

INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVANCE

4-5 July 2020

In "Virtual Grace"

Organ Prelude - *"Fanfare for the Common Man"* Aaron Copland

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hello and welcome to "Virtual Grace"
from Grace Episcopal Church in Honesdale, PA,
as we commemorate Independence Day,
or as you will hear in today's borrowed sermon -
"Inter-dependence Day."

I'm Fr. Ed, the rector of Grace Church.
We are grateful to all who have walked "Virtual Grace" these many weeks
and offer thanksgiving that we can open our doors for worship -
sadly, still with limitations and regulations for the safety of all.
Nonetheless, we are glad to continue offering these video services.

We are grateful for those who have been able to make your sacrifices
in offerings and contributions.
Please help us to continue the various ministries of Grace Church
through your gifts, remembering those in need around our community.
If you are in any pastoral need or would like to schedule private Communion
in your home, call me to set up an appointment.

In our prayers this week, we offer up Rob and Bentley who have surgery;
as well as Russ and Tammy.

We particularly remember today all those around the country and throughout
the world who struggle for and promote freedom, justice and peace for
all people, and ask for us all to respect the dignity of every human being,
as we promise in our Baptismal Covenant.

Come now, and let us bless the Lord together.

In the name of God the Creator, ✚ God the Sustainer, God who Sanctifies. Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION of SIN

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

Therefore, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

CANTICLE

Jubilate Deo

BCP p.82

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 10: 17-21

The LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the LORD your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast,

and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

PSALM 145

- ¹ I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- ² Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.
- ⁴ One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.
- ⁵ I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- ⁹ The Lord is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.

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.

The EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 11: 8-16

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too

old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

HYMN

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

The HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5: 43-38

Jesus said to the multitudes "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

MEDITATION

“Inter-Dependence Day” *by the Rev’d Nils Chittenden*
Diocese of North Carolina, Duke University

The APOSTLES’ CREED

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.

The PRAYERS

Let us pray.

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.

For Independence Day

BCP p.242

Almighty God, in your Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, as they lit the torch of freedom for nations yet unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

For the Nation

BCP p.258

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

For Peace

BCP p.123

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. Help us, O Lord. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name. *Amen.*

For Heroic Service

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BCP p. 839

HYMN

God of our Fathers, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band.
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies
Our grateful songs, before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past.
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay.
Thy word our law, thy paths our chosen ways.

From wars alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
Thy bounteous goodness, nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night, to never ending day;
Fill all our lives, with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May God bless us and keep us.
May God make his face to shine upon us
and be gracious to us.
May God lift his countenance upon us.
and give us peace. *Amen.*

Organ Postlude

“Variation on ‘America’ ”

Charles Ives

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