A SERVICE OF HEALING AND HOPE

ANTE-COMMUNION: RITE II SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 AT 12:00PM



First Free Church of Pennsylvania Est. 1853

During this time when not everyone is able to be together physically, we invite you to join us in other ways. Please check our Website, Facebook, and YouTube pages regularly for new information and video messages. If you are in need of groceries, medicine, or any other essentials please let us know by calling (717) 299-1188 or emailing equilla@stjohns-lancaster.org. We have a number of volunteers and staff members willing and able to run errands as needed.

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the

Communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Holy Women, Holy Men 455

We give you thanks and praise, O God of compassion, for the heroic witness of Constance and her companions, who, in a time of plague and pestilence, were steadfast in their care for the sick and dying, and loved not their own lives, even unto death: Inspire in us a like love and commitment to those in need, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen

A COLLECT FOR HEALING

God, our healer, whose mercy is like a refining fire; by the loving kindness of Jesus, heal us and those for whom we pray, that being renewed by you, we may witness your wholeness to our broken world; through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

First Lesson: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:15-21

¹⁵ My eyes are ever towards the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

¹⁷ Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress.

¹⁸ Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

¹⁹ Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me.

²⁰ O guard my life, and deliver me;

do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

²¹ May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.

Gospel Lesson: John 12:24-28

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Celebrant Glory to you, Lord Christ. People

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to vou, Lord Christ. People

THE HOMILY

THE REV. AMANDA R. KNOUSE

LIGHTING OF THE PRAYER CANDLES

In place of the laying on of hands, please feel free to light a candle as an offering to God for healing for whatever ails you or your loved ones.

THE LITANY OF HEALING

Celebrant Together we lift our prayers to you, O God of love and healing. Let us remember those whom we hold in prayer.

The Parish Prayer List is read. The people name those for whom they are interceding.

God the Father, you breathe life into your whole Creation. *Help us breathe deeply of your peace and presence.*

God the Son, you give us yourself to make our joy complete. *Help us give our doubt, fear, hurt, and grief to you.*

God the Holy Spirit, you move through our lives in unexpected ways. *Help us move in concert with your life-giving directions.*

Holy Trinity, One God, accept our thanks and praise for all the blessings of this life, especially for those blessings that our present circumstances may make difficult to see. *Lord, hear our prayer*.

Shed the light of your healing love on all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit, that they may find new wholeness illumined by your grace. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Knit together in your love all whose relationships have frayed, that they may find reconciliation and new beginnings. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bless all who work to improve the health of others that they may bring hope, care, wisdom, and skill to all they serve. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Hold in the palm of your hand all who are near death and all who care for them, that they may know the peace that passes all understanding. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Grant all who turn to you the courage to participate with you in restoring this broken world to wholeness that everyone and everything may share in the hope of your kingdom.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For these and for all other petitions that are too deep for words, we pray to you. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Celebrant Gracious God, you are close to us no matter how far we feel from you: draw us into the very heart of your grace and help us to live into the truth that nothing in all creation can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CONFESSION

Celebrant

Let us confess our need for God's healing grace.

Celebrant and People

Compassionate God, we confess our weaknesses and our need for your strengthening touch. We confess that some illnesses stem from our own fault, while others are beyond our control. We turn to you, Source of Life, and ask in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ for the gifts of true healing and life in you. Amen.

Celebrant

May the God of love visit you in your times of trial and weakness, and raise you to newness of life, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

THE PEACE BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE OFFERTORY

Thank you for your support during this season of our lives: your generosity enables the work of Christ to continue here and now. Contributions can be placed in the offertory plates in the back of the church, or mailed to the church office (321 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster, PA 17603).

THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP 364

Officiant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
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 kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR WHEN WE CANNOT RECEIVE HOLY EUCHARIST

In union, O Lord Jesus Christ, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, we join in offering the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving to you. We present to you ourselves, our souls and our bodies, with the earnest longing that we may ever be united to you. And since we cannot receive the Holy Sacrament, come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves to you, and love you with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds, and with all our strength. Let nothing ever separate us from you. Let us live and die in your love. Amen.

THE BLESSING

God the Father Bless you. God the Son heal you. God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to the heavenly city, where God lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen*.

THE DISMISSAL BCP 366

Officiant People Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

UPCOMING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

12:00 p.m. Ante-Communion Rite II with Healing Prayers (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

2:30 p.m. Food Pantry

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

4:00 p.m. Men's Gathering (Courtyard)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:00 a.m. Children's Church (Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Ante-Communion Rite II 11:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)

11:00 a.m. Property Committee (Becker House) 2:00 p.m. Women's Gathering (Long's Park)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:00 a.m. The Village Training (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 2:30 p.m. Food Pantry

6:00 p.m. VH Dance (Auditorium)

Weekly Support Ministries

AA: Tuesday - 6:00-7:00 p.m. (All Purpose Room) NA: Wednesday - 12:00 Noon (All Purpose Room)

FOOD PANTRY— Thank you for your continual support of our food pantry ministry. Your donations allow us to feed so many neighbors struggling to make ends meet during this difficult time. Thank you for being good news to those in need. We are currently in need of toiletries, cereal, pasta, and canned goods. (Please leave items on the back porch of Becker House).

To worship in-person please sign up each week. The sign up sheet will be available every Monday on the website.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Matt MacDougall, Associate Rector matt@stjohns-lancaster.org

VESTRY

Debbie Carter (Senior Warden), Webb Cook (Junior Warden), Sue Heilman, Tim Huber, Molly Moyer, Nicole Pham, Heather Trenary, John Gouveia, Joe Way, Annie Lattanzio Hale

STAFF

Equilla Curry, Parish Administrator
Gina Keiser, Financial Secretary
Richard Kuhn, Sexton
Maria Weaver-Hollowniczky, Nursery and Security

PRIESTS AND CANONS ASSOCIATED WITH ST. JOHN'S

Canon William F. Honaman, DHL
The Rev. William Archer
The Rev. Faith D'Urbano
The Rev. Elizabeth Mollard

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE