Welcome to Worship: Thank you for making Grace-St. Luke’s part of your spiritual journey and for joining us today for this virtual worship offering. If you are new among us, please complete an online Connect Card at gracestlukes.org/online-visitor-card. Our clergy-staff team would like to reach out to learn more about you and to explore how life at Grace-St. Luke’s might bless your journey and you bless ours. For more about our thriving faith community including online formation (learning) offerings, please visit www.gracestlukes.org.

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Laura F. Gettys  
**Preacher:** The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

**Voluntary:** “CHRIST UNSER HERR ZUM JORDAN KAM” (When Jesus went to Jordan’s stream)  
Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome, Announcements and Children’s Message
The Word of God

Hymn 121, “Christ, when for us you were baptized”

music: Caithness, melody from The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635; harm. The English Hymnal, 1906


1 Christ, when for us you were baptized, God’s Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove and yet as urgent as a flame.

2 God called you his beloved Son, called you his servant true,
sent you his kingdom to proclaim, his holy will to do.

3 Straight-way and steadfast until death you then obeyed his call
free-ly as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all.

4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,
that, likewise in God’s service we may perfect freedom find.

Officiant     Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People       And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Trisagion said three times
Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day
BCP 230

Celebrant     The Lord be with you.

People        And also with you.

Celebrant     Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.
A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God. Silence

Psalm 29 read responsively by whole verse

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, * ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; * worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; *
   the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; * the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.
5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *
   the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, * and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; *
   the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe * and strips the forests bare.
9 And in the temple of the Lord * all are crying, “Glory!”
10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; * the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.
11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; *
   the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher
The Baptismal Covenant
The Celebrant may first address the people with these or similar words, all standing

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Celebrant  Do you believe in God the Father?
People  I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant  Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People  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.

Celebrant  Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People  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.

Celebrant  Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People  I will, with God's help.

Celebrant  Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People  I will, with God's help.

Celebrant  Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People  I will, with God's help.

Celebrant  Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People  I will, with God's help.

Celebrant  Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People  I will, with God’s help.

The Priest invites the People to stand or kneel for the

The Prayers of the People, Form VI
The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. Silence
For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.
For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.
For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.
For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.
For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Phoebe our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.
For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, including those reflected on the Prayer List in this service leaflet; those infected with coronavirus and their caregivers; for reconciliation and healing of social unrest and violence throughout the world; and for those we name either silently or aloud [N.N.]. Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.
We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, including the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that support life at Grace-St. Luke’s; for our Parish School and all schools that serve our community; and other abundance we name either silently or aloud [N.N.]. We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.
We pray for all who have died, especially Kellie Kellett, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, and for those we name either silently or aloud [N.N.]. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.
We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. Silence

Priest and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest says

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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Celebrant and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory

During the offertory music or following this service, your offering supports this virtual ministry and much more of life at Grace-St. Luke’s: visit gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving; text GSLChurch ALMS to 73256 to give to ALMS; text GSLChurch PLEDGE to 73256 to give to your PLEDGE; or you may mail offerings to the church office. Our 2021 stewardship campaign, Resilience and Connection by Giving, is seeking 100% participation from all parishioners: visit gracestlukes.org/pledge. For information about worship, formation for all ages, ways to connect, serve and more, visit www.gracestlukes.org.

Anthem at the Offertory

“The Baptism of Jesus”

music: Sue Mitchell-Wallace (b. 1944)
text: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon, but as his Father’s Son,
He came to share repentance for all who mourn their sins
To speak the vital sentence with which good news begins
He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
For our salvation to die on the cross.

So when the Dove descended on him, Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.
Come Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make,
This very day invade us, and every bondage break.
Come give our lives direction, the gift we covet most:
To share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

Spiritual Communion Prayers

These rich words are recited daily throughout the church catholic (universal) by individuals and communities unable to gather for public worship for whatever reason, while also longing for the occasion to participate in the Episcopal Church’s central practice of receiving the Holy Sacrament.

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly Grace-St. Luke’s and those worshiping there, I long to offer praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory, and particularly for the blessings given me.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.
The Blessing
May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. Amen.
May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. Amen.
May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. Amen.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Hymn 296, “We know that Christ is raised and dies no more”

1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2. We share by water in his saving death.
3. The Father’s splendor clothes the Son with life.
4. A new creation comes to life and grows.

The Dismissal
BCP 366
The people are dismissed with these words
Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary: “Prelude on Engelberg”
Craig Phillips

Continue the day, giving thanks to God for blessings known and known, and by reaching out in care for fellow parishioners, neighbors, and any persons in need. Members of the parish with any needs or pastoral concerns: email pastoralcare@graceslukes.org or dial 901-252-6320, and for hospitalizations or emergencies, dial the 24/7 Clergy-on-Call phone line at 901-252-6334.

The Rev. Laura F. Gettys, Celebrant
The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Preacher
Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist
Shelby Seese, Isabel Wittman, Daniel Massey, & André Moore, Cantors
Ed Griffith & Lucy Owens, Livestream Support
Weekly Message from the Clergy

**Engaging 2021 with a Faithful Heart.** The 2021st Year of Our Lord invites us to engage each day with a faithful heart. As we journey through the COVID-19 pandemic and countless disparities, divisions, and injustices throughout the human family, all while surrounded by God’s grace and abundance at every turn, faithful hearts are bound to make all things well. In this particular new year, I am reminded of the poem “Through The Coming Year” by the Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman (1899-1981) and plan to keep it handy alongside the many inevitable trials and tribulations of the earthly life. May you too find encouragement, praying “Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.”

– The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector (Read the full text: gracetlukes.org/news/engaging-2021-with-a-faithful-heart.)

Take Note: New Highlights

**Celebrating The Epiphany, January 6 – February 16.** From the Feast of the Epiphany through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, GSL celebrates the birth of Jesus with the church catholic (universal) by highlighting the manifestation of the divinity of Jesus and our call to follow him. The originally scheduled Epiphany service is cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Read the full text and pray the Collect for Epiphany: gracestlukes.org/news/celebrating-the-epiphany.

Worship and Music

**SUNDAY**

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Online. Access livestream services via GSL website and Facebook Live.

5:30-6 p.m. Contemplative Prerecorded Worship & Music Event with the Rev. Laura F. Gettys and Kelly Herrmann, flute, via GSL website, Facebook Live, and YouTube.

**WEEKDAYS**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Compline (Night Prayers), 8 until 8:15 p.m. via Facebook Live.

Stewardship: Time, Talent, Treasure

**Appeal for 100% Pledge Participation in 2021 Stewardship Campaign.** Since September 2020, the Stewardship Committee and staff Stewardship Associate Chapman Morrow have been inviting all GSL member households to participate in the 2021 stewardship campaign by offering a pledge to support the parish operating budget. Every pledge amount matters in this ongoing effort to receive 100% participation. Read a time-sensitive message from the Rector: gracestlukes.org/news/appeal-for-100-pledge-participation.

Christian Formation

**Adults**

Sundays 9:15 a.m. If you missed this morning’s formation offering, Conversation about Social Justice at GSL facilitated by the Rev. Laura F. Gettys with Paula Barnes, Nicki Soule, and Jennie VanDeever, tune in to Facebook Live, YouTube, or the GSL website to watch this offering for an important discussion about our social justice vision, values, and focus areas including our new partnership with MICAH (Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope). Looking Ahead, January 17: Conversation with the Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf, Bishop via Facebook Live.

**Youth**

Sunday, January 10, welcomes back EYC in the new year! Join in for an at home Zoom Scavenger Hunt, Roses and Thorns, and Compline today. 6th-8th graders will meet 4-5 p.m. and 9th-12th from 5-6 p.m. The Zoom link will be sent out Sunday morning, and if you have any questions or if you wish to be added to the Youth Formation email list, contact Director of Youth Formation Amzie Williams (awilliams@gracetlukes.org).

**Children**

As Children’s Formation continues to be offered through Zoom and at-home materials, please follow this link (gracetlukes.org/childrens-formation) for updated information and the Zoom signup link. To be added to the Children’s Formation email list, please contact Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation (scampbell@gracetlukes.org). Resources, news, and updates are also shared on the GSL Children’s Formation Facebook page (facebook.com/GSLChildrensFormation).

Athletics, Recreation, and Wellness

**2021 Winter Basketball Registration Open.** This Winter, GSL Church is offering a 7-week (8 Sessions) Basketball Program to include Fundamental Training & Skill Development/Skill Stations/Contests/Scrimmages & Tons of FUN! Follow this link for details: www.gracestlukes.org/youthbasketball.

**Yoga With Shantih, Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.** Follow this link (www.gracestlukes.org/events/yoga-with-shantih) for signup details and Zoom info.

Community Life

**Fire Pit Soirees** have been postponed for a later date. Stay tuned for updates for a time when we can gather more freely and there is more interest.

**The December-January edition of The Messenger** includes news about Worship for Advent-Christmas-Epiphany, Pastoral Care, Formation for Adults, Youth and Children, Stewardship, Social Justice, Outreach, Music, Athletics, Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal School, and more. Read online at gracestlukes.org/the-messenger or download a copy.

Social Justice

**GSL MICAH Core Team First Meeting January 13.** Grace St. Luke’s is participating in MICAH (Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope), a partnership of community and faith-based organizations joining together to address issues of social justice in our city. MICAH’s platform concentrates on three pillar issues: economic equity, education equity, and race & class equity in the justice system. GSL has formed a “Core Team” of parishioners to discern an appropriate role for GSL to play in MICAH. Follow this link for more: gracestlukes.org/events/gsl-micah-core-team-first-meeting.

Outreach

**GSL Community Grants & Servant Ministry Partners.** In the Fall of 2020, the Outreach Committee completed the process of awarding Community Grants totaling $62,000 to 19 agencies (“GSL Servant Ministry Partners”). Learn more at gracestlukes.org/outreach.
Thank You: Holiday Honoraria and Memorials to More Than A Meal. During the Advent and Christmas seasons, gifts totaling $1180.00 to support GSL More Than A Meal (MTAM) during the colder months were given as donations in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Additional gifts may be made at www.gracesltkues.org/onlinegiving or by sending a check to the church office (ATTN: Linda Stine). Thanks to all for this generosity toward MTAM, which operates on Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. by providing take-away meals for the hungry.

New Opportunities for a New Year. A year of challenge has provided us with a host of opportunities. Your Outreach Committee has taken advantage of those opportunities, taking the first step to continue or establish partnerships in the community by awarding Community Outreach Grants to 19 agencies. tinyurl.com/OutreachMore11021.

Quick Links
Follow these links to frequently visited pages on our website and Facebook.
- LIVE Virtual Worship, Music, Formation Offerings gracestlukes.org/live
- Facebook Live facebook.com/gracesltkues/live
- YouTube Live youtube.com/gracesltkues
- Wednesday eNews gracestlukes.org/weekly-news
- More Information about Worship gracestlukes.org/worship
- More Information about Music gracestlukes.org/music
- Sacramental Life Events gracestlukes.org/connect/in-the-church/life-events
- Hope and Good News: gracestlukes.org/discover/spiritual-guidance
- Pastoral Care, Prayer List, and Prayer Requests: gracestlukes.org/prayerrequest
- Subscribe to GSL, Diocesan & The Episcopal Church eNews: gracestlukes.org/enews
- Information about Fraudulent Emails & Text: gracestlukes.org/news/phishing
- The Messenger, Bi-monthly Magazine: gracestlukes.org/the-messenger
- Realm Connect: GSL Directory & More: www.gracesltkues.org/realm

The Prayer List
Our prayers are asked for Brad Larson, Patty McManus, Kaye, John, Caroline Clay, Betsy Tate, Nancy Wilkerson, Kristin King, Charles Chandler, Michael Wills, Jake Seymour, Alymarie “Dooney” Twele, Annelise Ware Simmons, Felix Dae Sanders, The McKissack Family, Carolyn Wills, Amanda Adams, Joann McCanless, Jane Gober & the Gober family, and Billy Denman.

Our prayers are asked for those who have died, especially Kellie Kellett, and those who have died from coronavirus.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays, especially Bill Abernathy, Hallie Biggs, Sharon Campbell, Jeniffer Church, Doug Douglass, McCartney Gipson, Aynsley Hartney, Tod Holtzclaw, Edward Hord, Kaye Johnson, Paul Kauerz, Max Mascolino, Daniel Massey, Emmett Montgomery, Margaret Newton, Sophie Parker, Mary Virginia Rogers, Jerry Sanders, Debbie Smith, Stephanie Varghese, Lewis Wardlaw, Henry Warren, Annabelle Watts, Liza Watts, Max White, & Malcolm Wiener, for those celebrating wedding anniversaries, especially Philip Lamoreaux III & Mary Morgan Whitfield, Harrison & Stewart Hunt, and Gavin & Robin Wigginson.

Prayer List and Prayer Requests. To submit a prayer request for the Prayer List, you may contact Parish House Receptionist & Ministry Associate Abby Huber (ahuber@gracesltkues.org, 901-252-6336) or complete the online Prayer Request Form (www.gracesltkues.org/prayerrequest). Names of persons, who have given consent for names to be printed, will be listed for one month, unless a longer period is requested. While certain concerns may be confidential between the clergy and the individual, others may not be. If you are wondering about an individual, please contact the individual directly or a member of the clergy. Intercessions are offered daily by the clergy and lay pastoral care ministers and reflected in the worship service leaflet.

Online Giving
Make a one time gift now by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone!

Recurring
Set up recurring 2021 pledge payments by scanning the QR code with your phone!

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Clergy and Staff: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector; The Rev. Laura F. Gettys, Associate Rector; The Rev. Anne S. Carrière, Priest Associate; Christi Auhtember, Athletics Director; Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation; Abby Huber, Receptionist and Ministry Associate; Chapman Morrow, Stewardship Associate; Lucy Owens, Communications Administrator; Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist; Debbie Smith, Assistant Organist-Choirmaster; Linda Stine, Parish Administrator; Darling “D” Thomas, Lead Facilities Assistant; Amzie Williams, Director of Youth Formation. Clergy and staff contact information: www.gracesltkues.org/welcome/clergy-and-staff.

Vestry and Treasurer: Grant Adams, Phil Ashford (Treasurer), Wight Boggs, Patrick Burnett, Ben Cowan, Mike Davis, Sandra Ireland, George Johnson, Jonathan Large, Andy Nix, Johnny Norris, Charlie Pazar, Anna Robbins, Paula Sappington, Tom Stephenson, Taylor Taylor

WWW.GRACESTLKUES.ORG
1720 Peabody Ave. • Memphis, TN 38104-6124
Tel: 901.272.7425 • Email: gsl@gracesltkues.org • Clergy on Call for Pastoral Emergencies: 901-252-6334 • facebook.com/gracesltkues • twitter.com/gracesltkues • Search for “gracesltkues” in the iTunes/Google Play stores