

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 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+**

*Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. Psalm 98:1*

We have been intent on loving our neighbors as ourselves during the pandemic, and our care for one another has prevented any outbreaks in our parish. This is significant, as just last week two parishes in our diocese had to quarantine due to a COVID outbreak. We will continue with our current protocols for masking and distancing as they are working.

It is therefore exciting to be able to announce that beginning on All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 7, with everyone wearing masks, including the choir, we will resume singing by all parishioners during worship. It's important that masks remain on and cover our noses, therefore you may find that singing quietly, instead with gusto, will be helpful as you adjust, but singing with masks is possible now. We ask that you continue to allow space between your family group and others.

Additionally, we will be resuming our procession in and out of worship and will again sing the Sanctus during the Eucharistic Prayer. So, our liturgy will return to a more standard form which I know we have all missed.

Many of our youth acolytes have moved on to college but we hope those who are still here will sign up to serve as acolytes. If you are third grade or older and would like to serve, we would love to teach you how. Adults are also invited to serve as acolytes. Our lectors have already served as crucifers when needed. Several Vestry members are excited about this opportunity and hope that you will join them. Please contact the church office if you would like to serve.

## **A WORD ABOUT ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY**

*The Communion of Saints is the whole family of God, the living and the dead, those whom we love and those whom we hurt, bound together in Christ by sacrament, prayer, and praise.*

*From "An Outline of the Faith" in The Book of Common Prayer*

The Feast of All Saints is one of the principal feast days in the church, calling us to return to worship and calling us to remember those whom we love but see no longer. The pandemic has changed so much of our lives, including our rhythms of prayer and worship, even fostering some disagreements and disappointments. Yet, the slow and patient work of God has held us together through it all. We hope you will return to church for All Saints' Sunday on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, as you are able. Our part of the Communion of Saints will be blessed by your presence.

As part of our worship on this day we will create space for the lighting of a votive candle to acknowledge the Communion of Saints surrounding us. After you come forward for communion you may then move to one of the candle stands and light a candle. Ushers will guide you forward as the line moves, and there will be hand sanitizing wipes available when you have finished. The lighted candles will be a reminder of the saints among us, and we hope to see all of you there!

## **EVERY PERFECT GIFT**

This week it's all about love, and honestly love can be difficult. Jesus calls us to love God and one another, but often instead of stewarding God's love by sharing it, we fear we don't have enough and resort to hoarding it. In the Gospel this week, Jesus is talking about more than money, in fact, he's talking about love itself. Take time to consider the ways we sometimes hoard or deny love to others because we are not feeling very loving ourselves. We are called to love – even those who annoy us, who disagree with us, who don't do things the way we think they should. Isn't it good news to know that God's love for us is unlimited?

## **PLEDGING THROUGH AN IRA DISTRIBUTION by Boston Lackey**

Well it's that time of year again as Every Member Canvass approaches. I know this can be a very difficult challenge for many trying to figure out how much to pledge each year. This year is even more complicated as we've all had to continue dealing with both COVID and the struggling economy, not only as individuals, but as members of Christ & Grace as well. So for everyone 70 ½ or older, I have an idea that I hope may help solve some of your pledge concerns while benefitting the Church as well.

## **THE HOPE CENTER**

As grocery prices rise and temperatures fall, the Hope Center food pantry is in need of our food donations. You may bring items to church any time and leave them in the orange bin on the back porch. Marwee delivers these items to the Hope Center twice a month. Your assistance helps those in need in our community.

## **HOPE CENTER LUNCH**

Mark your calendars to help Christ and Grace feed the hungry. You can help! Donate needed supplies, make a financial offering, or come help assemble lunches.

Date: November 10<sup>th</sup>

Time: 10 am

Place: Meeting at the Hope Center to assemble lunches

Menu: pizza and salad, apples, cheese and chive crackers, Little Debbie snack cakes, water

Needed Items:

Water bottles (80)

Apples (80)

Cucumbers (about 6)

Large red onions (3 or 4)

Cherry tomatoes (about 4 containers)

Financial donations welcome

If you are able to help, please contact Elayne Pagano 804-586-2951 to let her know what you will be donating. She will then shop to complete the needed items.

## **ECW PECAN SALE**

The Annual Pecan Sale has begun and orders will be taken through Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## **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 Melba Felty, Michael Fowler, Pegram Johnson, Valerie Jones, Heydon Lewis, Clyde Mosley, Eric Pitt, Shelley Richardson, Mark Sheffield, Ted Simpson, Robbi Spencer, and Mary Villeponteaux.

## **THE COLLECT**

*Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

## **MARK 12:28-34**

One of the scribes came near and heard the Sadducees disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’ —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

## RUTH 1:1-18

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;  
Where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die—  
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!”

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.