

Service of Evening Prayer

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Grace Episcopal Church

5:30 p.m.

September 13, 2020

PRELUDE

CLERGY WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant: Worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. *[Psalm 96:9]*

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Officiant and People:

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.

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.

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People:

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. Alleluia.

- 1 Hallelujah!
 When Israel came out of Egypt, *
 the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 **Judah became God's sanctuary *
 and Israel his dominion.**
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
 Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 **The mountains skipped like rams, *
 and the little hills like young sheep.**
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
 O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 **You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
 you little hills like young sheep?**
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
 at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 **Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
 and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

**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. Alleluia.**

THE FIRST READING · EXODUS 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SONG OF MARY · *Said by the Officiant and People together.*

Magnificat

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.

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.

THE SECOND READING · ROMANS 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SONG OF SIMEON · *Said by the Officiant and People together.*

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people 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.

THE THIRD READING · MATTHEW 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOMILY

THE REV. AMANDA AKES-CARDWELL

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant and People

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant and People say The Lord's Prayer together.

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 SUFFRAGES

Intercessor: That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

People: We entreat you, O Lord.

Intercessor: That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

People: We entreat you, O Lord.

Intercessor: That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

People: We entreat you, O Lord.

Intercessor: That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

People: We entreat you, O Lord.

Intercessor: That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

People: **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Intercessor: That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

People: **We entreat you, O Lord.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE RECTOR SEARCH *Said together.*

O God, who has guided and sustained this parish in the past; we thank you for being our companion in our search for a new rector. Give us patience when the journey seems long, courage when the way seems uncertain and humor when the way seems frustrating. Bless the Search Committee and the Vestry. Give to them and to the candidates they consider both wisdom and discernment. And give us your grace, that we may be a community of love to support each other in this time. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE SICK

O God of all mercies and comfort, we pray for all in pain and for all who sorrow, especially Judy & family, Scott & family, Ruth & family, Belva, Denise, Louise & Michael, Wayne & family, Kennita, Deborah, Steve, Sarah, Don, Roderick, Jim & family, Mary, Maria, Laurie, Mary, the McFarlane family, Elfrida, Anne, Dave, Marti, Traci, Geri, Fay, Clyde, Helen, Diane and Elizabeth; that they might be brought beyond their trouble into the Spirit's peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE DEAD

Almighty God, we remember today your faithful servant, Charles Crawford; and we pray that, having opened to him the gates of larger life, you will receive him more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, he may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

O God, the source of all strength, we pray for all of the earth's struggling peoples, especially health care professionals, researchers, government leaders, essential workers, and all who are on the front lines of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and especially those infected with and afflicted by COVID-19; that you would give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, and shield the joyous, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant: I now invite your own prayers, petitions, intercessions and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud, at this time.

A period of prayerful silence follows.

Officiant: Holy God, we lift these prayers and all the intentions of our hearts to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

If you would like to pay your pledge or make a gift to support the ongoing ministry of Grace Church, an offertory box is available. Please see one of the ushers. Alternatively, please scan the QR code below to make a gift online.



MUSICAL MEDITATION

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son 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.**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE CLOSING SENTENCE

Officiant: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** [Romans 15:13]

CLOSING HYMN

Christ, mighty Savior, Light of all creation

POSTLUDE

GRACE CHURCH PRAYER LIST

MEMBERS

Judy Biagas & family; Megan Bly and Scott Wunsch & family; Ruth Buckley & family; Belva Burney; Denise Brown-Collie; Louise & Michael Clark; Wayne Clarke & family; Kennita Collard; Deborah M. Copeland; Steve Crockett; Sandra Friedman; Don Giles; Roderick Harrison; Jim Henley & family; Mary Hughes; Maria Jenkins; Laurie Joyner; Mary Lyons; the McFarlane family; Elfrida O'Reilly-Campbell; Anne Petersen; Dave Spruth; Marti Tarkington; Traci Thompson; Geri Twitty; Fay Webber; Clyde Wheeler; Helen Wheeler; and Elizabeth Wilson.

FRIENDS OF GRACE

The Dana Grabiner family (friend of Matt Hardwick); Kenneth L. Barber (great uncle of the Rev. Kevin Antonio Smallwood) Laureline Browder & Charles Browder (cousins of Kecia Brown); Pat & Bob Akes (parents of Amanda Akes-Cardwell); Nikki (mother of Kennita Collard); Ben Hayes (nephew of Sue Crawford); John & Margaret Inman & their families (relatives of Ruth Buckley); Rachael Mogga (sister of Ruth Buckley); Meghan Hughes (daughter of Ruth Buckley); David Petersen (son of Anne Petersen); and Catherine Barber (mother of Elaine Barber); Quaashie & Glori Wigglesworth and Stephanie & Ricki Leonard (Student, parent and grandparent, Grace Day School).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome our NEW Seminarian *Today, Sunday, September 13, 5:30 PM*

Beginning Sunday September 13 at our 5:30 p.m. service, Eliza Davies, a second-year student at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), will join Grace Church for her field education training. Eliza, already an ordained Deacon in the church (since May 2008), is in the ordination process to become a priest. She comes to us from the Diocese of New York. Like us, Eliza is experiencing a 'new normal' including innovative ways to worship and study. She looks forward to navigating this new way of being/doing church with us at Grace. Eliza will be with us through the Spring of 2022. Please extend to her a warm Grace Church welcome!

In Person Outdoor Worship Services *Sundays at 5:30 PM*

Outdoor in-person worship continues this Sunday at 5:30pm with Evening Prayer on the Parish Hall playground. Because of social distancing requirements, space is very limited so you **MUST** register in advance to attend the service (RSVP below) of your choice. Your safety is our number one priority. Our Regathering Task Force has been hard at work to prepare for in-person worship and our outdoor plan has been approved by the appropriate authorities. We look forward to seeing you in person. Ensure your spot at the service by clicking on the corresponding Sunday below (you must RSVP for each service separately).

[Sunday, September 20, 5:30 PM](#)

Adult Forum: Rector Search Committee Update *September 20, 9:30-10:15 AM*

Adult Forum returns for the first time this fall via Zoom with an update from the Rector Search Committee. Join us from 9:30-10:15 AM to learn about the work of this committee and where our parish stands in the search process. Logon to your Zoom account and enter the following Meeting ID: 895 2186 1911 and Password: Forum to join the discussion. For more information, contact Rev. Amanda.

Rev. K.A.'s Ordination to the Priesthood *September 22, 7:00 PM*

On Tuesday, September 22, at 7:00 pm, Kevin Antonio will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests at Grace Episcopal Church. Antonio's ordination will be a celebratory occasion that brings him closer to God's call on his life, but it also means that he fully steps into his ministry here at Grace with us. We are thrilled to share in this occasion, and although the service will not be open to the public, we will be online for the service! Be sure to check out our Grace Facebook page for access to the Live video on the date of the ordination.

In-Person Outdoor Movie Night: Black Panther *Saturday, September 26, 8-10:15 PM*

Join us for our first in-person outdoor movie night on the Grace Church playground. Our feature presentation is Black Panther. Households arrive and sit together. You can park your car in parking lot, then walk to the Welcome Table at the playground. You will receive a space assignment where your household will sit - on lawn chairs, picnic blanket, or whatever you bring. Please always practice social distancing (6 feet of separation). Plan to bring and wear your mask. You may bring snacks and beverages, but please share with only your family unit. A bathroom will be available if needed. For more information email Mark Stodter.

Celebratory Reception in Honor of Rev. Kevin Antonio *Sunday, September 27, 12:00-2:00 PM*

On Sunday, September 27, there will be a special reception in honor and celebration of Kevin Antonio's Ordination to the Priesthood in the Episcopal Church. The actual ordination service will take place earlier in the week, but due to the COVID restrictions, only close friends and family will be able to attend. However, the parish family of Grace Church will be welcome to share their good wishes with Kevin Antonio on the afternoon of September 27 from Noon to 2:00. The reception will take place outdoors on the playground. All are welcome to attend this very special opportunity to share their good wishes with Kevin Antonio.