



GRACE-ST. LUKE'S

E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MORNING SERVICE OF PRAYERS, MEDITATION AND MUSIC

MAY 10, 2020 10:30 AM

VIA LIVESTREAM

This service is an adaptation of various services for public worship in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) of The Episcopal Church. Text in boldface type is read aloud or sung by the congregation. Text in italics provides directions or details. Explore the richness of the BCP online at bcponline.org including Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families. During this service, please feel free to stand, sit, or even kneel at the appointed times and practice any personal pieties that might enhance your engagement in this experience.

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.*

Officiant & Preacher: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

All are asked to observe silence during the

Voluntary: "RHOSYMEDRE"

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Welcome and Announcements

The Word of God

Hymn 518, stanzas 1 & 4, "CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION"

music: Westminster Abbey, Henry Purcell (1659-1695), adapt.
text: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861,
after John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Descant

4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of
3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of
4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion
Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in
hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.**

The Collect of the Day

BCP 219

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader Here ends the Lesson.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 *recited by all in unison*

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 **Incline your ear to me; ***
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 **Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,**
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, ***
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 **Into your hands I commend my spirit, ***
for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of truth.
- 15 **My times are in your hand; ***
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 **Make your face to shine upon your servant, ***
and in your loving-kindness save me."
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 First Letter of Peter

2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner”, and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader Here ends the Lesson.

The Sequence: Hymn 455, stanzas 1, & 3-4, “O LOVE OF GOD, HOW STRONG AND TRUE”

music: Dunedin, Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985)

text: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)



1 O Love of God, how strong and true, e - ter - nal
2 O wide - em - brac - ing, won - drous Love, we read thee
3 We read thee best in him who came to bear for
4 We read thy power to bless and save e'en in the



and yet ev - er new; un - com - pre - hend - ed and un -
in the sky a - bove; we read thee in the earth be -
us the cross of shame, sent by the Fa - ther from on
dark - ness of the grave; still more in re - sur - rec - tion



bought, be - yond all know - ledge and all thought.
low, in seas that swell and streams that flow.
high, our life to live, our death to die.
light we read the full - ness of thy might.

The Gospel

Priest A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

14:1-14

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Priest Here ends the Lesson.

The Homily: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

BCP 96

The Apostles' Creed

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

**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.**

Please remain standing or kneel for the Prayers of the People.

The Prayers of the People, Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Remembering especially those reflected on the Prayer List as named in the service leaflet, the widowed and orphans, all whose lives are affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic and those who now care for them, and those we now name either silently or aloud [N.N.] Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Remembering those who have died, especially Walker Mulherin, Hugh Moore, and those we now name either silently or aloud [N.N.] Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, including thanksgivings for the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that support life at Grace-St. Luke's; for our School and all schools that serve our community; for the Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, and the Diocese of West Tennessee; and for all individuals, communities, and organizations working tirelessly and creatively to respond to the needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Silence is observed. Then, the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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 2020 PLEDGE; mail to the church office. We are not closed during this season of physical distancing. Instead, we are becoming more open and creative in how we abide with God, walk by faith, and serve one another. Your gift to the glory of God supports the administration, operations, and life of Grace-St. Luke's Church.

Anthem at the Offertory, "THE CALL" from *Five Mystical Songs*

music: The Call, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
text: George Herbert (1593-1633)
Daniel Massey, tenor

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

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.

The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 525, stanzas 1, & 4-5, "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION" music: Aurelia, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)
text: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

The Dismissal

The people are dismissed with these words

Minister Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Voluntary: "TOCCATA ON AURELIA"

Claude Murphree

All are invited to remain standing or to be seated for the Voluntary and then 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@gracestlukes.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. Ollie V. Rencher, Officiant & Preacher
Lucy Owens, Director of Communications

Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist
Daniel Massey, Cantor

Grace-St. Luke's: Explore the following news, take good care, and please be in touch with the clergy-staff team to assist you along the way!

Virtual Offerings

The Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 10, 10:30 a.m. Livestream Service of Morning Prayer according to The Daily Office including sermon and music via the [GSL website](#) and [Facebook Live](#).

Sunday, May 10, Music in May, 5:30 p.m. GSL Music in May. More under *Worship and Music* below.

Tuesday, May 12, Compline (Night Prayers), 8 until 8:15 p.m. via [Facebook Live](#).

Wednesday, May 13, Midweek Christian Formation, 5:30 until 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 14, Men's Morning Fellowship, 7 until 7:45 a.m. via ZOOM. Read more and sign up below.

Thursday, May 14, Compline (Night Prayers), 8 until 8:15 p.m. via [Facebook Live](#).

Friday, May 15, Catch Up with the Clergy & Friends, Noon via [ZOOM](#) Video or Audio. While enjoying a refreshment or lunch, gather by computer or phone for a 30-minute informal time to connect with our clergy and other parishioners. There's no agenda other than pure checking-in; this fellowship is open to all ages.

The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 17, 10:30 a.m. Livestream Service of Morning Prayer according to The Daily Office including sermon and music via the [GSL website](#) and [Facebook Live](#).

Sunday, May 17, Music in May, 5:30 a.m. GSL Music in May. More under *Worship and Music* below.

Event Details. For important details about each of these and more, follow this [link](#) to Virtual Offerings.

Take Note

A Death in our Parish Family. Hugh H. "Buddy" Moore Jr. (1931-2020) died on Saturday, May 2. A private graveside service of The Burial Office will be officiated by The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher at Memorial Park Cemetery on Wednesday, May 3. Follow this link for the [obituary](#).

Grace-St. Luke's School Finishing The School Year Via Remote Learning. Every week during the Prayers of the People, we give thanks for our preschool to 8th grade parish school and all schools that serve our community, mindful of those who teach, those who learn, and all households involved. Established in 1947, Grace-St. Luke's School has been an integral part of our life in Midtown. [Follow this link for a window into how it is thriving, finishing the school year and will honor graduates.](#)

Thank You for Being The Church. The wardens, vestry and clergy-staff team are profoundly grateful for all that you are and all that you offer to make Grace-St. Luke's what it is. Before, during and after this pandemic season, the Church, the body of Christ lives by and through the people of God. As we continue to be both safer-at-home and learn how to re-encounter one another according to the guidelines provided by health, government and church officials, may we do so by faith, with grace, and gratitude for the gift of the Church.

Grace-St. Luke's Donates to Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund. More under *Outreach* below.

Pastoral Care Enhancement and Ministry Invitation. More under *Community Life* below.

Eastertide Edition of *The Messenger*. Last week, we released a special edition of *The Messenger* featuring several interviews with parishioners, reflections from clergy-staff team members, highlights from GSL School and more. Follow this link for online reading.

Friday, Special eNews. Watch for an email at 3 p.m. about what to expect on the upcoming Sunday including service leaflet access, what's ahead for the coming week, and any updates from the clergy or the senior warden.

Online Giving

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



Recurring

Set up recurring 2020 pledge payments by scanning the QR code with your phone!



Worship and Music

Worship Schedule. Join us Sunday mornings at 10:30 via livestream as the clergy and musicians lead worship offerings. Compline (Night Prayers) is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. via Facebook Live. For more information, visit www.gracestlukes.org/worship. To explore our past and upcoming services, follow this [link](#).

GSL Music in May: Sundays 5:30 to 6 p.m. GSL Music in May concerts feature music for organ, bassoon, flute, and guitar offered by Director of Music and Organist Dr. Patrick A. Scott and Assistant Organist-Choirmaster Debbie Smith and guest instrumentalists. Videos of each livestream offering, including the May 3 kickoff event, will be posted on www.gracestlukes.org/events/music-in-may. Spread the word and tune in.

Upcoming Schedule:

- **10 May:** Jeanne Simmons, *flute*, & Patrick A. Scott, *organ*
- **17 May:** Benjamin Minden-Birkenmaier, *guitar*
- **24 May:** Andrew Carroll, *bassoon*, & Debbie Smith, *organ*
- **31 May:** Kelly Herrmann, *flute*, & Patrick A. Scott, *organ*

Christian Formation

Adults. In addition to Midweek Christian Formation on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., explore Virtual Offerings for a listing of events or to contact the Rev. Meredith Jane Day (mday@gracestlukes.org, 901-252-6329) for more information about learning opportunities.

Youth: Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m. on Instagram Live, and Sunday EYC via ZOOM: Middle School 5 p.m., High School 6 p.m. Teens also are connecting on Instagram ([gsl.youth](#)) and utilizing the “D365” daily devotion. For more information, [contact Director of Youth Formation Amzie Williams](#).

Children: Households are encouraged to explore [Faith at Home](#) and [Catechesis of the Good Shepherd](#) resources. All are invited to join us on Facebook: [GSL Children’s Formation](#). For more information, [contact Director of Children’s Formation Sharon Campbell](#).

Community Life

Pastoral Care Enhancement and Ministry Invitation. Since the start of 2020, the clergy, some staff, and lay pastoral care ministers have been actively reaching out to and caring for parishioners in various ways. The administrative scope of this vital ministry area to our more than 500 households is expanding to include new pastoral care team members while a few persons have retired. Lay ministers will make phone calls, send handwritten notes, deliver food, be a companion to households expecting a child, and make occasional home visits, in addition to those made by the clergy and Eucharistic Visitors. If you are interested in serving and wish to learn more, email Lay Pastoral Care Coordinator Jocelyn Busby (jocelynbusby@gmail.com) or contact the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher via 901-252-6320 or orencher@gracestlukes.org.

Sustaining Our Common Life at GSL. While we all practice self-care and navigate changes that are different and complex for each household, the ongoing sacred offerings of time, talent, and treasure will keep GSL strong and sustainable. All financial gifts of any amount support the administration, operations, and life of Grace-St. Luke’s Church. You may visit gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving, text GSLChurch ALMS to 73256 to give to ALMS, text GSLChurch PLEDGE to 73256 to give to 2020 PLEDGE, mail offerings to the church office, or contact Parish Administrator Linda Stine (lstine@gracestlukes.org, 901-252-6324).

REALM Connect: Benefiting Life at GSL. It is extraordinary to witness increased and new connections between parishioners as well as by clergy-staff team members with parishioners as benefits of REALM. Users can easily update their membership profiles with individual and household photos, reach out to one another through the directory, sign-up for ministry team, fellowship groups and events, manage financial giving, and more. Visit www.gracestlukes.org/realms or contact Receptionist and Ministry Associate Abby Huber (901-252-6336, ahuber@gracestlukes.org) for assistance.

Pastoral Care: Sharing and Responding to Concerns. To alert the clergy of a pastoral matter concerning yourself or a member, including any medical procedures, contact the clergy confidentially via 901-252-6320 or pastoralcare@gracestlukes.org. For hospitalizations or emergencies concerning a member, contact the 24/7 Clergy-on-Call phone line at 901-252-6334. This is the best way to communicate pastoral needs and ensure a prompt response from a member of the clergy or pastoral care team.

Outreach

Grace-St. Luke's Donates to Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund. Last week, our Outreach Committee voted unanimously to provide a special \$3,000 grant to the Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund hosted by the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis Foundation. This grant, made possible by reserves that the Committee maintains for funding high priority needs that “pop-up” after the annual competitive outreach grants have been allocated, is intended to assist in the mitigation of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Community Foundation distributes funds to organizations on the front line of the COVID-19 response including GSL Servant Ministry Partners (grantees) such as Church Health and MIFA. Visit www.cfgm.org to learn about the Fund. Parishioners interested in participating in outreach may email Outreach Chair Bill Pichette (picwill at rocketmail.com) or visit gracestlukes.org/outreach.

Serving Within and Beyond Our Doors. More Than A Meal continues on Sundays from 4-4:45 p.m. with a “brown bag” plan that is working well. The Food Pantry is closed with plans to reopen as soon as possible. All who are able may give now or anytime to the Mid-South Food Bank . For information about GSL Servant Ministry Partners, visit gracestlukes.org/outreach.

Stay Informed

If you have not already done so, visit gracestlukes.org to subscribe to the parish eNews to receive weekly, seasonal, and emergency pastoral notices from the clergy or other leaders. Visit <http://eepurl.com/bi3C5> to subscribe to the West Tennessee Diocesan Communicator, and for access to beyond-local news from The Episcopal Church, visit episcopalnewsservice.org/email-signup. Please spread the word about these key communication platforms.

The Prayer List

Our prayers are asked for Jonathan, Shari Moore, Barb Frazer, Amanda Adams, the Rev. Gary Nowlin, Betsy Tate, Nancy Wilkerson, Charles Chandler, Caroline Clay, Kay, John, Patty McManus, and Brad Larson.

Our prayers are asked for those who have died: Erle “Walker” Mulherin, Hugh H. “Buddy” Moore Jr.

We give thanks for the birth of Ruby Catheryne Ward, daughter of Clair and Rob Ward, granddaughter of Mary and Jon McCalla.

We give thanks for the marriage on May 9 of Brendan John Housler and Christopher Eugene Cooley.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays, especially Will Brown, Henry Bush, John Bush, Anne Davis, Robert Gooch, Chip Harris, Stanley Johnson, Carolyn Kaldon, Ronan Keough, Rachael Mercer, Courtney Munson, Kate Raspberry, Katie Savage, Elizabeth Shearon, Ray Skinner, Cheryl Stegbauer, Jet Tate, David Wark, Renee Williford, Cathy Wood, and Zach Wood, and **for those celebrating wedding anniversaries,** especially Ron & Cathy Wood, Rhett & Sara Layman, Eric & Susan Epperson, and Rob & Jill Norcross.

About the prayers: Names on the prayer list will remain for 1 month. If you would like your or your loved one's name to remain longer, please call the church office.

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Clergy and Staff: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector; The Rev. Anne S. Carrière, Interim Associate Rector; The Rev. Meredith Jane Day, Curate; Christi Authement, Athletics Director; Sharon Campbell, Director of Children's Formation; Addison Combs, Youth Formation Intern; 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.gracestlukes.org/welcome/clergy-and-staff.*

Vestry and Treasurer: Grant Adams (Worship & Liturgy), Jimpie Ayres (Congregational Development), Wight Boggs (Clerk, Fellowship), Patrick Burnett (Youth Formation), Nina Callan (Pastoral Care), Ben Cowan (Children's Formation), Mike Davis (Athletics), Jim Greer (Worship & Liturgy), Sandra Ireland (Adult Formation), Jonathan Large (Outreach), Stinson Liles (Social Justice), Charlie Pazar (Jr. Warden, Property, Stewardship), Anna Robbins (Congregational Development), Tom Stephenson (Stewardship), Bev Trojan (Treasurer), and Simon Wadsworth (Sr. Warden, Administration & Communications, Stewardship)



GRACE-ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Friday, May 8, 2020

A Message from the Rector
Regarding COVID-19 and Mindfulness at GSL

Dear Grace-St. Luke's Church and School Community:

On Sunday, May 3, I shared a [message](#) about preparing for when we will be able to return to our buildings and grounds for worship. Via the [May 7 edition of the Diocesan Communicator](#), Bishop Phoebe announced that in-person worship may begin as early as June 1. Some faith communities might offer weekday services while a majority, including GSL will resume on Trinity Sunday, June 7. Later in June, our [School](#) will have the long-awaited chance to assemble in creative, socially distanced ways for the spring traditions of Honors Chapel and 8th grade Graduation. I am working with Head of School Thor Kvande and his incredible team on plans for these extraordinary events.

On June 7 and for the foreseeable future, all liturgies will be based on Morning Prayer and not include the Holy Eucharist. Formation classes, childcare services, fellowship events, and the administration of Holy Baptism will not be permitted. Soon, we will have the guidelines necessary to adopt the gathering practices required by COVID-19 restrictions. This re-entry plan could change if health officials recommend a delay in the next couple of weeks. Closer to our return, detailed information will be announced.

Meanwhile, and even after we re-open, virtual offerings on Sundays and weekdays will continue. They have been appreciated and well attended, providing spiritual food in totally new ways for life at GSL. We cannot stress enough how important it is for individuals and households to be cautious and stay healthy by all means necessary, including staying home until the right time. Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, and because the Church is the People, Grace-St. Luke's is alive and well.

Our vision is to be a thriving community of hope, belonging, and healing through worship, parish life, and service, and who rejoices in the love of Jesus to transform the world. Thank you for the countless ways by which you make us strong. I look forward to sharing future updates related to the pandemic, including how GSL remains mindful, prayerful, and responsive for the good of the wholeness of the human family.

Godspeed as we journey with Jesus,

Ollie+

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