



Welcome to Grace Episcopal “Internet” Church

Welcome to our parish. Today we continue to celebrate the entrance of the Son of God into the world. The

Gospel reading focuses this Sunday on the Holy Family.

The Gospel reading anticipates the feast of the Epiphany later this week. It is the account of the coming of the Magi, or Wise Men, from the east to worship the newborn King. This manifestation of the Son of God to the Gentiles announces that the gift of redemption is for all people.

The Old Testament reading foretells the coming of God’s kingdom, when all peoples will be gathered into God’s holy place. The history of Israel is repeatedly that of being lost, exiled, and saved by God. Thus, in the passage from Jeremiah, the prophet foretells that Israel—exiled, in his day, to Babylon—will be restored, and all the peoples of the earth will be gathered with them into God’s kingdom.

In today’s reading from Ephesians, Paul sees this return to God in the cosmic sense of all people’s—indeed the whole creation’s—existing apart from God until the revelation of salvation through Jesus Christ. In Christ we have been restored to a saving relationship with God and are gathered with God’s holy people into the kingdom. In Christ we have become sons and daughters of God.

As we gather to celebrate in God’s presence, we discover ourselves as children of God. As in his child Jesus, in us God comes to dwell in his world. In us God chooses to reveal his truth, confounding the wisdom of this world. By Baptism we are adopted as children of God. In the Eucharist, our relationship to God is affirmed and revealed. God continues to come into his world and has chosen us as his primary instruments for revealing his coming.

The liturgy always leads us beyond individual needs and histories, beyond contemporary life, into that great plan of God to gather the redeemed creation into the new life of the kingdom. In the Eucharist we are reconstituted as the redeemed people of God, on pilgrimage into that new life, each time we celebrate.

Next week Stewards of the Service January 10

Marcia Burchstead	Old Testament Lector
MC Fiske	New Testament Lector
Susan Talley and The DeLongs	Musicians



Scripture Forecast for First Sunday after the Epiphany: Genesis 1:1-5; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11; Psalm 29

Those in need of Prayer this week: Janice, Judy, Glen, Monica.

Long term care and prayers: *Eddie, Gabrielle, Jamie, Nick, Barbara, Jeff, Toby, Bambi, Nancy, Patty, Fran.*

Announcements

- **Gov. Herbert declares Washington County “High Risk” Come and join us on Facebook for morning prayer at 10:30am Tuesday and Thursday.**
- **Holy Eucharist is celebrated on Wednesday and Friday on Facebook and on Sunday (ZOOM) at 10:30am with drive up communion after service. Individual Communion after.**
- **Next Food Box day is Friday, January 8, 2021 from 11:30-1pm. From then on Food Box Distribution Days will be on the 2nd and last SATURDAY of each month. Contact Marcia at 435-275-7818 if you can help or donate.**
- **Annual meeting January 10, 2021 Openings for Bishop’s Committee will be addressed. 3 openings nominations are now closed. Get reports in by Tuesday for distribution. Please call or email your prayer requests to the office. Please let us know if you are ill or have the virus! Remember Grace Episcopal Church on Amazon Smile for purchases! We need the money! **DEADLINE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS IS WED @ 2:00PM****

Sunday worship will continue in this “virtual” space for some more weeks as we are a vulnerable demographic. The criteria is set by no reported cases for a specified time (a minimum of 2 weeks in our region). Because of this the Bishop requires masks for all limited gatherings. Emails will come inviting you to one of three services through the <reopen.church> website and app. Feedback is always welcome. Tom+

Covid-19 infection numbers this week from the Southwest Utah Health Department for Washington County: 624. Stay safe, wear a mask. Happy New Year.