

The Holy Friendship
of
St. James Episcopal Church



& Grace Episcopal Church



**The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2020 at 9:00 am**

95 Route 2A ~ Preston, CT 06365
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The Rev. Kim J. Litsey, Priest in Charge
The Rev. Deacon Ronald Steed

Mike LaFleur & Peter Leibert, Musicians

Join us live on
Facebook: St. James Episcopal Church Preston & on
Zoom continuing after worship for our Coffee Hour.

The Liturgy of the Word

Welcome

Opening Hymn #652 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray

The Collect

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Gloria

**Glory to god in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father, Amen.**

The Lessons

Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar

before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

1 Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD *
or show forth all his praise?

3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;

20 And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

21 They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,

22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *

and fearful things at the Red Sea.

23 So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to
Matthew.

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

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

~ A short silence will be kept ~

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.**

The Prayers of the People

Deacon: Almighty God, fill us with your Holy Spirit and set our hearts on fire to seek justice, share the good news of your love with others, and bring peace throughout the world.

Come Holy Spirit and fill our hearts with compassion for others.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for all of the children and young adults who are challenged by the new learning environment, and their parents who are juggling their children's schedule with their

work commitments.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we ask you to bless and empower all of the teachers and administrators in our schools. Give them patience, fortitude and inspiration as they adapt to new ways of teaching.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God almighty, we pray for staff and residents in assistance living facilities and nursing homes that they remain in safe from the virus. Have mercy on them in their time of need.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord of grace, help our nation heal from systemic racism, and help us as the body of Christ and as a nation to grieve the loss of life and the dignity of Black Americans throughout our history.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord of peace, may we reform our justice system on local, state and national levels.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for those suffering with illness, pain, insecurity, and isolation. We pray for those on our parish prayer list, and those in our hearts either silently or aloud _____.

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, inspire us to create new beginnings in our homes, workplaces, and places of worship using all that we have come to know and love in the midst of the pandemic.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Oh Lord our redeemer, comfort the souls of all who have died from COVID-19 and other illnesses during the pandemic. Please name others silently or aloud _____. Comfort their families and pour upon them your grace and love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Gracious and loving God, give the poor, the unemployed, and the sick an abiding sense of your presence.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you transform our lives and makes us new: Hear our prayers which we offer in confidence and breathe upon us with your Holy Spirit; glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept

Celebrant and 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.

Absolution

Celebrant: 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. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

† **The Holy Communion** †

Offertory Hymn #321 My God My Table Now is Spread

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

† **The Great Thanksgiving** †

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations. 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.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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,

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.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us,

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Silence

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Holy Sacrament you assure us of your presence within us, within the body of Christ, and the faithful through all the generations. Grant that we who have witnessed anew these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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 your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing †

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And, the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #344 Lord dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

The Dismissal

Announcements

The ECCT Annual Convention will be held on Sunday, October 18 via Zoom. There will be no worship service at St. James/Grace Church. Please join us for a virtual coffee hour afterwards. A Zoom link will be emailed.

We need your help! Please come and join us for our annual **Blue Jean Sunday** on Sunday, November 1, at noon. Call the office if you would like to help, 860-889-0150. Bring your own tools and gloves and work together 6 feet apart!

The Gales Ferry Crop Hunger Walk is today Sunday Oct18th, 12:30 - 1:15 starting from Gales Ferry UMC. 25% of the funds raised from this walk stay locally by helping to fund the Gemma Moran Food Bank and other food pantries. If you would like to make a contribution donate online at our Team Page: (Upper Thames Episcopalians) <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/galesferryct/Team/View/139723/Upper-Thames-Episcopalians>

Drive-Thru Flu & Pneumonia Clinic at the Preston Senior Center, 42 Long Society Rd, Preston will be conducted on Wednesday, October 14th from 10 am until 12 pm. All insurances

will be excepted. You must register in advance at 860-887-5581 ext 6.

Our Work: Learning About Antiracism workshop meets every other Monday at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The next meeting will be on Monday, October 12. Assignment: chapters 26-29 from “Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America” by Ibram X. Kendi. Call Rev. Kim if you are interested in joining the group.

Dwelling in the Word & Compline Thursdays, 7:00–8:00 pm. This a short study of a biblical text followed by Compline. It is a quiet reflective and prayerful evening. The Zoom link which has both phone and video access is sent out weekly.

Guided Healing Prayer Meditation Fridays 8:00 am via Zoom. The Zoom link is sent out weekly.

The Rev. Kim Litsey is available during the week typically Tuesday-Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Please call her on her cell at 860-967-8336.