



# The Messenger

## May 2020

### Rector's Report

Greetings from Patmos!

Well, at least in this time of quarantine it feels like I am writing to you from exile on that Greek island where John of Patmos, or John the Revelator, is believed to have penned the book of Revelation while in his own exile during the Roman persecution of Christians.

I am certainly not writing anything remotely as exotic as Revelation, but I did want to reach out and wish everyone well in your respective places of shelter and to let you know you are all in my prayers daily. I opted not to do an April edition of the newsletter because it would have consisted of a series of cancelations that most of you were well aware of anyway, and it was still too early to tell how long we would be in this predicament, and what it would mean moving forward as a diocese and a church.

As a diocese, we are still on lockdown. Many priests, myself included, have taken to live streaming Morning Prayer on Facebook, YouTube, Zoom, or a combination thereof on Sunday mornings. We have also done Compline or Evening Prayer at various points throughout the week. Some clergy have even been holding Vestry meetings and Bible studies on Zoom, which I am willing to entertain should there be the desire and technological capability.

Clergy meets weekly with Bishop Lee via Zoom to get the latest updates and resources for ensuring the well being of our parishioners and our property. Recently we had a guest presenter who is both a priest and a cardiologist/epidemiologist serving on the board at Northwestern. His assessment is that the quarantine is working, flattening the curve and keeping our health systems from being overwhelmed, but it will be a lengthy process that necessitates patience.

Bishop Lee is committed to following the guidelines set forth by medical and state civic authorities, and has asked us to continue to do the same. That said, his staff, as well as fellow bishops across the country, are in discernment about what public worship will look like once we are allowed to return to our churches.

As a church, I have been working with Steve McMillen, Laura Watson, and Ellen to provide updates and worship opportunities as best we can under these circumstances. I cannot say enough about the work they have put in over the past month to bring the love of God in Christ to our congregation through musical offerings and their assistance with the liturgy.

I am acutely aware that not everyone has Internet access or the technological experience to be able to utilize these resources. I have called some folks and even dropped off worship packets at doorsteps. If you use email and have not received anything from me, please email me at [fr.brianprall@gmail.com](mailto:fr.brianprall@gmail.com) so I can get you in my Grace Church contact list. Otherwise you can always call me at the rectory, as this is now my office for the foreseeable future.

The church building is doing well. I visit a few times a week to keep up with some regular maintenance and to check the mail. Connie Olson has also been in to process payroll, pay the bills, and do accounting. A huge thank you to her for keeping Grace up and running.

I would also like to thank those who have sent cards, flowers, Easter goodies for the kids, and other well-wishes. This is a strange time for us as a family as Ellen and I are still working from home while also trying to “teach” kindergarten.

The cancellation of in-person instruction has been very hard on both Ellen, a music teacher, and Lucy, an extrovert student. The three of us have to coordinate dozens of Zoom meetings and classes throughout the week, and sermon writing, lesson planning, filming for both Grace and FSD 145, and liturgical planning happens in spurts between teaching and consoling a little girl who is quite over this whole COVID thing. Charlie's fine. He's living his best life right now.

That is all there is to report at this time. I will keep you posted as the situation changes. The Light of Christ from the new fire on Easter Vigil is still burning brightly in my garage. The altar guild tasked me a while back with disposing of our overabundance of retired altar candles, so my procrastination is paying off as my goal is to keep it burning until we are able to return to our church building, lighting our Paschal candle and sanctuary light off of this single flame. Liturgically correct or not, I think it is an act of reclaiming our sacred space that we need when this is all over.

All my love and prayers to all of you during this time. Stay safe, don't forget to fill out the Census, try new things you've always wanted to but never had the time, read books and magazines that have piled up, and, if you are able, join us for Morning Prayer live on Facebook at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays. Don't do Facebook? If you send me your email, I will send you a link with instructions on how to watch without signing up for Facebook, and I will also send the readings and a transcript of the sermon.

God be with you 'til we meet again!  
Fr. Brian

## **Bits and Pieces**

### **ECW NEWS**

The ECW news is: Until further notice, we are not scheduling any gatherings. These include First Fridays, Bible Study, ECW Diocesan Convention, Rummage Sale.

Everyone...please be safe and follow the guidelines of the health officials. When this pandemic is under control and it's safe to gather again, we will all celebrate together. Until then, let's share in the online community of Grace by following Fr. Brian's Daily Offices and prayers, and enjoy the musical offerings of Steve, Ellen, Laura and Jon. (Maybe others will share, too.)

The Peace of the Lord be with you.  
Connie B.

## Music Notes from Steve

When someone brought me an autoharp a few years ago from one of the many cleanings of the third floor of the church, who would have known that it would become central to the music I've been making during sheltering at home? I'm gratified that my musical posts have been meaningful to many people, but there's no easy way to know how many are able to enjoy the musical outreach of Grace Church during this unusual time. Certainly for people without internet access, there is a gap. If anyone is missing out, I'd like to hear from you. Would you like a copy of the hymnal to enjoy at home? Could you view my videos of hymns on a DVD or listen to the audio portion on a CD? Music helps us through troubled times, whether we sing along or simply listen. If there is a way the music of Grace would serve you better, please feel free to e-mail [keyplayer123@gmail.com](mailto:keyplayer123@gmail.com) or give me a call at (815) 821-5444. I hope that we're soon able to plan the time of reunion in the church, and as ever, I pray that there is a song in your heart.

Steve McMillen

## Memorial Day

Memorial Day emerged from the grim shadows of the American Civil War. Before the close of the war, women began decorating the graves of soldiers who had died in that war. The practice quickly spread, and a few years later on May 30, 1868, was designated as Decoration Day — a day for placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers throughout the United States.

In 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were also honored. Over the years, it has become a day when all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise — are remembered. In 1971, the United States Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed annually on the last Monday in May.

On this Memorial Day, remember those who gave their lives for our country. But also pray for those who continue serving to keep America free, especially those who are in harm's way.

### Prayer from Book Of Common Prayer

“This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.”

## COVID-19

### A Prayer for Healing

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages  
“Curing every disease and illness.”

At your command, the sick were made well.  
Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of  
the coronavirus, that we may  
experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus.  
May they regain their strength and health  
through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations  
from working together and neighbors  
from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim  
invulnerability to a disease that know no borders.

Be with those who have died from the virus.  
May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died.  
As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and  
despair. May they know your peace.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many  
people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus  
Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and  
prepare.

In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

Submitted by Doris Chesterton from her cousin in New Jersey. It  
came from a church in Farmingdale, NJ.

## From the Treasurer ~

### 2020 OPERATING BUDGET Month Ending March 2020

#### Giving Income:

<u>March '20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan - March '20</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
27,943.44	14,988.86	90,032.58	49,466.26

#### Vanguard Endowment Income:

<u>March '20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan - March '20</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

#### Total Income:

<u>March '20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan - March '20</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
27,943.44	14,988.86	90,032.58	49,466.26

#### Total Building and Grounds Expense:

<u>March '20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan - March '20</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
3,874.64	2,589.61	10,412.74	7,768.51

#### Total All Expenses Including Rector:

<u>March '20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan - March '20</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
15,101.20	14,824.89	52,450.50	48,561.07

#### Current Assets:

<u>Checking</u>	<u>Columbarium</u>	<u>Memorials</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Reserve Fund</u>
39,934.63	7,764.73	10,699.86	408,098.86	72,258.01

**Please note:** Pledge payments and any other contributions can be mailed to the church or dropped off at the church. (Put your envelope in the mail slot located in the church office door)

# PRAY

## GOD'S GLORY

*Across the Earth*

HABAKKUK 2:14

### PASS IT ON!

### MAY 7, 2020

### National Day of Prayer

Please join in prayer for AMERICA, President Trump, Vice President Pence, All Levels of Government, Family, Sanctity of Life, Military, Agriculture, Business, Education, Healthcare Systems, and the Media.

## 2020 NATIONAL PRAYER FOR AMERICA

Father God, we exist to give You glory. We exist because of Your glory, and in Your glory, as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We give you thanks and praise for every breath and moment You have given to us. We repent of our sin; for the shameful things we have done against You and for our silence when we did not speak up to proclaim Your Name, profess Your Word, or protect and practice Your will. We ask Your forgiveness.

We pray that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will spread across our nation and the entire earth as we seek Your Kingdom and righteousness; as we walk in obedience to You, and in humble unity, love one another.

Jesus, the Bible says that You are "the knowledge of the glory of the Lord." You have taught us to pray, commanded us to love, and commissioned us to share Your gospel of grace. Your glory fills our hearts and families, it overflows into our neighborhoods, workplaces, campuses, churches, in our entertainment and media. We give thanks for our military and ask that Your glory would spread to, and through them as they preserve freedom around the world. We pray for our government, that all of our leaders and laws would be filled with Your glory, that they would magnify Your Holy Word and honor Your will and ways. We pray that Your grace and glory would spread to bring hope to the hopeless, and love where there is hurt and hate. God, use us as we pray your promise, that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." In Jesus Name we pray. Amen!

**Kathy Branzell,**

*President, National Day of Prayer Task Force*

## STATEWIDE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER CALL TO PRAYER

Illinois National Day of Prayer (NDP) Statewide Prayer Call for Illinois on May 7, 2020, at 11 AM (Central)

**Dave Butts**, Chairman of the National Prayer Committee; **Dr. Erwin Lutzer**, Pastor Emeritus, Moody Church; **David Smith**, Executive Director of Illinois Family Institute; Illinois State Representative **Tom Morrison**, Chairman, Illinois Legislative Prayer Caucus; and others.

All are welcome and encouraged to call in and join with us in praying for Illinois:  
515/603-3178 Access Code: 258970#

## COUNTYWIDE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER CALL TO PRAYER

We want to take this opportunity and again encourage you to step forward in your County and host a prayer call on May 7th! We also ask that if you know someone in another County in Illinois that might host a call, please talk with them and share the vision of all 102 Counties in Illinois having a prayer call for their County on the National Day of Prayer. If they are interested, they can contact us directly by email or phone call Stan Pratt (217) 254-2155 and Delbra Pratt (217) 273-2156.

*Stan & Delbra Pratt, Illinois National Day of Prayer Coordinators*

## 2020 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER NATIONAL BROADCAST May 7th, 7 - 9 p.m. CT

on GODTV, DAYSTAR, MOODY BROADCASTING  
FACEBOOK LIVE, [www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org)



## **Grace Episcopal Church**

10 S. Cherry Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

Church office hours: 8:00 - 5:00pm Tuesday through Friday

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Grace Episcopal Church WEB Site [gracechurchfreeport.org](http://gracechurchfreeport.org)

In case of an emergency please call:

Fr. Brian Prall 815-233-1828

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The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop of Chicago

Rector:	Fr. Brian Prall
Ministers:	The People of Grace Church
Secretary:	Connie Olson
Wardens:	Carol Price, Senior Warden Glenn Gungel, Junior Warden
Treasurer:	Heidi Downing
Clerk:	Mike Shore
Vestry:	Doris Chesterton, Chad Enright, John Gush, Linda Locascio, Cathy Perkins, Mike Shore, Claudia Smith
Director of Music:	Steve McMillen
Organists:	Steve McMillen and Laura Watson
Altar Guild:	Peggy Isaac

# May



- |      |                                  |      |                                |
|------|----------------------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| 1st  | Jeremy Sigafus<br>Frank Furst    | 11th | Albert Appiah<br>Marsha Holden |
| 2nd  | Cheri Haack                      | 16th | Sarah Marten                   |
| 3rd  | Armeta Reining                   | 20th | Bruce Helm                     |
| 4th  | Susan Bokemeier                  | 21st | Lynn Davis<br>Richard Connors  |
| 6th  | Gabriella Hornung                | 24th | Don Isaac                      |
| 9th  | Stephanie Deganhardt             | 28th | George Davis                   |
| 10th | Fr. Brian Prall<br>Erich Moderow | 30th | Zhenya Bolotnik                |

5th Mark & Karen Moderow

**Deadline** for the June Messenger will be May 18th

Grace Episcopal Church  
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The Grace  
of God is  
with you!

May Newsletter