

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021

REMINDER: We have regathered for in person worship Sundays at 10 am. Masks are strongly encouraged. For those not ready to return, the livestream continues on our YouTube Channel.

MESSAGE FROM ROBIN

If you attended church this past Sunday, you heard the Gospel according to Mark about marriage and divorce between man and woman. It was not addressed in the sermon as we have started a sermon series on Job. Committed relationships are hard, and hearing the reading may have left you questioning or upset.

The interpretation of scripture is complicated, challenging, and life-giving. If you would find it helpful to have a conversation about this I am available. The mission of Christ and Grace is Hope, Healing, and Hospitality and we strive daily to live out this mission, believing that God is infinitely more concerned about our future than our past. The Episcopal Church welcomes you - single, married, or divorced, regardless of gender, sexual identity, or orientation.

I offer you these authentic and beautiful words from Bishop Jake Owensby of the Diocese of Western Louisiana. May they bless you as they have blessed me. (See following)

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Christ and Grace is collecting bed linens and men's clothing for Martha For The Homeless. Martha has seven families in need of queen or full size bedding. Also, with winter approaching, articles of men's clothing such as socks, pants shirts and jackets are needed. Donated items may be new or used. Items will be collected in Lackey Hall on the stage from 10/10 thru 10/24. Drop off times are Wednesday 10-3, Friday 9-12, and Sundays.

Your continued support for community members in need is greatly appreciated.

CONVOCATION VISIT FROM BISHOP HAYNES

All parishioners are invited to meet with Bishop Haynes and/or Canon Roy Hoffman during open office hours **from 9:30 - 11:30 am, or from 1:30 - 4:00 pm** to be held **Wednesday, October 13**, at Merchant's Hope Church, 11500 Merchant's Hope Road, North Prince George, VA 23860.

Open office hours are open to clergy, vestry members, and laity on a first-come, first-serve basis. This is a great opportunity for you to meet the Bishop if you have not already done so, and to ask any questions you may have about the work of the Diocese.

If you have questions, contact Rev. Robin, who will be there for the day and would love for you to join her.

ECW PECAN SALE

The Annual Pecan Sale has begun and orders will be taken through Friday, October 29th. Please place your order on the forms outside Lackey Hall or by calling the church office at 733-7202. The cost is \$10 per bag and choices include: Commodore Pecan Halves, Pecan Pieces, Dark Chocolate Pecan Halves and Mixed Nuts. Make your check to ECW with Pecan Sale on the memo line and include payment with your order.

DEAR ROBIN, VESTRY AND THE PEOPLE OF CHRIST AND GRACE

Many thanks for the generous contribution in my honor to The Nature Conservancy's Raccoon Creek Pinelands Endowment Fund. This fund will be used to support Longleaf Pine restoration work - including controlled burns - on my property in Sussex County.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as Organist-Choirmaster at Christ & Grace for the past few years. It has been a joy working with the choir as well as serving with David, Bill and now Robin.

Faithfully and in gratitude, Bill

BIBLE STUDY AT CHRIST AND GRACE BEGINS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

In our Baptismal Covenant we promise to “continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers” with God’s help. Bible Study is a great way to fulfill this promise as we read God’s word together. The time together becomes fellowship and strengthens our community. This fall we are going to begin with the beginning, and read the book of Genesis. Wherever you are in your faith journey, we invite you to join us.

On Thursdays during the day, we will meet at church at noon for Noon Bible Study. We hope you will BYOL – bring your own lunch to enjoy while we study.

On Thursday evenings, we will meet on Zoom at 7 PM for Zoom Bible Study. We hope you will BYOB – bring your own beverage to enjoy while we study.

We will be using a study guide that may be purchased on Amazon or in person at Rainbow Christian Books and Gifts in Colonial Heights.

If you need assistance getting a study guide, let Robin+ know and one will be provided. Please contact Robin+ at rteasley@christandgrace.org or 804-733-7202 so we can contact you with more details and know which study you plan to attend.

PRAYER LIST

We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. Especially we pray for James Christiansen, Melba Felty, William Pegram Johnson, Heydon Lewis, Clyde Mosley, Shelley Richardson, Mark Sheffield, Robbi Spencer, and Mary Villepontaux.

HOLY COMMUNION

Our service of Holy Communion is held in person and live-streamed each Sunday at 10 AM on our YouTube channel. Please call the church office at 733-7202 or email Robin+ rteasley@christandgrace.org if you would like a home visit with communion, or if you are worshiping online and would like to come to the church to receive communion after the livestream on Sunday.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

The nomination period for the slate of candidates to stand for the 2022 Christ and Grace Vestry is now open. The Vestry meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM. The agenda includes prayerful study and business.

Each Vestry person has oversight for a ministry area of the parish, which currently are: Christian Formation of adults and children, Pastoral Care, Outreach, Worship, Building and Grounds, Parish Life, Communications, and Stewardship. These ministry areas may change from year to year due to staffing and based on current parish needs. A term of office is for 3 years with 1 year off before a person may be elected again.

Each Vestry member is expected to attend an annual planning session and new member orientation usually held on a Saturday in January or February. Newly elected Vestry members are expected to attend a diocesan training event for Vestry members, held each year on a Saturday.

Vestry members accept the responsibility of spiritual leadership, as well as a business responsibility, and are expected to regularly attend Sunday services and special services and events. It is also expected that anyone serving in this capacity will pledge to the financial support of the church, working toward a tithe (10%).

Diocesan Canons require a person to be at least 18 years old and be listed in the parish register as a confirmed communicant in good standing. In addition to these requirements, a person nominated for the Vestry should be deeply committed to following Jesus Christ and to this parish as a part of his Body, the Church. Vestry members take an active role in the leadership of the parish by formulating ideas, and by being willing to carry them out. Serving on the Vestry is not only a privilege but a serious responsibility and a commitment.

If you would like be considered for nomination or nominate someone else, please contact Kemper Brinkley, Senior Warden by October 15, 2021.

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.

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Job said:

"Today also my complaint is bitter;
his hand is heavy despite my groaning.

Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
that I might come even to his dwelling!

I would lay my case before him,
and fill my mouth with arguments.

I would learn what he would answer me,
and understand what he would say to me.

Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?
No; but he would give heed to me.

There an upright person could reason with him,
and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

"If I go forward, he is not there;
or backward, I cannot perceive him;
on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.

God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me;

If only I could vanish in darkness,
and thick darkness would cover my face!"

Mark 10:17-31

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."