bring cards to church by Dec 12 or mail to Rosemary Carlough. These gift cards help seniors and single parent families.

**YAI VIRTUAL GIVING TREE:** In the past St. John's has supported YAI by giving holiday gifts to the residents of the YAI home in Pleasantville. Since 2020 the Giving Tree has been done virtually. Please see the link below which has a link to an Amazon Wishlist.

<https://givingtree2021.funraise.org/> To see what YAI does see yai.org.

**THRIFT SHOP: EXCITING NEWS!** The thrift shop will be open on BOTH Saturdays and Mondays for the holiday season from 10-2. This is a link to our [Sign Up Genius](#).

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month; from 5:45PM-7:45PM. *Our next class is December 14th.* Please contact Mother Mary+ for more information

**ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS READY:** Be sure to see St. John's NEW On-line Sunday School lessons on our [website](#) Contact Mother Mary+ if you are interested in story reading

**GENERAL VOLUNTEERS:** St. John's needs your **TECHNICAL TEAM** help! Contact Warden Matt Ruvo; [mattsunset@yahoo.com](mailto:mattsunset@yahoo.com) or The Rev Mary B. Gregorius, [mothermarystjohns@gmail.com](mailto:mothermarystjohns@gmail.com) to volunteer

**TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER 8:00AM** Please consider beginning your day in prayer together. ZOOM link in TW@SJ or [click here](#). Meeting ID 847 0590 3160

**THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY: 11:00AM;** meet us in the Pleasantville Diner to study 1 Samuel.

### ST. JOHN'S STAFF:

Rector: The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius [mothermarystjohns@gmail.com](mailto:mothermarystjohns@gmail.com)

Deacon Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal [lynn.werdal@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.werdal@gmail.com)

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Vestry: Ken Foley, Laura Simpson, Jim Dirlam, Sarah Hoadley, Lynn Russell, Joan Scire-Vitkevich, Philippa Seltzer-Muschko