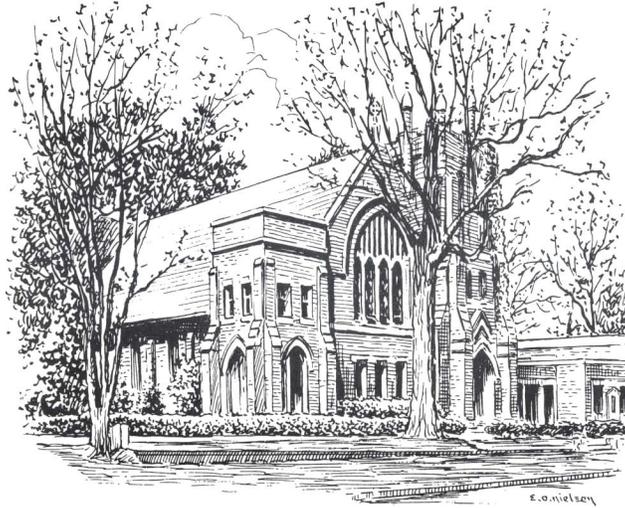


GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A COMMUNITY OF GRACE, ANCHORED IN CHRIST,
LIVING TO LOVE, GROWING TO SERVE



Prelude

Voluntary in G

William Walond

Processional

God Is Love

Abbot's Leigh

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ is Risen.

People *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia*

The Celebrant says

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 (*Choir*)

This is the Feast

Richard Hillert

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

People **Amen.**

The people sit for lessons

Lessons

First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to

it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Response Psalm 22:24-30

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord'S for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Epistle 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with

punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

The priest reads the Gospel.

The Gospel **John 15:1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rev. H. Pickett Wall

The Nicene Creed

**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.**

Prayers of the People, Form VI

*The Leader and **People** pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your lovingkindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE ALTAR

The Offertory

Presentation of the gifts

Offertory Anthem

Sing Hallelujah

Mark Burrows

The Holy Communion

The people remain standing

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

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:

Celebrant 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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

The Lord's Prayer

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. Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem(Choir)

Christ Our Passover

Gerald Near

The Communion of the People

Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Music

I Danced in the Morning

Sydney Carter

The liturgy concludes with the closing thanksgiving. The congregation kneels

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Dismissal

The People Respond **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands*

J. S. Bach

Prayers of the People As of May 2, 2021

We pray for the Church, for +Michael, Presiding Bishop and Primate; +Andrew our Bishop; for Pickett+ our rector.

We pray for Joe our President; for the leaders of the nations, Henry our Governor; Alfred Mae our Mayor and all first responders in our city and country.

We pray for those who are in need of God's healing, especially: Patty Baker, Bob Barinowski, Heather Burns expecting the birth of Katherine Hayes, Joan Dillard, Virginia Ferguson, Barbara Goode, Mary Hendricks, Rodney Hungerford, Judy and John Martin, Jack McGee, Laurie Owen, Kelly Orton, Jim Parrish, Mel Pearson, Rich Pinkerton, Alma Raley, Jamie Raley, Sara Jane, Kam Stake, Neal Stegner, Patsy Topping, Bob Vaughn, Carl Wylie

Please call church office, if there are additions or updates to the Wednesday extended or Sunday prayer lists. Names will be removed every four (4) weeks unless notified.

We pray for those serving in the Armed Forces: Alex Baker, Afghanistan; Holden Brunson, Okinawa, Japan ; Hunt Brunson, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Bran Feller, Kuwait; Mitchell Edwards, Charleston; Allen Dempsey, Texas; Campbell Freitas, Norfolk, VA; AMN Dara O'Neal, McChord AFB, Washington; Chris Smith, Korea; Joe Todd, Ft. Gordon, GA; Parker White, New River, NC; and those around the world and at home.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: 5/2-Julia Moye; 5/3-Crickette Chmiel; 5/5- Ella Chandler; 5/6- Helen Fakoury; 5/7- Barbara Goode, Carter Wooten

For those celebrating anniversaries this week: 5/3- Adam and Sarah Bradley; 5/4- Doug and Deb Speer; 5/5- William and Mary Foster Cox; 5/6- David Williams and Rogers Pender

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Zaven and Raye Touloukian by Karen Eckford

Announcements

- **Nursery is Open!**
- **Bathrooms are open again!**
- **May 23rd** The Day of Pentecost, will be celebrating Youth Sunday! Petting Zoo, Bluegrass, Hotdogs and Fun!!
- **We invite you and your family** to harvest spinach or lettuce from the garden. Please only snip off the leaves you need leaving the main head in tact. We have clipped for harvesting.

Lector - Cathy Kovacs

Crucifer- Emily Burns

Ushers - Joe deLoach, Walter Long

Altar Guild- Briggs McGee, Catharine deLoach (Louise Burns)

Flower Guild- Hope Cooper

Kitchen Angel- Margie Lane

VPOD- Beverly Ferguson

Virtual VPOD- Nelson Lindsay