



Celtic Evensong

Pentecost 15: Proper 19

13 September 2020 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

Planxty Hewlett

Celtic Melody

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Meditation

In your deep silence and your mystery
You led me to confess and be forgiven.
You gave me the relief of honesty.

How long and bitterly I might have striven
With all the guilt that I could hardly name
How painfully my heart might have been riven

By hidden memories and secret shame
Instead you blessed me with a new beginning
Unbound me from bands and brands of blame

My false accounts of losing or of winning
And called me to come forth like Lazarus
And start my life again, rejoicing, singing

Baptised and born in your mysterious
And all-involving love, a love that lifts,
A love that comforts and embraces us..
- Malcolm Guite

The Invitatory and Psalm

Eternal Spirit,
Flow through our being and open our lips,
That our mouths may proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the God of love.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Song to the Light



I will kin - dle my fire in the morn of the day, in the pres-ence of ho - ly



an - gels. With-out mal - ice or jeal - ous-y, en - vy or fear, with-out



ter - ror of an - y-one un - der the sun, but the Ho - ly Be-lov - ed to shield me.



O Ho - ly one, kin - dle thou here in my heart, a flame of pure love to my



neigh - bor, to my foe, to my friend, to my kin - dred all, to the



brave, to the knave, to the thrall. O child of the love-li-est Ma - ry, from the



low - li-est thing, to the Ho - ly Name, the be - lov - ed of all.

Words: *Carmina Gadelica*, alt.

Music: Mary Truly Erney © 1998 St. Hildegard's Community. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Psalm 114

- 1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Glory to the Holy Trinity, who was, and is, and ever shall be to the end of the ages. Amen.

The Lesson

The Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Listen now to the Word of God.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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.**

The Canticle

Creation

O all ye works of God, now come to thank him and adore;
O angels, sing and bless the Lord and praise him evermore.

O sun and moon and stars of heaven, your endless praise outpour;
O changing seasons, bless the Lord and praise him evermore.

So let us glorify and bless the God we bow before,
The Father, Holy Spirit, Son, and praise him evermore.

Reflection

Music for Meditation

Peaceful River

Celtic melody

The Affirmation

We believe in God, the creator of all life and beauty, who blesses our journey.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who lived as a friend and savior to all he met as he traveled,
and who ate and laughed, wept and celebrated with them in love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who rides on the gentle breeze, who strengthens our bindings,
and who offers hope eternal.

We believe in the church, which stands open to all travelers,
and bears witness to the everlasting love of God.

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Evening Prayer

God our Savior: Meet us in this time and place; focus our hearts on your love, feed the hungry places of our souls, release us from all that resists your grace, and renew our bodies to serve your world. . **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Holy One, we praise you for the wonders of your creation:
Make us joyful and faithful stewards.

As the day grows long,
Bless us with the gift of laying down our burdens.

And not ours only:
Help us lift the weights we have placed on others and on your creation.

Create in us, again and always, your heart of grace.
May we rest on the sure foundation of your love.

We offer these prayers of our hearts:
Please take a moment and name in the comment section those your hearts hold up in prayer. Amen.

Light Prayers

During the playing of the music, please continue to offer your prayers

Music during Prayers

Neil Gow's Lament for his Second Wife

Celtic Melody

Introduction

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness
 2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure

of the sea; there's a kind - ness in his jus -
 up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail -
 of the mind; and the heart of the E - ter -

tice, which is more than lib - er - ty. There is wel - come
 ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given. There is plen - ti -
 nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were

for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good; there is mer - cy
 ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for
 but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word; and our life would

Interlude/Conclusion

with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Final Meditation

The desert is always the same,
 the sky is always beautiful,
 the road deserted.

The only thing that is always new
 is God.

- Carlo Carretto

Concluding Canticle

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;
 that awake we may watch with Christ,
 and asleep we may rest in peace.

Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised.
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see;
A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

The Concluding Prayer

O Christ, kindle in our hearts within a flame of love to our neighbor, to our foes to our friends, to our kindred all.
O Christ of the loveliest Mary, of the poor and the yearning, from the humblest thing that lives, to the highest of all, kindle in our hearts within the flame of love.

Concluding Blessing

Officiant May the nourishment of the earth be yours, May the clarity of light be yours,
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.
And the blessing of the Holy Trinity be with you now and evermore. Amen.
(John O'Donohue, from 'Benedictus: A Book of Blessings')

Dismissal

Officiant The Lord almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.
All Thanks be to God.

Concluding Musical Meditation

The Parting Glass

Celtic Melody

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Debbie Phillips
Ryan Patten, Eric Wagner, Debbie Phillips
Debbie Phillips

Officiant
Musicians
Reflector

Prayer Rocks

The Regathering Team is offering passers-by the opportunity to safely leave short prayers on rocks on our front steps. There is a basket of rocks, Sharpies and hand sanitizer for use. The rocks are really beginning to collect!

Weekday Services at Grace Church

Need a quick pick me up? Why not log into our Facebook page on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30 am for morning prayers? An evening service is offered each Wednesday at 5:30 pm.

Conversations: Systemic Racism

The leadership of Grace Church has committed to facilitating conversation that enables us to consider how racism impedes our growth as individuals, as a faith community, and as a country. They will be hosting small, virtual “cottage meetings” that will help us begin to examine this spiritual subject. Racism is so embedded in all aspects of our lives that we can miss its impact on our lives. This conversation will open up ways for us to free ourselves from its control.

You will receive information and invitation to these conversations in a few weeks, with most of the meetings occurring the last two weeks in September. These will be small, safe groups to voice our stories, concerns and hopes.

This is one of the roles of a community of faith, to walk with one another as we strive to fulfill God’s dream. Please step out in faith and join us as we consider how we can live in a liberated and loving world.



Caring for God’s Gift of Life: September Event and Fundraiser

It's not too late to join the Grace Church "Let's Keep Ourselves and Our Schools Healthy Challenge." To participate, choose an individual healthy goal to be completed during the month of September and find sponsors. Send an email to Fundraising@gracechurchsalem.org with your name and activity so that the fundraising committee can keep track of who is participating and answer any questions. A form to track sponsors and activity on a daily basis can be found on our website or by emailing the fundraising group. You keep the form and collect from sponsors at the end of September for donation to the church. Funds raised in this challenge will help offset administrative costs associated with Grace Church honoring its commitment to support the Salem Public Schools.

Some of the challenges so far: Debbie's 93 year old mother committed to 250 stair steps a day and has already raised \$300 and Brian Fizer is running each day and is halfway to his goal of raising \$800. Others are walking more, eating more vegetables, and cutting down on their smoking. Please join us as we stay fit and raise funds for the Bentley Partnership.



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 —

Tom Gaither
Brian Fizer
Ryan Patten
Joanne Moar

*Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Clerk
Treasurer*

Melissa Barnes, Laura Beasley-Topliffe,
Katie LaBonte, Jane Stewart
Jason Stonehouse, Angela Williams

Members of Vestry