

*Grace Episcopal Church
401 Pendleton Street
Waycross, Georgia 31501*



**Morning Prayer
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 20, 2020

*The Right Rev. Frank Logue
11th Bishop of the Diocese of Georgia*

*The Rev. Kit Brinson, Rector
Mike Taylor, Church Musician and Choir Director*

The Hymn *Rise up, ye saints of God* **H 551**

The Invitatory

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

People: Come let us adore him.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

The Priest alone stands and says

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.**

Venite (*Said in unison*) *Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *and his hands have molded the dry land. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Glory to the Father.....

A Reading from Jonah (3:10-4:11)

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?" The Word of the Lord..**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:(1-8) (*said in unison*)

I will exalt you, O God my King, * and bless your Name for ever and ever.

Every day will I bless you * and praise your Name for ever and ever.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; * there is no end to his greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another * and shall declare your power.

I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty * and all your marvelous works.

They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, * and I will tell of your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; * they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, * slow to anger and of great kindness.
Glory to the Father.....

A Reading from Philippians (1:21-30)

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.
The Word of the Lord....**Thanks be to God.**

The Hymn *(standing)* Spirit of the living God

*Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
(Sung twice)*

The Reading from Matthew (20: 1-16)

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

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When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Word of the Lord....**Thanks be to God.**

The Homily Rev. Kit Brinson

The Apostles' Creed *Officiant and People together, all standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant: The Lord be with you. ***People:* And also with you.** *Officiant:* Let us pray.

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 Suffrages - B

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance R. Govern and uphold them, now and always

V. Day by day we bless you; **R. We praise your Name for ever.**
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today; **R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy; **R. For we put our trust in you.**
V. In you, Lord, is our hope; **R. And we shall never hope in vain.**

The Collect of the Day

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for the Church

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Mission

O God, you have made us of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you: bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for the Nation

Lord, God Almighty, you have made all peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of this country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer of Self-Dedication

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray you, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*God is a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger and rich in mercy, generous and forgiving to all who cry for grace. With confidence, let us turn to our God in prayer, saying: **Lord, have mercy.***

For people throughout the world who are suffering at this very hour from drought and famine and COVID-19, from economic distress and social disruption, from violence and war, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the church throughout the world, that we, together with all our brothers and sisters in Christ, may be effective agents of social transformation and reliable messengers of hope, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our country, that its wealth and power might become a force for peace, rather than conflict; a source of hope, rather than discontent; an agent of friendship, rather than enmity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our community, and especially those among us who are dispirited and broken-hearted, who find no hope or meaning or purpose in life, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For ourselves, that we may have the grace to rejoice with those who rejoice, to weep with those who weep, to grieve for others' losses rather than our own, to be quick to forgive and slow to take offense, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in need of our prayers, especially, Irene, Tony, Tina, Susan, Greg, Tanya, Madelyn, Nancy, Alyssa, Amanda and family, Mae's family, Rob, Chris, Tim, Dan, Johnny, Tasha, Keith, Chandler, Larry, Jim, Denny, Vicky, Tristan, Rachel, Freddy, James and family, Tifani and Leland, Faye, Jerry, Jackie, Teresa, Shaun, Norene, Sandra, C.J., Andrea, Lonnie, Allen, Michelle, Sam, Frances, Bill, David, Jean, Zachary, Diane, Lauren, Barb, and Shary, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have died that they may be received into your loving arms, and that grieving families may be comforted, especially for Mae, Mike, Owen, Joe, Bobbie, and Pat, that they may come into the fullness of life, united with God in the communion of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

The Concluding Collect

Lord God, in your presence none of us can boast, and all must ask for mercy; yet your Son has embraced us and called us to share in his labors for the salvation of every man, woman, and child. Grant us the grace to see what needs to be done and the wisdom and resources to do it, through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Announcements

The General Thanksgiving (*Officiant and People*)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Blessing/ Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.**Thanks be to God.**
May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn *Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless* **H 343**

Hymn LEVAS II # 115 *Spirit of the Living God* Words: Daniel Iverson (1890-1977), Music: Daniel Iverson

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Rise up, ye saints of God

Rise up, ye saints of God!
Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of kings.

Rise up, ye saints of God!
His kingdom tarries long;
Lord bring the day of truth and love
And end the night of wrong.

Lift high the cross of Christ!
Tread where his feet have trod;
and quickened by the Spirit's power,
Rise up, ye saints of God!

Hymn #551 *Rise up, ye saints of God* Words: William Pierson Merrill (1867-1954), alt. Music: *Festal Song*, William H. Walker (1825-1893)

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless
thy chosen pilgrim flock
With manna in the wilderness,
With water from the rock.

We would not live by bread alone,
But by your word of grace,
In strength of which we travel on
To our abiding place.

Be known to us in breaking bread,
and do not then depart;
Savior, abide with us, and spread
Your table in our heart.

Lord, sup with us in love divine:
thy body and thy blood,
That living bread, that heav'nly wine,
Be our immortal food.

Hymn # 343 *Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless* Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), *alt.* Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1976); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1976)