



# GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

*The Mission of Grace Church is to build, by the grace of God, a loving and joyful community which lives the Gospel through worship, proclamation, and service to each other, to downtown Providence, and beyond.*

**JULY 26, 2020 ~ THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE CENTER

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

WELCOME

MUSICAL SELECTION

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**O** GOD, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS

THE FIRST READING

*1 Kings 3:5-12*

**A**T GIBEON the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in

righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

The Word of the Lord

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:129-136

*Said by all*

**Your decrees are wonderful; \***

**therefore I obey them with all my heart.**

**When your word goes forth it gives light; \***

**it gives understanding to the simple.**

**I open my mouth and pant; \***

**I long for your commandments.**

**Turn to me in mercy, \***

**as you always do to those who love your Name.**

**Steady my footsteps in your word; \***

**let no iniquity have dominion over me.**

**Rescue me from those who oppress me, \***

**and I will keep your commandments.**

**Let your countenance shine upon your servant \***

**and teach me your statutes.**

**My eyes shed streams of tears, \***

**because people do not keep your law.**

**T**HE Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL SELECTION



*Officiant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
according to Matthew.

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

JESUS said, put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Canon Meaghan Brower  
*Executive Director, The Episcopal Conference Center*

*A brief period of silence follows the sermon.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world, for the people of Grace Church, gathered thankfully here this morning in prayer and worship; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church and for the day when we will once again be able to gather safely in our spiritual home as we did in days gone by.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for this place and its ministry, for all those who have made it possible for us to be here today, and also for those children who had intended to be here this summer. Pray for the children of this diocese and throughout the world.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for those suffering from the coronavirus, either through illness, loneliness, unemployment, or anxiety, for all those caring for the sick, those seeking treatments and vaccines for the virus, and all those whose work places them in harm's way. May this pandemic depart from the face of the earth and may those who suffer in its wake be healed. Pray for deliverance.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the family of Avis Payne, the Scanlan family, Diana, Robert Cramer, all those caring for the sick, those seeking treatments and vaccines for the virus, and all those whose work places them in harm's way. We also pray for those members of our church who are homebound. Pray for those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for justice for those in our society so long denied it. Pray for an end to racism and all forms of exclusion and hatred, that they would be overcome by Christ's call to love our neighbor as ourselves.

*Silence*

We pray all this in the words our savior Jesus Christ taught us, saying,

**O**UR 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, forever and ever. Amen.

MUSICAL SELECTION

THE BLESSING

*The Rector*

THE DISMISSAL

*Officiant* Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

MUSIC AFTER THE SERVICE

*As we depart, please remember to keep social distance (minimum of 6 feet) from those not in your family group. Masks should remain on until you are in your car. If you are staying for lunch, you may remove masks for lunchtime, but please stay at your table while you eat. Thank you for being here and for your cooperation.*

~ SERVING TODAY ~

*Officiant: The Reverend Canon Jonathan Huyck*

*Preacher: The Reverend Canon Meaghan Brower*

*Lector/Intercessor: Judith Sutphen*

*Musicians: Vince Edwards, Brad Kleyla, Olivia Kleyla*

## ~ PRAYER LIST ~

This week, we pray for: *the family of Avis Payne, the Scanlan family, Diana, Robert Cramer, all those caring for the sick, those seeking treatments and vaccines for the virus, and all those whose work places them in harm's way.* We also pray for those members of our church who are homebound.

## ~ ABOUT ECC ~

In 2016, the Episcopal Conference Center began a strategic planning process to discern God's continuing dream for this camp and retreat center. The following Core Values, Mission Statement, and Vision Statement represent some of that work.

Over the course of our work together developing this strategic plan one thing was abundantly clear: ECC has - since its inception - been a place where people have felt the profound influence of God and Christian community, and their experiences at camp have significantly shaped their lives. One of the easiest parts of this process was identifying the mission of ECC, the core of which has not changed despite changes in the church, in leadership, and in our culture. The consistency of our mission and message is worth noting and celebrating.

### **Mission Statement**

We nurture authentic connections with God, one another, and ourselves that transform lives.

### **Vision Statement**

Within ten years, ECC will evolve into our year-round vibrant diocesan camp and lodge, nurturing life-changing connections to God's children who long for clarity in their journey.

### **Core Values**

- Authentic connection to God, one another, and ourselves
- Safe community to explore, cultivate, and strengthen faith
- Acceptance
- Service
- Simplicity
- Generosity
- Joy



**GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE**

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