



Celtic Evensong and Communion

Pentecost 16 (Proper 19)

12 September 2021 4:00 pm

We are so happy you are here.

*We come from many places to be together for a little while.
Each of us brings our own experience and traditions to this gathering.
So here in this place, let us take time together to encounter the holy.*

Please remember to silence all devices

The Opening Rite

Musical Meditation

Flow gently sweet Afton

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Meditation

My head knocks against the stars.
My feet are on the hilltops.
My finger-tips are in the valleys and shores of
universal life.
Down in the sounding foam of primal things I
reach my hands and play with pebbles of
destiny.
I have been to hell and back many times.
I know all about heaven, for I have talked with God.
I dabble in the blood and guts of the terrible.
I know the passionate seizure of beauty
And the marvelous rebellion of man at all signs
reading "Keep Off."

My name is Truth and I am the most elusive captive
in the universe.

— Carl Sandberg

The Invitatory and Psalm

Officiant In the beginning, God created, and it was good.
People **In the beginning was the Word.**

Psalm 116:1-8

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
2 The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.
3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

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- 4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The Lord watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the Lord has treated you well.
- 7 For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
- 8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord *
in the land of the living.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

The Lessons

Listen now to the Word of God

The First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens--wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

Autumn Leaves

The Second Reading

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Lector For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,
and for the Word of God within us,

People Thanks be to God.

Music for Meditation

Baptism

Evening Prayer

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

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Leader Let us turn our awareness to the Presence of the Divine that is always with us and always within us.
Silence.

Leader Let us bring before God all of those people and situations that are in any kind of need.
The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader Let us bring before God the poor, the forgotten, and those who are marginalized, as we renew our commitment to the lonely and the unloved.
The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader Let us ask God to use our prayerful intentions for the benefit of all who are in this room with us now, people we know and love, as well as people who are strangers to us. May we be blessings to one another.
The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader Let us call to mind our reasons to be thankful, as we remember our abundance and the lifegiving way of gratitude.
The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader May God still our minds, calm our hearts, breath fresh life into us, and make us instruments of peace, justice and compassion. **Amen.**

Leader Jesus says, “Come to me you who are troubled and I will give you rest.” So come, you who are broken in body or in spirit, you who are torn by relationships and doubt, you who feel deeply within yourselves the divisions of the world. Come, for Jesus invites us to bring our brokenness.

Music during Prayers

Durrow

Hymn during the Prayers

What wondrous love is this?

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss to lay aside his crown, for my soul, for my soul to lay aside his crown, for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Words: American Folk Hymn Music: Wondrous Love

The Grace O Holy One, we keep still; we listen. We hear you say, "I am your strength."
And we say to you, "You are our redeemer." **Amen.**

The Holy Communion

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts
People **We lift them to the Lord**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom. You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, seasons of life and death.

With saints and ancestors, with the seas and earth and sky, with animals and birds, with our friends and those unknown to us, with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

People **Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant We praise you that in Jesus you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity. We give thanks for his life-giving love, for his healing touch, for his vulnerability and for his gentleness.

Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and gave it to them saying:

All **"This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me."**

Celebrant So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it and gave it to them saying:

All **"This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me."**

Celebrant So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant Holy and gracious God, present with us now, send in kindness your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And as we share this holy food, may that same Spirit nourish, cherish and change us until through the mystery of your grace, we know ourselves to be flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone, and resolve to love and follow Christ for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

The Invitation

Celebrant This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,

You who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,

you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Beloved Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you in this life or in the life to come. Amen.

Communion

The Priest will come and give you communion in your pen.

Concluding Prayer

Watch now, O Christ, with those who are weary or wandering or weeping this night.

Guide them to a house of your peace and lead me to be caring for their tears. Amen.

Dismissal

Officiant The Lord almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.

All Thanks be to God.

Concluding Musical Meditation

A Mile Down the Road

***Please leave immediately and quietly at the end of the service
as we wish to continue to contemplate the sacred mysteries we have received.
We continue to practice social distancing while entering and leaving the space.***

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Debbie Phillips

Ryan Patten, Debbie Phillips, Eric Wagner

Paul Massari

Debbie Phillips

Officiant

Musicians

Assisting

Reflection

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Parish Prayer List

Virginia Szurma, Melissa Glassman, Corey MacNeil, Cliff Cutler, Helen Phillips, John Gourley, Martin Ryan, Kristin Gourley, Scott Tucker, Zan Duffy, Dianne, Linda Whalen, Deb Guilford, Kim Colvin, Sarah Colvin Duffy, Michael Towey, Christine Reichert, Nancy Brown, Jesse Kamp, Stacia, Bob Peterson, Brian Peterson, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, the people of Palestine, Afghanistan, and Haiti, and the Salem Public Schools. For the peaceful repose of the soul of Robert Squillaro. For an end to racism, gun violence and oppression.

If you have prayer requests, please email regathering@gracechurchsalem.org by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news.

Upcoming "Becoming an Anti-Racist" Events

Fall Cottage Meetings

We will gather again for our cottage meeting on antiracism. We are hoping that the Fall meetings will be in-person

Early November: Salem's Black History Trail

We will walk this self-guided audio tour focusing on Salem's African American history using the download on our mobile devices. Sponsored by Voices Against Injustice, the tour makes up one achievement of Salem's taskforce for confronting racism, who support initiatives towards making the narratives of remarkable African Americans from Salem's history more accessible to both visitors and locals.

The tour features 24 stops based on the legacies of African Americans throughout history from Tituba during the Salem Witch Trials in 1692 to the present day with contemporary author Stephen Hemingway.

November 28 – December 25: Anti-racist Advent Calendar

We will again offer a daily calendar during Advent of ways to reflect, pray, and act to become an anti-racist.

**Join us in this meaningful and rewarding work
in the Name of Christ.**

Every Perfect Gift

Our 2021 Stewardship Theme



What is the best gift you have ever received?

We have been asked this question throughout our lives by many people in different contexts. Possible answers to a parent or a teacher could be a new walkie-talkie set (these were the Seventies), a bike, a horseback ride with my grandmother, or when as a teenager, a jeep in the driveway with a big red bow on it. Later it could have been an education, a chance to study abroad, canoeing on a quiet river, making Christmas cookies with our mom.

Every Perfect Gift

What do these perfect gifts give us, aside from the pleasure of the possession? They teach us about living in the moment, appreciating what we have. They also teach us generosity, for the delight in experiencing the gifts call us to share such moments and experiences with others. This is the relationship between receiving and generosity, and it's a pattern, that, once it takes root in us, continues in perpetuity. The more we practice generosity, the more abundance we recognize around us.

The theme and image for Every Perfect Gift are wrapped in the metaphor of the butterfly and chrysalis. To the ancient Greeks, the butterfly represented the image of rebirth and freedom. The word they used for butterfly was psyche. It also means spirit. The humble and beautiful butterfly contains the philosophical and spiritual idea of the soul breaking free from its shell — free to discover, to inspire, to create, to communicate, to share.

These are also gifts of our stewardship. As we share our time, talent, and treasure with our church and with the world, we unleash those same gifts in our communities: discovery, inspiration, creativity, communication, sharing. Through the ministries that are enabled by our gifts, the inspiration we show to our neighbors to unlock their generosity in the world, and the stories we tell about ourselves and our experiences, we participate with God in an abundant vision for the world. Every perfect gift comes from God above.

Upcoming Reflections

During this season of late Pentecost, our Celtic Reflections will be a 2-5 minute sharing of a great gift that you received and the impact it made. So come and hear all the blessings of this life. Come and remember the gifts of love you receive.

LOVING LIBERATING LIFE GIVING *the Jesus Movement*

— Grace Episcopal Church —

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry
The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates
The Right Reverend Gayle E. Harris
The Reverend Deborah A. Phillips
Larry Kamp
Tom and Karen Tucker
Hugh MacKay and Joanne Moar

*Presiding Bishop
Bishop Diocesan
Bishop Suffragan
Rector
Director of Music
Property Stewards
Vergers*

— Vestry —

Brian Fizer
Peggy Carter
Ryan Patten
Joanne Moar

*Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Clerk
Treasurer*

Laura Beasley-Topliffe, Andrew Bishop
Lisa Duffy, Katie LaBonte
Angela Williams

Members of Vestry