

**Grace Church, an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires**  
**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Sunday, September 27, 2020**  
**A Celebration of Gideon's Garden**

*Please take your leaflet home to recycle*

**COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

- Please do not attend in-person worship if you are not feeling well or if you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last two weeks.
- **Wear your face mask covering both nose and mouth throughout the service,** except when placing the blessed communion bread in your mouth.
- **Observe 6 feet distancing at all times** with anyone other than your household unit.
- No food or drink will be provided today (other than a communion wafer).
- A portable toilet is on-site for emergency use. Please follow directions for sanitizing after use.
- You are welcome to greet others while remaining masked and keeping at least 6 feet apart.
- There will not be any congregational singing. Spoken responses during the service should take place while masked and using a soft voice.
- Communion will be brought to you at your seat by the Celebrant, who will wear a mask. Instructions will be given at that point in the service.
- Following the service, you will be asked to leave promptly as directed by the ushers. We'll follow a route through Gideon's Garden, so that you can see the garden up close. (Those who wish to take the shortest route back to their car may do so, however.)
- Please do not engage in prolonged conversations after the service.

We do these things in order to care for ourselves and to show our love and respect for our neighbors. Thank you for your cooperation!



**GRACE CHURCH**  
an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires

## Prelude

**Welcome**      *Cry out with joy! Fill your heart with gladness! Bring forth a song of praise!  
Praise for the planet, gladness for its blessings, and joy in creation!*

## Opening Hymn

For the beauty of the earth

H 416

(vs. 1, 2, 4, 6)

*Listening with intention is a form of worship. Please silently follow our musicians as they sing.*

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to the world so freely given,  
faith and hope and love divine, peace on earth and joy in heaven.  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

**Celebrant**      Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
**People**      **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant continues*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden: 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.**

## The Collect of the Day

**Celebrant**      The Lord be with you.  
**People**      **And also with you.**

*Celebrant continues*

Let us pray. Loving God, Creator of all, we thank you for the beauty of Creation; show us, we pray, how to respect the fragile balance of life. Guide by your wisdom those who have power to care for or to destroy the environment, that by the decisions we make, life may be cherished and a good and fruitful earth be preserved for future generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

Pennie Curry

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may

drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16**

- <sup>1</sup> Hear my teaching, O my people; \*  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- <sup>2</sup> **I will open my mouth in a parable; \***  
**I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**
- <sup>3</sup> That which we have heard and known,  
and what our forefathers have told us, \*  
we will not hide from their children.
- <sup>4</sup> **We will recount to generations to come**  
**the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, \***  
**and the wonderful works he has done.**
- <sup>12</sup> He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, \*  
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- <sup>13</sup> **He split open the sea and let them pass through; \***  
**he made the waters stand up like walls.**
- <sup>14</sup> He led them with a cloud by day, \*  
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- <sup>15</sup> **He split the hard rocks in the wilderness \***  
**and gave them drink as from the great deep.**
- <sup>16</sup> He brought streams out of the cliff, \*  
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

### **The Holy Gospel**

Matthew 21:23-32

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### **Brief Homily**

The Rev. Libby Wade

## Reflections on Gideon's Garden

The Rev. Jen Bloesch and Mr. Fisher Riiska

### Celebration of Fisher

Pennie Curry

### Blessing of the New Gideon's Garden Van

The addition of the van you see parked here today has been a blessing to the staff of Gideon's Garden and to the organizations that receive produce from the Garden. Today we pray God's blessing on this van, its drivers, and passengers, and the produce it carries to feed the hungry. Let us pray.

Lord God, we ask you to bless this vehicle and its mission of transporting people and food safely and swiftly. May it be a symbol of the goodness and abundance of the earth and a sign of the faithfulness of the people of Grace Church; through Jesus Christ, who fed the hungry on a hillside and traveled the dusty roads of Galilee, and lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### A Creation Creed

*Libby:* We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things.  
We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence,  
a home for us to share with all creatures.  
We believe every creature joins us in praising God.  
We see many suffer with Earth because of human crimes against creation.

*Jen:* We believe that God became incarnate as a part of Earth, Jesus Christ,  
that he lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross  
for all human beings and for all creation.  
We believe that the risen Jesus Christ fills the whole creation,  
reconciling all things to God, renewing all things.

*Libby:* We believe the Spirit renews life in creation,  
groans in empathy with every suffering creature,  
and waits with us for the rebirth of the whole creation.

*All:* **We believe that with Christ we will rise  
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation,  
reconciled, restored, and renewed.**

### Prayers of the People - Form IV

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Make us thankful for the abundant fruits and vegetables of Gideon's Garden; for the butterflies and chickens, the chipmunks and skunks, the bugs and birds, the rich soil; the rain and sun; and for the humans who have planted and tilled the soil, pulled the weeds, and harvested the produce; for the leadership and hard work of Jen and Fisher; for Timmy, our devoted intern, and all the youth interns; for

Dutch, Ellis, Jainee, Pennie, Kathy, Rick, and all the Grace Church volunteers; for Danny, Martha, and Paul Tawczynski, Sue Hayden, and all the people of Taft Farms. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray in thanksgiving for the good work of People's Pantry, CHP, the Sheffield Food Program, Lee Food Pantry, and Multicultural Bridge, and for the health and well-being of the men, women, and children they serve. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant continues*

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with Earth. Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation. Make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit, groans from the deserts, the plains, and the winds. Make our souls sensitive to the call of our kin in the great web of life. Jesus Christ, teach us to care. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Grace Church Transition**

God of abundance and wisdom, you have blessed Grace Church with love and respect for one another and with joy in our community. Help us to discern your will and to be open to your guidance as we seek a new rector for our parish. Grant us the ability to hear your voice as we listen to one another. Give us wisdom and patience, mutual respect, and clarity of vision, that we may choose and receive a priest who serves with warmth and humor, inspiration and faithfulness, and who will lead us where you are calling Grace Church to serve the mission of Jesus in this time and place. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All* **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

*Celebrant continues*

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* Peace with yourself. Peace with Creation. Peace with one another.  
The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

## Offertory

*This prayer-poem by Christine Valters Paintner is offered for your reflection while the Altar is prepared for Holy Communion and instrumental music is played by our musicians.*

May Christ who shimmers in all creation  
surprise you each day with glittering moments,  
when you can see again how  
light lives in everything,  
how it partners  
with dark soil to bring forth  
aster and lavender,  
rosemary and daffodils,  
a hundred kinds of squash,  
kale and cabbage, apple and berry,  
grapes sweetened by the sun.  
How the dough you knead in your hands

is an alchemy of touch and time,  
how everything is  
a call to communion—  
the wafer of moon,  
a chalice of stars.  
Let the Mystery of it all  
dance in your heart,  
always widening your horizons,  
inhabiting new landscapes.  
May you know each moment as sacred  
and everything around you a call  
to remember this one true thing.

*Celebrant* All things come from you, O Lord.  
*People* **And of your own have we given you.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 3*

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant continues*

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we say with joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us. We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

**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.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

*Celebrant*      This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.  
The gifts of God for the people of God.

#### **Communion Distribution Protocols**

- *We will distribute bread only.*
- *To ensure safety for all, please remain at your seat throughout the distribution of communion.*
- *You may stand or sit to receive.*
- *Please remain fully masked as the bread is dropped into your hands with no physical contact. If the priest should accidentally touch a hand while distributing the bread, she will immediately stop to sanitize hands before proceeding.*
- *AFTER the priest has given bread to the next separately seated individual/group after yours, you may take off your mask in order to consume the bread. Please replace the mask immediately after consuming the bread.*
- *If you do not wish to receive the bread, please fold your arms across your chest. The priest will offer a blessing without touch.*

### **Music During Communion**

*Sung only by our musicians*

Let Us Break Bread Together

LEVAS 152

## Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth and with your whole Creation. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Blessing

*Celebrant* Bless us and all creation, O God: the sun and sky that is above us, the earth that is beneath us, the animals and people that inhabit the world, the friends that are around us, your image deep within us, the day which is before us; in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace

LEVAS 181

*Listening with intention is a form of worship. Please silently follow our musicians as they sing.*

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
‘tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

## Announcements

### Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## Postlude

### Worship Leaders Today

Celebrants: The Rev. Libby Wade and The Rev. Jen Bloesch

Musicians: Chris Clark, Lee Cheek, John Cheek

Ushers: Rick and Sue Gore

Hosts: Pennie Curry, Fisher Riiska, Jen Bloesch

Lector: Pennie Curry

Tech Person: Kathy Clausen

Altar Guild: Monique Kirchoff

Office Support: Gretchen Fairfield

Thanks to everyone else who helped prepare the worship space!