

Grace Episcopal Church

Become
my
followers

Mk. 8:35



Grace Episcopal Church
14-15 Clintonville St. Whitestone, N.Y. 11357
718-767-6305
gracechurchwhitestone.org

Musical Prelude

Call to Prayer:

Clergy: Behold now bless the Lord,

Congregation: *All you servants of the Lord,
Lift your hands in this holy place and bless the Lord.*

(Ps. 134)

Song of Praise *Wait for the Lord*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near,

Wait for the Lord, Keep watch,

Take heart.

(Repeat 3x)

Opening Acclamation:

Our loving Creator has called us together

In thanksgiving for our blessings

Jesus Christ is in this place

In the hearts of all the faithful

The Holy Spirit moves among us

Making us all one

And so we invite God into our midst, praying to be purified as we stand in the presence of our Maker and pray:

Search me out and know me O, God, Discern my restless thoughts,

Trace my journeys and my resting places, be acquainted with all my ways,

Look deep within me, and lead in the way that is everlasting.

Amen.

Readings: after each reading the lector says: *hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people*

The congregation responds: *speak Lord, your servant is listening*

A psalm may be sung or read aloud responsively as part of the readings

Gospel Acclamation

Open Our Eyes

Open our eyes,
Open our eyes Lord,
And help us see.
(Repeat 3x)

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to _____.

The congregation responds: *Word incarnate, fill our hearts*

Gospel is read

The Good News of Jesus Christ

Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Prayers of the People

With all our heart and all our mind, we pray:

People: Make us instruments of your peace.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray:

People: Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray:

People: Where there is injury, let us sow pardon.

For all who fear God and believe in you, O Christ, that our divisions may cease and all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray:

People: Where there is discord, let us sow union.

For those who do not yet believe, for those who have lost their faith, and those in despair and darkness that they may receive the light of the faith, we pray:

People: Where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and those who have asked of our prayers: and for all who suffer and those who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray:

People: Where there is despair, let us sow light.

For those who have died and those who are grieving, may they be comforted finding courage and hope in this time, we pray:

People: Where there is sadness, let us sow joy.

Silence

People: Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Jesus said to his disciples: Peace be with you; as the Father has sent me, so I send you.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Sentence (Psalm 116:12-14):

How can I repay the Lord for all the benefits given to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all the people.

[The gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. We present to God our first-fruits in generous gratitude]

Offertory Hymn

Kyrie

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

(3x)

Eucharistic Prayer

May our Brother Jesus be with you

And also with you

Give your hearts to our Creator

We surrender ourselves to You O Lord

Let us give thanks for all the goodness God gives us

We joyfully give our thanks

Almighty and Loving God, You were before all time and before things – stars, sea, and sky and every living creature.

Your works are wonderful Lord, and we know it well.

As your special children, You made us in your image and gifted us with memory, reason, and skill.

We thank You for the gifts of hopes and dreams; for the power to shape our world.

But we have used your blessings to hurt one another and we have hoarded your creation; we have lived in fear when you created us to love.

Forgive us Lord, for we know not what we do.

And so You sent your Son Jesus Christ, to be a light in darkness, to reveal the path back to You, the source of light and life.

Loving Brother, walk with us and show us the way.

Jesus was born the child of Mary and Joseph and lived in the world, acquainted with suffering, yet never without faith. He lived and worked with friends bringing hope to the poor, justice to the oppressed, and comfort to the lonely. In Him, the world has seen your perfect image.

In him we have found our true selves. In Him we have found our way home.

His final meal on earth was at the Passover where he ate with those who followed Him, but did not truly know Him, with those who called him friend but would flee in his hour of need.

At this meal he took the bread and blessed it, broke and shared it saying: This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

Then he took the cup and shared the wine saying: This is my blood of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

These many years later we recall our Brother's commands and pray that through God's Spirit this bread and wine will be for us the body and blood of Christ. We pray it will make us one body, transformed and renewed, that these gifts may strengthen us to feed your sheep.

May it be for us today as it was for your disciples long ago.

The Fraction

This is the bread of life which makes us one body; this is the fruit of the one vine which nourishes our souls.

One bread, one cup, one body, one life everlasting. Amen.

All gathered share Holy Communion

Communion Hymn *Eat this Bread*

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Trust in him and you will not thirst.

Jesus Christ, bread of life,
Those who come to you will not hunger.
Jesus Christ, risen Lord,
Those who trust in you will not thirst.
(3x)

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion

Let us pray

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all people in your kingdom. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, who created us, redeems us, and sustains us, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Sending Forth

Go into the world, and be the light of Christ. *Amen.*

Mission Hymn

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord my soul,
And bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul,
Who leads me into life.
(3x)

What is Taize?

Taize is a town in France where a monastic community has grown since the 1940's. In these years they have developed a style of liturgy, including their own music, which has been loved around the world. Many Episcopal churches incorporate Taize music into their worship and some Christian communities pray using the entire Taize liturgy.

Having been created by monastics, the Taize liturgy has a focus on meditation as a way of experiencing God's presence in the community's lives and during worship. The music and prayers are designed to be simple enough for the novice and beautiful enough to honor God. They are able to simultaneously possess a contemporary feel and convey the holiness of God. Taize is perfect for Christians who love both the ancient and the contemporary without compromising one for the other.

Refreshments are served immediately following our prayer time.

Welcome to Second Saturdays at Grace Episcopal Church. We gather this evening to be encouraged and uplifted so that we might experience God's presence in our lives and be the light of Christ in this world. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, or you would like to serve in the many outreach ministries we have at Grace, or in the liturgy, please see Father Brian or give him a call at 347-387-5549. He can also be reached via email at revblayer@gmail.com.

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