



Grace Episcopal Church Galena, Illinois

Pentecost 23

November 8, 2020

Welcome to Grace Church!

It is, as always, a pleasure and privilege to worship together today. Please know that your presence is valued whether this is your first time at Grace or whether you are a regular, whether we are together in person or online on Zoom.

We have chosen to keep our online and in-person congregations together. For those at home on Zoom, links to the bulletin may be found in Friday's e-Blast, the Zoom invitation, and on our website. Printed copies will be available for the in-person congregation. If you are worshipping in the church and wish to use a bulletin on your electronic device, you must download it **before** coming into the church. Please be aware that we are recording this service for later upload to Facebook, YouTube and our website. It is possible that you will be shown briefly in the recording.

Please remember:

Masks must be worn throughout your time at Grace for the protection of those near you.

Hand sanitizer is available at each of the entrances.

Sit only in the seats marked by bulletins and leave plenty of space between worshipers/families.

Please put your smartphone or other device in airplane mode so that our internet capacity is reserved for our online streaming.

At the time of Communion, the Vestry Coordinator will guide your approach to the chancel steps in the center aisle maintaining distance between communicants.

Reservations are required in advance and you will be checked in by the greeter and admitted through the Parish House entrance. If you did not reserve a seat, please check with the Vestry Coordinator to see if an open seat is available.

Baskets are available at the exits for your pledges/contributions.

Should you become ill after attending worship, please notify the church so that others present may be contacted.

At the end of the service, please depart from the church and maintain the six-foot distancing.

Conversations should take place outside.

As life continues to change, let us rejoice in God who continues to be revealed to us and give thanks for our ability to share in worship in hope for the time when all of us can be together again.

***As we prepare ourselves for worship, please sit or kneel in quietness
as the prelude is offered.***

MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

* Members and Guests, *Celebrants*

* Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell, *Presider*

* Rev. Diane Luther, *Deacon*

* Phil Jackman, *Lector*

* Bill Foltz, *Intercessor*

* Robin French, *Music Director*

* Nancy Cook, *Erben Organ*

* Nancy Cook, *Vestry Coordinator*

* Charlotte Stryker, *Altar Guild*

* Amy Hardwicke, *Greeter*

We gather to worship

PRELUDE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy/M. Hayes

Please stand as able as the church bells ring.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed be the one holy, and living God.

People: **Glory to God forever and ever.**

THE COLLECT

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

THE LESSON

Lector: A reading from **Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25**

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight.”

He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

PSALM 78:1-7 *(alternately by verse as directed by the lector)*

Attendite, popule

Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

**We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, ***
and the wonderful works he has done.

He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

**That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; ***
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

THE EPISTLE

Lector: A Reading from **1 Thessalonians**

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to **Matthew**.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell

We affirm our faith

THE CREED

(Please stand as able.)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son], who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. ***Amen.***

We offer prayers

Deacon: Gracious and Holy One, you have made us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Make known to us your radiant and unfading wisdom, that we may participate in your work of reconciling love, as we pray: Fix our thoughts on your wisdom, which is perfect understanding.

Intercessor: Guard your Church, O Gracious One, and let your Wisdom appear to us in our paths and meet us in every thought. Fix our thoughts on your wisdom

People: **which is perfect understanding.**

Lector: Guide the leaders of our nation and those who exercise authority throughout the world to plan with wise foresight; grant them your Wisdom to seize the moment of decision to act in accordance with your will. Fix our thoughts on your wisdom

People: **which is perfect understanding.**

Intercessor: Come speedily to aid the poor and needy and bring them the comfort of your divine compassion. Fix our thoughts on your wisdom

People: **which is perfect understanding.**

Lector: Give us wisdom in this community to be stewards of your gifts, that we may not consume the resources you have given us, but preserve them for ourselves and our neighbors for generations to come. Fix our thoughts on your wisdom

People: **which is perfect understanding.**

Intercessor: Liberate from their cares and anxieties those for whom we pray in intercession, especially and all those on our Prayer List. Others? _____

People: Fix our thoughts on your wisdom
which is perfect understanding.

Lector: Deepen our appreciation for all the gifts of life and enlightenment that you bestow upon us, especially for Alex (Meade) and Max (Vollkommer) serving in the military; the birthdays of *Alex (Kerkhoven) and *Carol (Peterson); the anniversary of *Tom and *Pat Golden; our outreach partners Glory Parish in the Diocese of Renk and La Santa Cruz parish in the Diocese of SE Mexico; the United Thank Offering, the Galena ARC, the United Churches Food Pantry, Episcopal Relief and Development, Shelter Care Ministries, Dubuque Rescue Mission; all who worship in this place and those who have not yet walked through these doors.
Others? _____.

We believe that Jesus died and rose again. May we grieve with profound hope for those who have died and those who mourn, and those whose anniversaries of death we observe this week: Mary (Coleman), Belle (Schurmeier), Christina (McDermott), Glen (Buening), Nathan (Coleman), Lloyd (Brett) and Regina (Calvert). Others? _____.

Fix our thoughts on your wisdom
which is perfect understanding.

Deacon: Deepen our desire for instruction, O God, that we may love Wisdom and follow in your way, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, live and reign, One God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSON OF SIN

(Stand or kneel as able)

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People: **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.**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**
(Stand as able.)

We share the Peace of Christ

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

We share the ministries of the Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS/BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY

ANNIVERSARY/BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Holy Communion

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

PRESENTATION HYMN LEVAS 13 *My Lord, What a Morning* Traditional/Negro Spiritual

As the hymn is played, and the altar is prepared for Communion, you may reflect on these words:

My Lord, what a morning, my Lord, what a morning
O my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall

You'll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the sinner mourn, to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

While many spirituals may have been conceived on plantations in the southern United States, musicologist in African-American music, Eileen Southern, contends that free African Americans also composed them “in the independent black congregations of the North, where black congregations, freed from the supervision of white clergymen, could conduct their religious services as they wished” (Southern, 1972, p. 11). “My Lord, What a Morning” appears to have been one of those composed in the North.

*Theologically, African American theologian and Civil Rights leader Howard Thurman (1899–1981) indicates that this spiritual portrays “the judgment [that] is personal and cosmic so that even the rocks and the mountains, the stars, the sea, are all involved in so profound a process.” W.E.B. DuBois (1868–1963), author of *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903), comments on this genre of text in the book’s final chapter, “Of the Sorrow Songs”:*

Through all the sorrow of the Sorrow Songs there breathes a hope—a faith in the ultimate justice of things. The minor cadences or despair change often to triumph and calm confidence. Sometimes it is faith in life, sometimes a faith in death, sometimes assurance of boundless justice in some fair world beyond. But whichever it is, the meaning is always clear: that sometime, somewhere, [people] will judge [people] by their souls and not by their skins. Is such a hope justified? Do the Sorrow Songs sing true?

—C. Michael Hawn, “History of Hymns,”

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/history-of-hymns>, retrieved 11/4/2020.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP Prayer B*

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The text of Eucharistic Prayer B is from the expansive text approved by General Conventions Resolution 2018-DO78.

Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

(Stand or kneel as able.)

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

Presider:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People:

We remember Christ's death, We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;

Presider: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. *Amen.***

FRACTION

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

For those at home:

PRAYER FOR WHEN WE ARE UNABLE TO SHARE COMMUNION

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. ***Amen.***

-- The Prayer Book for the Armed Services

Presider: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

THE BLESSING

Presider: Life is short and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are travelling the dark journey with us. Oh be swift to love, make haste to be kind, in the name of God, our Creator, Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, our Sustainer of Life.

People: ***Amen.***

Deacon: Go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*The flowers today are given by Tom & Karlyn Van Gelder,
celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

for Sunday, November 15, 2020

Pentecost 24

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Music Copyright Information

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My Lord, What a Morning; Traditional/Negro Spiritual
O God of Every Nation; Llongloffan/Krug© Lorenz Publishing
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers are Requested: *Please include the following concerns during worship today and throughout the week:*

Cycle of Prayer:

The Most Rev. Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury and for our companion Parishes: Glory Parish in the Diocese of Renk and La Santa Cruz parish in the Diocese of SE Mexico.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeffrey, our Bishop and all members of Grace Church.

We pray for those who are sick or in need:

Havyk (Beauchamp), *Ruth (Beegle), Barb (Bolsen), Vincent (Bucci), *Bob (Burton), *Bill (Calvert), *Kathy (Doig), Matthew (Dowe), *Renee (Dowe), *Al (Elsbree), Mary (English), Keith (Ferguson), Daney (Fitzpatrick), *Jennie (Fjelde), Martha (Furst), Bev (Getz), Susan (Haerle), *Barb (Hooper), Howell Family, Ginger (Komiskey), Alden (Kuntz), Verity (Liljedahl), Dave (Luther), *Diann & *Robert (Marsh), *Mary (Nelson), Sarah (Newton), *Bill (Norton), Maureen (O'Dea), Laurie (Parnau), Lisa (Prindle), Steve (Raiman), David (Schaller), Jason (Schaller), Melody (Serwich), *Pat (Terry), *Tom (V.), Mina, Stanley, Don, Heather (H.), David (J.) and Kathie (O.) and Bruce (W.)

We give thanks for the many blessings we have received:

Max (Vollkommer) and Matthew (Morel) serving in the military: the birthdays of *Alex (Kerkhoven) and *Carol (Peterson); the anniversary of *Tom & *Pat (Golden); our Outreach partners: the United Thank Offering, the Galena ARC, the United Churches Food Pantry, Episcopal Relief and Development, Shelter Care Ministries, Dubuque Rescue Mission and all who worship in this place and those who have not yet walked through these doors.

We pray for those who have died, and the anniversary of the deaths of:

Mary (Coleman), Belle (Schurmeier), Christina (McDermott), Glen (Buening), Nathan (Coleman), Lloyd (Brett) and Regina (Calvert).

ANNOUNCEMENTS for November 8, 2020

Zoom Poetry Meeting

A Zoom Poetry group is meeting at Grace Church on Mondays at 2:00pm. If you are interested, write Carol Poston at poston@sxu.edu or call her at 815-777-0220 to receive the link to the meeting.

Mid-Week Eucharist is this Wednesday, November 11th, at 7:30am in the church and online.

Wednesday Morning Study Group is Wednesday, November 11th, at 10:30am online.

Meditative Prayer meets Friday, November 13th, at 9:00am online. You are welcome to join, and gentle guidance will be provided for those unfamiliar with this practice.

Bishop Candidate Conversations continue on Zoom on November 12th, 13th and 14th.

All are invited to participate in one or all. The links and details may be found at <https://chicagobishopsearch.org/candidate-conversations>.



grace episcopal church
galena, illinois

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee, Bishop of Chicago
The Very Rev. Gloria G. Hopewell, D. Min., Rector
The Rev. Linda Packard, Priest Associate
The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon
Nancy Kenney, Parish Administrator

Vestry

Greg Serwich Sr. Warden
Richard Luther Treasurer

Anita Sands (2018-21) Tony Packard (2018-21) Charlotte Stryker (2019-22)
Elizabeth Ludescher (2019-22) Nancy Cook (2020-23) Eric Kallback (2020-23)

Lynn Giles Jr. Warden
Diann Marsh Clerk

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November 8, 2020

The gifts of faith

BY THE REV. MATTHEW WOODWARD

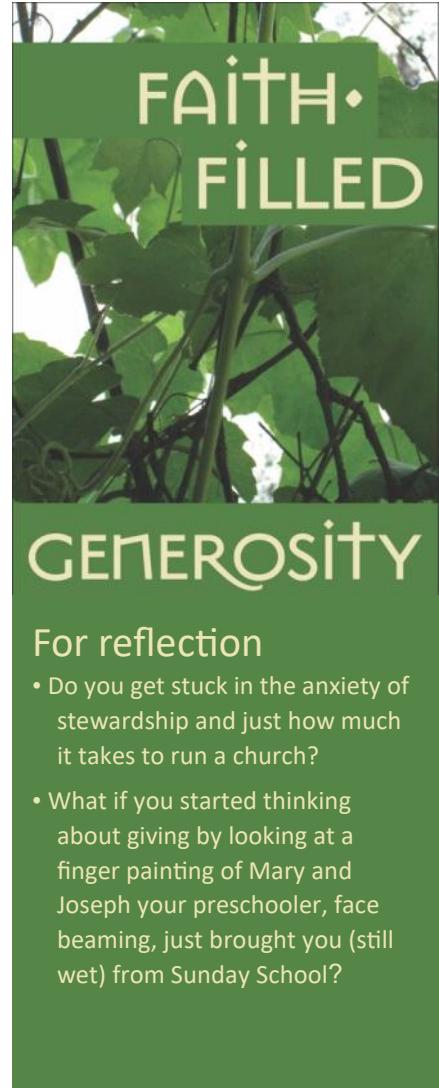


The parable of the wise and foolish virgins brings back so many rector wedding memories. I have to say, virgins trimming wicks are few and far between in early 21st century Bay Area weddings; you are more likely to find mason jars liberally strewn around the barn venue and handwritten chalkboards offering tri-tip, which you can eat perched on a bale of hay. But the frenetic last-minute energy of things needing to be fixed is just the same today as in scripture.

If you get stuck in the anxiety, keeping company with the wedding planner and their staff, you are going to miss the point of the event. Weddings confer the blessing of companionship. We can get stuck in the mechanics of delivery and all of the anxiety it generates. Or we can acknowledge that love is a great gift, and we should be grateful for it.

I once oversaw a wedding in which the couple forgot to get a license. I took a deep breath, made sure they had a wonderful day, and secretly remarried them a month or two later. Their love for each other was a gift. We found a way to fix the paperwork.

Faith is a gift, Christian community is a gift; worship, children's choirs and that moment when teenagers suddenly make a profound connection with their faith: These are all gifts. We could get caught up in the anxiety of paying for it all, or we could just say thank you and write the pledge that shows how grateful we are for all we have received.



The Rev. Matthew Woodward is an Englishman on the West Coast of America and the Rector of Transfiguration Episcopal Church in San Mateo California. He is a recent puppy parent, and loves comics. He has also found stewardship ministry to be a real joy, rather than the other thing, in recent years.