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 gracetlukes.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.gracetlukes.org.

**Officiant:** The Rev. Meredith Jane Day  
**Preacher:** Mr. Amzie Williams  
**Assisting:** The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher  

*All are asked to observe silence during the*

**Voluntary:** “Improvisation on Royal Oak”  
Patrick A. Scott

**Welcome and Announcements**
The Word of God

Hymn 405, stanzas 1, 3-4, “ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL”

music: Royal Oak, melody from The Dancing Master, 1686;
adapt. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958)
text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Reader Here ends the Lesson.

Psalm 66:7-18 recited by all in unison

7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
8 Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.
9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
10 You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.
14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
15 I called out to him with my mouth, *
and his praise was on my tongue.
16 If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;
17 But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from 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.
Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader Here ends the Lesson.

The Sequence: Hymn 488, “Be thou my vision”

music: Slane, Irish ballad melody; adapt. The Church Hymnary, 1927
text: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931);
tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt.

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of heaven, when victory is won,

all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I may I reach heaven’s joys, bright heaven’s Sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
thou my great Father; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,

waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

The Gospel

Priest A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Priest Here ends the Lesson.
The Homily: Mr. Amzie Williams, Director of Youth Formation

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 John Robert Harpole, Walker Mulherin, 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, “I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH” from Messiah

music: George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)
text: Job 19:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:20
Elizabeth Hornor, soprano

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

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 400, stanzas 1, 4, & 7, “ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING”

music: Lasst uns erfreuen, melody from Auserlesene Catholische Geistlich Kirchengefenge, 1623;
adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
text: Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt.

The Dismissal

Minister Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Voluntary: “FANFARE FOR ORGAN”

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. Meredith Jane Day, Officiant
The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Assisting
Mr. Amzie Williams, Preacher

Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist
Elizabeth Hornor, cantor
Lucy Owens, Director of Communications
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 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](https://www.gracelukes.org) and [Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/live/).

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 17, Music in May,** 5:30 p.m.GSL Music in May.

More under Worship and Music below.

**Tuesday, May 19,** **Compline (Night Prayers),** 8 until 8:15 p.m. via [Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/live/).

**Wednesday, May 20,** **Midweek Christian Formation,** 5:30 until 6 p.m. via [Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/live/).

**Thursday, May 21,** **Men’s Morning Fellowship,** 7 until 7:45 a.m. via ZOOM. Read more and sign up below.

**Thursday, May 21,** **Compline (Night Prayers),** 8 until 8:15 p.m. via [Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/live/).

**Friday, May 22,** **Catch Up with the Clergy & Friends,** Noon via [ZOOM](https://www.gracelukes.org/) 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.

**Ascension Day, May 24,** 10:30 a.m. Livestream Service of Morning Prayer according to The Daily Office including sermon and music via the [GSL website](https://www.gracelukes.org) and [Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/live/).

**Ascension Day, May 24,** **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

**Director of Youth Formation Amzie Williams offers sermon today.** On behalf of the youth community who normally would celebrate Youth Sunday in May, the sermon will be offered by Amzie Williams who joined the staff in May of 2019. This year, Youth Sunday will be June 14 when the sermon will be given by Anna Margaret Burnett.

**Recent Community Messages.** To learn more about the May 8 announcement about our new Associate Rector, the Rev. Laura F. Gettys, follow this link. Additionally, follow this link for an update on COVID-19 and mindfulness at GSL.

Friday, **Looking Ahead 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.

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.gracelukes.org/worship](http://www.gracelukes.org/worship). To explore our past and upcoming services, follow this link.

**GSL Music in May: Sundays 5:30 to 6 p.m.** 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. The Sunday video will be announced on the GSL Facebook page at 5:30 p.m. Videos of each livestream offering, including past concerts, will be posted on [www.gracelukes.org/events/music-in-may](http://www.gracelukes.org/events/music-in-may). Spread the word and tune in.

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

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

**Recurring**
Set up recurring 2020 pledge payments by scanning the QR code with your phone!
The 14th Annual Belvedere Chamber Music Festival, produced by Luna Nova Music (www.lunanova.org) and typically held at Grace-St. Luke’s each summer, will be June 17-20 in a digital form. Concerts will be presented online by way of YouTube, our website, and Facebook. Links to the concerts will be available directly at www.belvederefestival.org and will be made live the days of the concerts. All of our regular players will take part, some from videos made here in Memphis and some with collaborative projects in other parts of the country. Please send any questions or suggestions to Patricia Gray pgray@pgray.net.

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

MOVING IN FAITH: Join the Journey. How much fun would it be to team up with your church and challenge other congregations, friends and neighbors to work towards common health goals through daily exercise? Join Grace-St. Luke’s, Church of the Holy Communion, and St. John’s Episcopal as we team up to offer Moving In Faith. This is a 6-week journey to a healthier mind, body and spirit through exercise, weekly prayers and scripture readings. More than ever, it’s important to find ways to stay healthy. Friendly team competition is a great way to stay connected and motivate one another. Moving In Faith starts June 1 and is for everyone, regardless of age or fitness level. Visit www.gracestlukes.org/news/moving-in-faith or contact Athletics Director Christi Authement for details.

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/realm 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

Serving Within and Beyond Our Doors. Parishioners interested in participating in outreach may email Outreach Committee Chair Bill Pichette (picwill at rocketmail.com) or visit gracestlukes.org/outreach. 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, Martin, Tom, Holly, Jon, Ann and Don Sandberg, 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: John Robert Harpole, father of Sue Harole, and Erle “Walker” Mulherin.

We give thanks for the marriage on May 16 of Rebecca Christine Wiley & Randy Lavon Moulder II.


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.

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

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: hwww.gracestlukes.org/welcome/clergy-and-staff.

Vestry and Treasurer: Grant Adams (Worship & Liturgy), Jimpsie 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 (Sr. Warden, Property, Stewardship), Anna Robbins (Congregational Development), Tom Stephenson (Stewardship), Bev Trojan (Treasurer), and Simon Wadsworth (Sr. Warden, Administration & Communications, Stewardship).
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+

The Reverend Ollie V. Rencher, Rector
901.252.6320 | orencher@gracestlukes.org
Friday, May 8, 2020
A Message from the Rector
Associate Rector Search Process Update

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

It is a joy to announce that the Reverend Laura F. Gettys has accepted my appointment to serve as the next Associate Rector at Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, beginning July 1, 2020. Since 2011, Laura has served at St. Mary’s Episcopal Cathedral in Memphis as Canon Pastor for Parish Life (January 2011-2019) and now as Interim Dean (January 2019-May 31, 2020). Prior to ministry at the Cathedral, she served at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Oxford, Mississippi, Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia, Church of the Epiphany in Washington, D.C., and Trinity Episcopal School in Charlotte, North Carolina. I was privileged to serve with Laura in Oxford during my time as Assistant to the Rector/Episcopal Campus Minister (2007-2008).

As Associate Rector, Laura will collaborate with me on carrying out our mission, ministry, and vision through administrative leadership; nurture and support of members and newcomers; modeling spiritual formation growth and faithful stewardship; and patterning outreach and social justice ministry that encourages parishioners for ministry within and beyond the parish. She is a compassionate, wise, talented, and faithful priest and pastor, whose experience will bolster Congregational Development, Outreach and Community Engagement, and Formation at GSL. She is a prophetic preacher who upholds that relationships and shared stories are significant ways to find healing and transformation for community and the world.

An alumna of Rhodes College and Virginia Theological Seminary, Laura has served on several boards and partnered with Memphis Christian Pastors Network (MCPN), Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope (MICAH), Overton Park Conservancy, and is currently board member and past Board President for the Lynching Sites Project of Memphis. She has lived in East Africa where she learned from and worked with those living with HIV/AIDS. She is published in Maryknoll Journal Institute, trained in mediation and conflict resolution, Family Systems Thinking, and Crucial Conversations, and enjoys renewal from spiritual retreats and more. Laura is married to Josh Gettys and they have two sons, Foster (9) and Joseph (7). Raised at Grace-St. Luke’s Church, she is excited to return with her family to partner with us in our thriving life and ministry.

Please join me in thanking the Associate Rector Search Advisory Committee (Mike Davis, Jane Morse, Kurt Patton, Charlie Pazar, Beth Perkins, Virginia Rowland) and Senior Warden Simon Wadsworth for input to my search process. For a message about Laura’s last day of ministry at the Cathedral, read here.

Meanwhile, I am indebted to Interim Associate Rector, the Rev. Anne Carriere, who began her ministry among us in October. Upon Laura’s arrival, Anne will become Priest Associate, assist primarily with pastoral care, and continue enjoying retirement as a member of GSL. Our Curate, the Rev. Meredith Jane Day will depart from the clergy team for new life and ministry in the Diocese of Southern Ohio on June 30; more about plans to celebrate her ministry are coming soon. Stay tuned for information about plans to welcome the Rev. Laura F. Gettys and her family to GSL on July 1 and for much more about what makes this a community of faith.

Faithfully and gratefully,

Ollie+

The Reverend Ollie V. Rencher, Rector
901.252.6320 | orencher@gracestlukes.org