The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

February 14, 2021 10:30am ~ Liturgy of the Word with Amazing Grace! ~



~From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.~

1135 Walnut Street, Newton Highlands, MA 02461617-527-6642 office@parishofstpaul.org www.parishofstpaul.org

SERVICE MINISTERS

LEM Officiant:	Tricia Tyler (Statement of Faith & Prayers of the People & Dismissal)		
Preacher:	Dr. John McDargh		
Accompanist:	Brenda Carter		
Readers:	Margaret Hummel (reading 1 & Psalm), Mandi Rice (Psalm & reading		
	2), John McDargh (response leader)		
Service Welcome:	David Montgomery		
Announcements:	Bernice Cramer		
Attendance:	Ken Anderson		

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Happy Birthday Caryn Coyle – February 15th, John Koger – February 18th, Leland Grigoli – February 19th and Callie Ware – February 20th!

IN OUR DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:

For the Episcopal Church USA: Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Alan Gates and Gayle Harris, our Bishops, St. Mary's Church, Barnstable, St. Peter's-on-the-Canal, Buzzards Bay, St. Christopher's Church, Chatham, St. Andrew's Church, Edgartown, and the Union of Black Episcopalians.

PARISH PRAYER LIST - PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

February 2021: James Clark, Jeanne Balcom, Casey Nichols, Esther, Susanna and David Lee, Alice Kast, Margaret Lewis, Michelle Zlomek, Albert Mueller, Elise Ware, Lynda Winkowski, Kathy Brothets, Ed Winkowski, Roger Blake, Sebastian Coyle, Maureen Bruce, Hanna Johnson, Joan Musial, Tommy Foley, John Yuskas, Mary Miller, Tom Melideo, Constance Williams, Tori Simmons, Sara Radin, Amy Rader Olsson, Carter Lustig and Sally Montgomery.

Staff

Parish Administrator

Carolyn Hoogendoorn - office@parishofstpaul.org

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany 10:30am ~ The Liturgy of the Word with Amazing Grace ~

Prelude

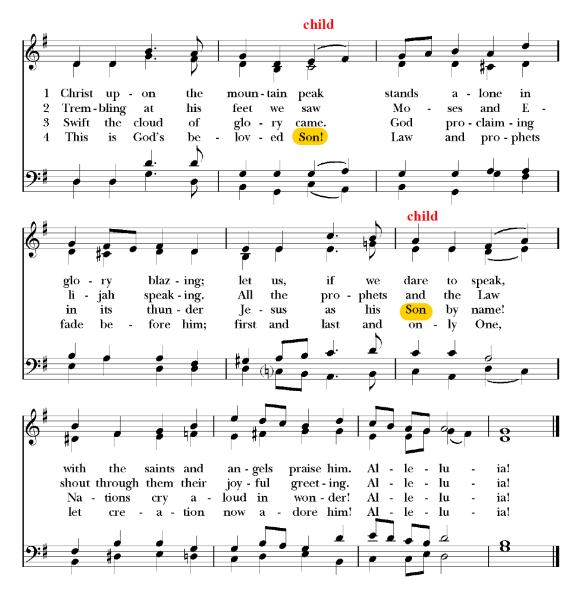
OPENING HYMN (recording)

Christ Upon the Mountain Peak

Hymnal#129

Brenda Carter

Alternate Text in Red



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OPENING SENTENCES

LEM Officiant: Blessed are you, Holy and Living One.

All: You come to your people and set them free.

LEM Officiant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.

All: Amen.

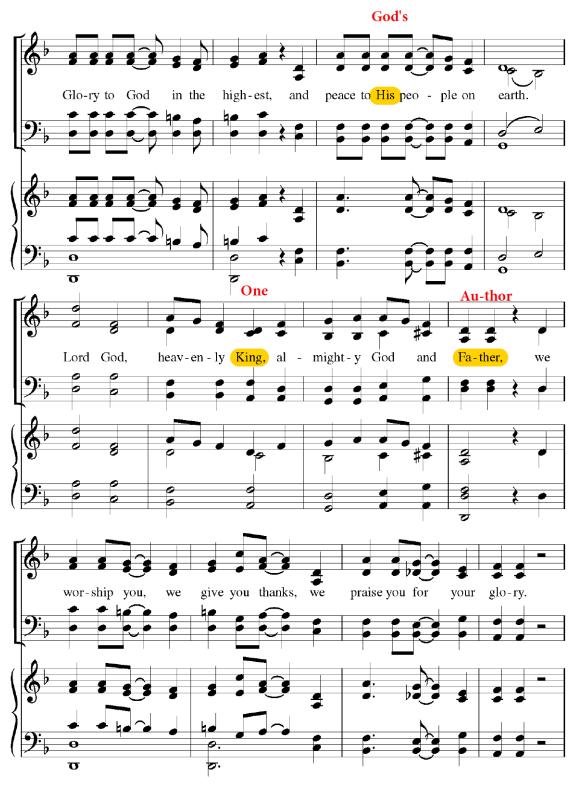
GLORIA (recording)

LEVAS 243

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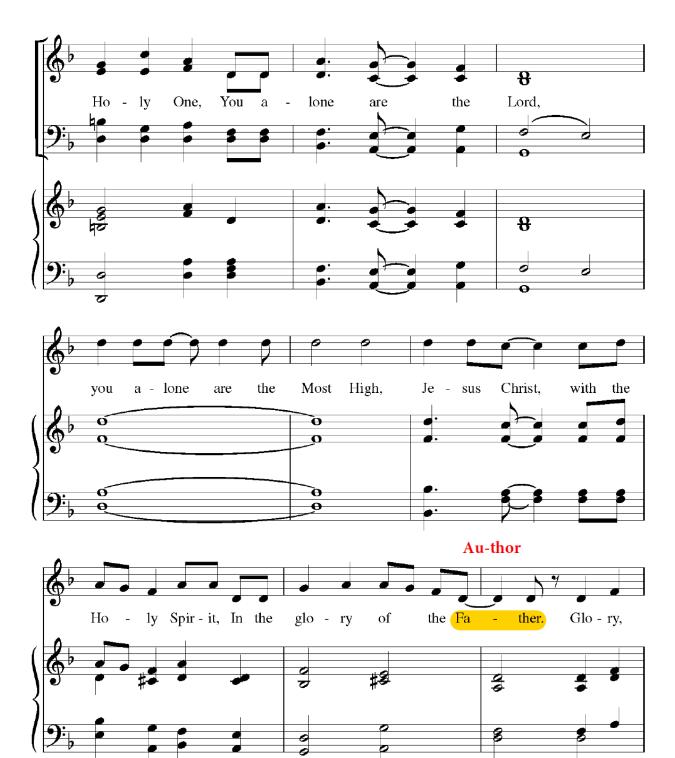
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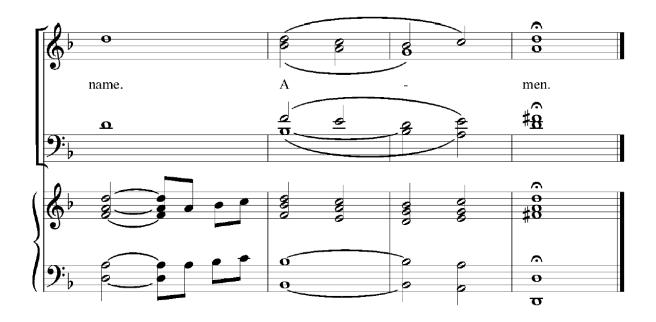
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Section: Service Music: Gloria Title: Glory to God Music: Carl Haywood (b. 1949) from Mass for Grace Copyright:© 1992 Carl Haywood Reprinted under Onelicense.net. #A-714071.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT

LEM Officiant: God is with you. *All:* **And also with you.**

LEM Officiant: Let us pray together.

All: Gracious Transforming God, give us a vision of the world to be. Help us to offer ourselves fully to your intention for us on this good earth, living sacrifices to your hope and dream for this world. Lift our sights and our spirits from the earthly attachments that keep us from the work that we were born to do. And ground us in the wisdom of uncertainty that comes with this mortal coil. We pray in the name of the risen one, the Christ. Amen.

THE LESSONS

THE HEBREW BIBLE

2 Kings 2:1-12

Reader: A Reading from the Second Book of Kings.

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. *All:* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50:1-6

THE PSALM

- 1. The God of gods has spoken; God has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2. Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God is revealed in glory.
- 3. You, God, will come and will not keep silence; before you there is a consuming flame, and round about you a raging storm.
- 4. You call the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of your people.
- 5. "Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."
- 6. Let the heavens declare the rightness of your cause, for you alone are judge.

THE EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Reader: A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. *All:* **Thanks be to God.**

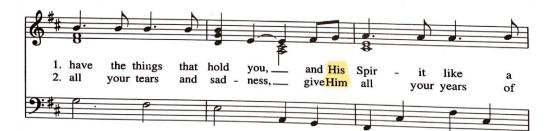
118

Please substitute "Him/His" for "God" if you so desire Spirit Song











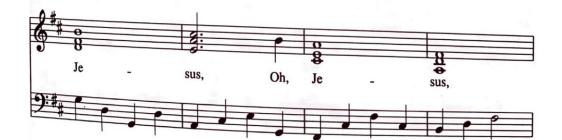
Music: John Wimber Copyright © Mercy Publishing c/o Vineyard Ministries. Permission Requested.

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THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-9

LEM Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark. *All:* Glory to you, O Christ.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

LEM Officiant: The Gospel of Christ. All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Dr. John McDargh

STATEMENT OF FAITH (read out loud by the LEM Officiant)

We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, Whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all, and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, we put our trust in God; and in the name of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice, and to live in peace; to care for the earth, and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness; to live in the freedom of forgiveness, and the power of the Spirit of love. And in the company of the faithful we will be the church, a community of flawed and forgiving disciples, for the glory of God alone. Amen. Statement of Faith adapted from the Iona Community © 2001

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (read out loud by the LEM Officiant)

LEM Officiant: O Spirit Within! Are you here?

I Am where you are.

Thank you, Lord. We are deeply grateful for the universal work of the church to draw out the still, small voice of the holy spirit inside each of us.

All: May our lives be filled with prayerful moments that open us to your divine inspiration.

LEM Officiant: Creator Within! Are you here?

Day and night.

We savor your love notes: a spider and her web hanging on through a breeze, nature's charged pause before a storm, the breath of a new born. Your mystery and magnificence stirs our yearning for a mindful world.

All: God, hear our cry for your creation.

- *LEM Officiant:* O Law Within! Are you here?
 - Written on your heart.

We praise the wisdom of Moses and the counsel of Elijah. Let us inherit the spirit of your prophets, listen to your beloved child Jesus, and discern your law in our time.

All: Heaven Almighty, hear our cry for God's law.

- *LEM Officiant:* Grace Within! Are you here?
 - Always.

At hand is a bottomless well of spiritual sustenance. May we have the fortitude and the courage to divine it, and to drink from it.

All: Lord, hear our prayer to recognize the grace in all people, at all times.

- LEM Officiant: Healing Truth Within! Are you here?
 - Waiting.

With the Scripture to guide us, we meet life's crossroads on humble yet steady feet. We give thanks for the revelation of God's loving word which expands our lives, and strengthens and restores us. We pray for those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and for those on our Parish Prayer List (*read the names*) and also for those listed in our Community Prayer Book ((*read from the community prayer book*), we pray they know the comfort and the miracle of your love.

All: Merciful God, may you be found by those who are in trouble, in pain, or in immediate need.

 LEM Officiant: O Winged Soul Within! Are you here? Fluttering against this mortal cage. We pray for the departed, including all whom we have lost during this pandemic but whose bright lights are not forgotten. May their restless souls soar to your beckoning and eternal fold.

 Maker of All, may our loved ones find peace on the other side of death's

All: Maker of All, may our loved ones find peace on the other side of death' earthly whirlwind.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LEM Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors and ourselves.

- *All:* O God, we bring you our failure, our hunger, our disappointment, our despair, our greed, our arrogance, and our fear. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not truly loved our neighbors or ourselves. We are sorry, we are humbled, and we pray that you will strengthen us with your grace. We turn to you, O God. We renounce evil, we claim love, we choose to be made whole. Forgive us and renew us now.
- *LEM Officiant:* Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us every trespass through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
- All: Amen.

THE PEACE

LEM Officiant: The peace of God be always with you. *All:* And also with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(We invite you to say whatever version of The Lord's Prayer is most meaningful for you.)

- LEM Officiant: As Jesus taught us we now pray:
- All: Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kindom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And 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 kindom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

LEM Officiant: Let us pray together.

All: O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family. Take away the fears that infect our hearts. Break down the walls that separate us. Unite us in the bonds of love and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth. In your good time, O God, let all nations and peoples live in harmony and find that new and resurrected life promised through Christ Jesus. Amen.

$\mathbf{BLESSING}^{\ 1}$

LEM Officiant	LEM Officiant: Tender God, touch us. Be touched by us; Make us lovers of humanity, Compassionate friends of all creation. Gracious God, hear us into speech; Speak us into acting; And through us, recreate the world. All: Amen.			
CLOSING HY	MN (recording)	How Do I keep from Singing	by Robert Wadworth Lowry	
	Ε	My life flows on in endless song; Above earth's lamentations, I hear the real, tho' far-off hymn That hails a new creation; Through all the tumult and the strift I hear its music ringing; It sounds an echo in my soul— How can I keep from singing? Although the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it liveth. But though the darkness 'round me clo Songs in the night it giveth. No storm can shake my inmost calm While to that rock I'm clinging; Since love is lord of heaven and earth How can I keep from singing? When tyrants tremble, sick with fear And hear their death-knell ringing, When friends rejoice both far and near How can I keep from singing? In prison cell and dungeon vile, Our thoughts to them are winging; When friends by shame are undefiled How can I keep from singing?	ose, n h, r, ar,	

(repeat first verse)

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DISMISSAL

LEM: Let us live in peace and love each other in the name of the risen Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

¹Carter Hayward in <u>Celebrating Women</u>, p 196.



If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our Vestry!

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