

The SECOND Sunday after PENTECOST, 2020

Virtual Grace

Organ Prelude - *“All people that on earth do dwell”* Hymnal 1982 #377, 378

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hello and welcome to “Virtual Grace”
from Grace Episcopal Church in Honesdale, PA,
on this 2nd Sunday in “Ordinary Time” - our “Green Season.”

For any who are just joining us, let me introduce myself:

I’m Fr. Ed, the rector of our parish.

We are grateful to all who have walked “Virtual Grace” these many weeks
and we offer thanksgiving that we can now open our doors for worship -
sadly, still with limitations and regulations for the safety of all.

For that reason, we are glad to continue offering these video services.

If you are in any pastoral need at all, call me, 24/7.

I am more than ready to come to your spiritual aid and visit you -
sadly, still with a mask!

We are grateful for those who have been able to make your sacrifices
in offerings and contributions.

If you are able, help us to continue the various ministries of Grace Church
through your gifts, remembering those in need around our community.

Come now, and let us bless the Lord together.

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

CONFESSIO

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.

May Almighty God in mercy receive our confession of sorrow and of faith,
strengthen us in all goodness, ☩ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us
in eternal life. Amen.

Join with me, as you are able, in offering God praise with the canticle *Jubilate*.

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.

COLLECT

Proper 6-A, p. 230

Let us pray:

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and
love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness,
and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior
Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Romans 5: 1-8

¹ Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² He has brought us by faith into this experience of God's grace, in which we now live. And so we boast of the hope we have of sharing God's glory! ³ We also boast of our troubles, because we know that trouble produces endurance, ⁴ endurance brings God's approval, and his approval creates hope. ⁵ This hope does not disappoint us, for God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us. ⁶ For when we were still helpless, Christ died for the wicked at the time that God chose. ⁷ It is a difficult thing for someone to die for a righteous person. It may even be that someone might dare to die for a good person. ⁸ But God has shown us how much he loves us - it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!

Here ends the Reading.

PSALM 116: 1-2, 12-18

¹ I love the Lord, because he hears me; he listens to my prayers. *
² He listens to me every time I call to him.
¹² What can I offer the Lord *
for all his goodness to me?
¹³ I will bring a wine offering to the Lord, *
to thank him for saving me.
¹⁴ In the assembly of all his people *
I will give him what I have promised.
¹⁵ How painful it is to the Lord *
when one of his people dies!
¹⁶ I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just as my mother did. *
You have saved me from death.
¹⁷ I will give you a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and offer my prayer to you.
¹⁸ In the assembly of all your people,
in the sanctuary of your Temple in Jerusalem, *
I will give you what I have promised.
Praise the Lord!

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.

SECOND READING

Matthew 5:35- 6:1, 5, 7-8a

³⁵ Jesus went around visiting all the towns and villages. He taught in the synagogues, preached the Good News about the Kingdom, and healed people with every kind of disease and sickness. ³⁶ As he saw the crowds, his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were worried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ So he said to his disciples, "The harvest is large, but there are few workers to gather it in. ³⁸ Pray to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest."

¹ Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness.

⁵ They were sent out by Jesus with the following instructions: ⁷Go... to the lost sheep... and proclaim the good news, "The Kingdom of heaven is near!" ⁸ Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, heal those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases, and drive out demons.

Here ends the Reading.

MEDITATION "GO"

Adam and Eve;

Abraham and Sarah;

Joseph;

Moses and Aaron and Miriam.

And all the way down to the Gospels with Jesus sending out his followers: "Go!"

From the beginnings, God has told his people to "Go."

Weeks before the pandemic hit us, I was using the six books of *The Way of Love* from the National Church as themes for meditation.

I pick up the last two this week and next.

This week's book is entitled, "Go,"

which we haven't been able to do much of these many weeks.

But with Wayne County turning "Green" and with today's Gospel reading,

I think it appropriate to pick up where we left off

and take Jesus' Commission to those who believe in him and live in him.

Go.

But we don't need to go far.

In today's Commission from Jesus, he tells us not to go too far,

not to Samaria as a model, but to stay and bring back the lost sheep of Israel.

Our Senior Warden, the one you elected to keep me in line,

urged us some time ago to consider those who have slipped out,

or who for one reason or another, have felt pushed out -

by me, by parishioners, by the Episcopal Church, by God.

Let's discern how we can go to them.

It may be just a block away, a mile away, even a pew away.

We may be here in name, but are we here in faith, in conviction, in dedication?

What can we do to go out, to stay close, to bring back, to hold dear

those in our family of faith,

or those who feel themselves to be those we have lost.

Jesus needs our help; I need *your* help.

We need to reach out, ask, listen, find out, and share

how people are hurting and needing to be given our good news,

however small or large that gift may be.

The official legal name of the Episcopal Church is:

The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

What comes first?

The Domestic; right here, right now.

In the office,

in the waiting lanes at the gas station and supermarket,

walking down the sidewalk,

in our own homes, with those we are called to love as have pledged to love.

Jesus doesn't call many of us, to go to the ends of the world.

In the moments of his Ascension to heaven,

Jesus tells us disciples to go to the ends of the earth, to be sure.

But he tells us to start at the center - in those days, from Jerusalem out.

We are called to begin right here, in our own neighborhood, with every relationship.

German Philosopher and Theologian Martin Buber in his seminal work: *Ich und Du* pushes us to think about relationships:

it is in our relationships that we can encounter God.

“Ich und Du” - the English title is “I and Thou.”

In the Church, we say “thou” we elevate God beyond our reach as a formal address.

But in early English, “thou” was the familiar form, one on one, as equals.

We, every human, made in the image of God and redeemed in the image of Christ.

So a better translation of Buber's work would be, “Me and You” - us.

Buber's quote is: “The one who truly meets the world reaches out also to God.”

Thus, I say, in our relationships with the Other, whoever that may be,

we can embrace God.

Our great Commission from Jesus is to start right here,
to go right outside ourselves to the person beyond us, whoever that may be,
and preach the good news, offer the kindness, stretch out the hand,
to heal, to lift up the broken-hearted, to release the prisoners...

Our hymn today is: "Lord, you give the great commission; *Hymnal 1982, 528*
lest the Church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose...
with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

AMEN!

The 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.

PRAYERS

BCP Form II, adapted

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin the
Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our
Bishop; for the Diocesan staff; and for all ministers and people.

I ask your prayers for this parish family, and for all who remain isolated from their community of faith.

I ask your prayers for those who govern and hold authority in the nations; that they may be led to govern with equity and justice to benefit the entire human family. Inspire them to discover new ways of overcoming divisions and mistrust. We pray for Donald, the President of the United States, the Congress, Thomas our Governor, and Sarah, mayor of our Borough.

I ask your prayers for those who rejoice this week; for James and Will, celebrating their marriage; for those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries:

I ask your prayers for the poor, for those who are on furlough or have lost their jobs; for the sick, especially Libby, Russ, Bill and Rob; the hungry; the oppressed, and anxious; and those in prison, especially Justin and Mitchell. I ask your prayers for those anticipating death, especially Jim.

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Ashley; those who have died by violent acts, and those who have succumbed to the complications of COVID-19.

I ask your thanksgiving for families with whom we live and love; thanksgivings for first responders, health-care workers and all who offer of themselves for the betterment of others.

Lord, hear the prayers of your people. And what we have asked faithfully, may we receive effectually to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us now pray together in the words which Christ himself taught us, saying:

Our Father...

“A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God”

From Pentecost Sunday through the first Sunday in September, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his Lutheran counterpart Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray “A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God.” This prayer – crafted by a team of Lutheran and Episcopal prayer leaders in light of the COVID pandemic – is meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.

God of all power and love,
we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
Revive us to live as Christ’s body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn,
[break bread], share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Eternal God, heavenly Father, BCP p.365
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ...
Send us out into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty ☩ be upon you and remain with you forever.
Amen.

Organ Postlude -

“*Lord, you give the great Commission*”

Wonder, Love & Praise #780

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