



GRACE-ST. LUKE'S

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MORNING SERVICE OF PRAYERS, MEDITATION AND MUSIC

MAY 3, 2020 10:30 AM

VIA LIVESTREAM

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: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

Preacher: The Rev. Meredith Jane Day

All are asked to observe silence during the

Voluntary: "IMPROVISATION ON CRIMOND (MY LORD MY GOD MY SHEPHERD IS)"

Patrick A. Scott

Welcome and Announcements

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.

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The Word of God

Hymn 645, stanzas 1-2, 5-6, "THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS"

music: St. Columba, Irish melody
text: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. of Psalm 23



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness
2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed
* 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in
* 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear
5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion
6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant
3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der
4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my
5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port
6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.
2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-less-tial feed-eth.
3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.
4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.
5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!
6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

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.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader Here ends the Lesson.

Psalm 23 *recited by all in unison*

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
 - 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures ***
and leads me beside still waters.
 - 3 **He revives my soul ***
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
 - 4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
 - 5 **You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; ***
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
 - 6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, ***
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord 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.

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader Here ends the Lesson.

The Sequence: Hymn 664, stanzas 1-2, "MY SHEPHERD WILL SUPPLY MY NEED"

music: Resignation, American folk melody
text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748); para. of Psalm 23



1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah
2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me



is his Name; _____ in pas - tures fresh he
is my stay; _____ one word of thy sup -
all my days; _____ oh, may thy house be



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.____
port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.____
mine a - bode and all my work be praise.____



He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my
There would I find a sett - led rest, while o - thers



sake his ways, _____ and leads me, for his
ta - ble spread; _____ my cup with bless - ings
go and come; _____ no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.____
o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head.____
or a guest, but like a child at home.____

The Gospel

10:1-10

Priest A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Priest Here ends the Lesson.

The Homily: The Rev. Meredith Jane Day

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 especially those who have died, especially Gervacio B. Ong Sr., grandfather of Terecille Basa-Ong, 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 anthem that then is followed by instrumental music, or following this service, you may make your offering online by clicking on or visiting gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving. You also may mail your offering to the church office. Grace-St. Luke's is 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 service 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, *Andante ma adagio*, from "CONCERTO NO. 1 FOR BASSOON"

music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Andrew Carroll, bassoon

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 708, "SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US"

music: Sicilian Mariners, Sicilian melody,
from *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792
text: *Hymns for the Young*, ca. 1830, alt.

1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us
ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;
learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,
for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!
with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

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: "TUBA TUNE IN D MAJOR, OP. 15"

Craig Sellar Lang

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
The Rev. Meredith Jane Day, Preacher
Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music and Organist
Andrew Carroll, Bassoon
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 Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 3, 10:30 a.m. Live Stream Service of Morning Prayer according to The Daily Office including sermon and music via the [GSL website](#) and [Facebook Live](#).

Tuesday, May 5, 8 until 8:15 p.m. Compline (Night Prayers) via [Facebook Live](#).

Wednesday Midweek Christian Formation, May 6, 5:30 until 6 p.m. The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher will share timely excerpts from *Following Jesus: Finding Our Home in an Age of Anxiety* (Henri J. M. Nouwen; foreword by Richard Rohr) and enhance the 30-minute session with music for meditation.

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

Thursday, May 7, 8 until 8:15 p.m. Compline (Night Prayers) via [Facebook Live](#).

Friday, May 8, 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 Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 10, 10:30 a.m. Live Stream Service of Morning Prayer according to The Daily Office including sermon and music via the [GSL website](#) and [Facebook Live](#).

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

Take Note

Important COVID-19 Update from The Rector. On May 1, the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher provided a message to the parish regarding virtual offerings and future in-person gatherings of GSL. The message is available in this leaflet or [click here](#) to read it on our website.

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.

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. starts May 3. GSL Director of Music and Organist Patrick Scott will present an organ recital on Facebook Live to launch a weekly series of short programs of music during the month of May on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. The May 3 event will feature some of Dr. Scott's favorites including: *Praise the Lord with drums and cymbals* (Sigfried Karg-Elert), *Toccata in C, BWV 564* (Johann Sebastian Bach); *Rhapsody* (Herbert Howells), *Variations on Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (Albert L. Travis), and an organ improvisation. Future Music in May concerts will feature music for bassoon, flute, and more by guest instrumentalists who have been serving at our Sunday 5:30 p.m. service. Videos of each livestream offering will be posted on www.gracestlukes.org/music. Spread the word and tune in.

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!



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](https://www.instagram.com/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, 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

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@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 Barb Frazer, Amanda Adams, the Rev. Gary Nowlin, Brian, Betsy Tate, Nancy Wilkerson, Charles Chandler, Caroline Clay, Kay, John, Patty McManus, and Brad Larson.

Our prayers are asked for those who have died: Gervacio B. Ong Sr., grandfather of Terecille Basa-Ong.

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 those celebrating birthdays, especially Breen Bland, Pym Campbell, Ashley Chiozza, Ben Cowan, Zoe Crider, Henry Davis, James Dowd, Hartley Ervin, Hayden Ervin, Jeb Fields, George Johnson, Steven King, Travis Nauert, Melissa Neale, Dan Pigg, Fred Ridolphi, Becky Robinson, King Self, Amy Starks, Samantha Stewart, Nelson Strother, Terry Trojan, Dale Tuttle, and Jennie Van Deveer, and **for those celebrating wedding anniversaries**, especially Doug & Kristen Duncan and Matt & Betsy Sights.

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

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Tel: 901.272.7425 • Email: gsl@gracestlukes.org • Clergy on Call for Pastoral Emergencies: 901-252-6334
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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 1, 2020

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

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

We continue to do our part in observing practices to slow the spread of COVID-19. Navigating life outside of the social, familial and religious norms of physical togetherness, this transformational season reminds that the body of Christ, the Church actually is the People of God. We are an Easter people interconnected by baptism, mission, ministry, faith, fear, anxiety, and hope that can withstand a pandemic. Mindful that you, like I, long to return for worship and other gatherings at GSL, I want to share what I know for now.

The clergy-staff team, wardens and vestry are unclear as to when in-person activities can resume. Our process will involve guidelines from our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf and her team, health and government officials, and many conversations with rectors of the larger congregations in the Memphis region. Thereafter, we will outline and communicate a way forward that will include both virtual and in-person offerings. I also am attentive to wisdom from the interfaith leaders of the Memphis Clergy Response to COVID-19 Team. Follow this link for the team's recent letter co-signed by Bishop Phoebe: <https://churchhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Clergy-Response-letter-042720.pdf>. The letter stresses reliance on the medical and scientific community as the primary resource for information, collaboration to both responsibly care for those who contract COVID-19 and determine when returning to in-person worship is possible, and the faith-based responsibility to speak up for the most vulnerable and marginalized members of the human family in and beyond our community.

Today, what we know is that phase one of the Shelby County and Memphis "back to business" plan will not be permissible until there have been fourteen (14) consecutive days of declining new cases of COVID-19. Then, places of worship may return to liturgies though limited to maximum of 25% capacity according to clear plans for physical distancing and sanitation routines. For GSL, how this will look and when we may return will be determined by Bishop Phoebe and our in-house team, and I promptly will update you.

I miss and am grateful to you as we prayerfully find our way through this painful time. For now, we simply are preparing to return wisely. Daily pastoral care and attention continue, as do a host of weekly virtual offerings for worship, formation, and fellowship with the clergy and friends. More Than A Meal's brown-bag plan is effective while Food Pantry reopen plans are being explored with our community ministry partners.

Now and always, your support of life at GSL is paramount and a powerful witness that the Church actually is the People of God. Stay tuned for more along the way.

Godspeed as we journey with Jesus,

Ollie+

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