

**The Liturgy of the Word**  
**The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 12, 2020**  
**Grace Episcopal Church**

## **Opening**

*Officiant* Christ has no body on earth now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on the world; yours are the feet with which he walks to do good; yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. *Theresa of Avila*

**Prelude** *Fugue in G minor, BuxWV 149* Dietrich Buxtehude

## **Opening Acclamation and Collect For Purity**

Celebrant Blessed be the one, Holy and Living God.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Song of Praise** *A Song of Creation, part 2*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
sing praise and give honor for ever.

In the high vault of heaven, glorify the Lord, \*  
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Let the earth glorify the Lord, \*  
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains  
and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, \*  
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, \*  
O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, \*  
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, \*  
and all you flocks and herds.

O God's beloved everywhere, glorify the Lord, \*  
sing praise and give honor for ever.

## **Collect of the Day**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

Isaiah 55:10-13

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 65

*Te decet hymnus*

1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come,  
because of their transgressions.

3 Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you will blot them out.

4 Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!  
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,  
O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

6 You make fast the mountains by your power;  
they are girded about with might.

7 You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

10 You prepare the grain,  
for so you provide for the earth.

11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

12 You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.

14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

## The Second Lesson

Romans 8:1-11

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

## Hymn

*Lord, make us servants of your peace*

Hymnal 593

## The Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a

person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Reader                    The word of the Lord.  
**People**                **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**                The Rev. David Burman

## The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.**

## The Prayers of the People

Intercessor            Let us offer our prayers for the church and the world, saying,  
                          Living God, pour your Spirit upon us.

                          We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Brian, our Bishop; April and David, our priests, Keith, our seminarian; and for all who confess your name throughout the world. Inspire our witness to your Holy Gospel, that we may make your love known. Living God,  
**People**                **Pour your Spirit upon us.**

Intercessor            We pray for this fragile earth, our island home. Open our eyes to the wonders of your creation and help us to care for the world you have entrusted to us. Living God,  
**People**                **Pour your Spirit upon us.**

Intercessor            We pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and marketplaces; for our neighborhoods and workplaces, for protesters and for police. Help us to honor your image in one another. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home. Living God,  
**People**                **Pour your Spirit upon us.**

Intercessor            We pray for courage, strength, and grace in our daily lives. May the work of our

People	hands, the words of our mouths, and the prayers of our hearts bring glory to you and hope to your people. Living God, <b>Pour your Spirit upon us.</b>
Intercessor	We pray for peace among the peoples of the earth. Guide the leaders of the nations, and bring those divided by prejudice and hatred to the peace that the world does not yet know. Living God
People	<b>Pour your Spirit upon us.</b>
Intercessor	We pray for those who suffer, for those who are sick, lonely or imprisoned. Surround them with your healing presence, and help us to minister to them with wisdom and compassion. We pray especially for:
	Emily, Ted, Deb, Michael, Andy, Chuck and Jason and their children, Tom, Jeanette, Jane, Kathleen and Caroline, Bo and Mary Minor, Helen, Nancy, David, Charlotte, Tyler, Jeff, Rebecca, J.R., Marcia, Major, Peggy, Jean, William, Timothy, Donald, Robert, Cooper, Sally, Charles, Jonathan, Steven, John, Libby, Elaine, Jean, Barbara, Elizabeth, John, Joyce, Jim, Mary Ruth, and Ann;
	We pray for Wil, Jake, Kevin, Tripp, Mike, Alexander, Russel, Logan, Jim, Sean, Evan, and all of our Armed Forces, here and abroad;
	We pray for Kerry and Janine, who are with child.
	We pray for all who are treating the sick, staffing health care facilities, stocking shelves, transporting supplies, providing transit, suffering from illness, grieving those who have died, and adjusting to new ways of living in the midst of the current pandemic. Living God,
People	<b>Pour your Spirit upon us.</b>
Intercessor	We commend to your mercy those who are dying and those who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in the full revelation of your eternal glory. Living God,
People	<b>Pour your Spirit upon us.</b>
Officiant	Ancient Gardener, your holy word is planted in our hearts as good seed in fertile soil. So nurture us that we may bear fruit abundantly. <b>Amen.</b>

## Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

**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.**

*Officiant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People **And also with you.**

## The Blessing

## Worship Leaders

Officiants	The Rev. April Berends, The Rev. David Burman
Preacher	The Rev. David Burman
Lectors	Brittany Williamson, Richard Lanham
Intercessor	Andy Belcher
Organist	Patrick Rice
Singers	Janelle Wagoner, Trevor Wagoner
Video	Richard Lanham, Janelle Wagoner

## Announcements

### Join Us for Online Worship at 9am & 10:45am Sundays

During this time of Social Distancing, we will continue to stream videos for Morning Prayer worship on our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) at 9am and again at 10:45am. Bulletins for each week's service will be sent along with the Grace Notes weekend issue, and will be posted on the website alongside the video for the service. If you miss the 9am or 10:45am video streams, you can always go back and watch later.

### Morning Prayer and Compline

All are invited to escape from the madness and rest your mind and soul via Morning Prayer on weekdays and Saturday at 9:00 a.m., and services of Compline at 8:00 p.m. each evening. We all need reminders of essential realities that transcend the medical and political context in which we find ourselves.

Here are the links for Daily Morning Prayer and Compline:

[Weekday Morning Prayer](#)

[Weekday Compline](#)

### Antiracism Resources

You'll find a growing list of anti-racism resources at [bit.ly//ANTIRACISMRESOURCES](https://bit.ly//ANTIRACISMRESOURCES).

## Christian Formation Opportunities

### Study on Antiracism continues, Sundays at 10am

This morning we continue a community-wide conversation on antiracism. The primary text for this discussion group is *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown. Brown's memoir of growing up Black, Christian and female in majority-White schools and churches describes her experience of finding her way amidst the racial divide in this country. Brown offers insightful and personal analysis of White Christianity and the church's attempts at seeking racial justice. Here's the Zoom link for the Sunday class at 10am: [Sunday Morning Christian Formation](#)

A limited number of copies of *I'm Still Here* are available through the Grace Bookstore. Contact Dabney Carden at [dcarden@saygrace.net](mailto:dcarden@saygrace.net) to reserve a copy. For more information, contact David Burman ([dburman@saygrace.net](mailto:dburman@saygrace.net)) or April Berends ([aberends@saygrace.net](mailto:aberends@saygrace.net)).

## **Queer Theology**

The community of Grace has long maintained a commitment of embracing and affirming the gifts and the belovedness of all persons, including LGBTQ+ persons. The Rev. April Berends and Sean McEwen are currently leading a Queer Theology class so that we might explore these commitments more deeply. This week, we will cover the tenth chapter and the conclusion of *Queer Virtue*.

## **Community Care in Anxious Times**

Grace check-in team leaders are continuing to contact parishioners via phone, text and/ or email. Please take a moment to pick up or write back to let them know if you're okay and/or if you need help, pastorally or physically. The leaders of these groups will be in close communication with our priests and our network of volunteers. If you are a new member of Grace and we do not have your information in the directory, please fill out the New Member form [here](#) and let us know if you would like to be added to a check-in group. If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call the parish office at (423)243-3250 and leave a message on the **main line**. We will be checking these messages regularly even if we aren't in the office.