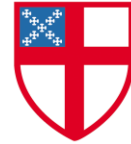


# ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH



### Ministers of the Church

The People of St. Michael

### Our Vestry & Staff

Zollie White II, **Senior Warden**

850-321-2817

Sheila Hickman, **Junior Warden**

703-980-3905

Renee Frazier

Cassandra J. Grayson

Lenin Mongerie

Henry Okafor

Lauren Sapp

Cassandra Werner, **Vestry Clerk**

Laurette Scott, **Treasurer**

Kathleen Rodgers, **Financial**

**Secretary**

Monique Alleyne, Ivana Kenny

Carmola and Debralee LaSeur-

Helfand, **Organists**

Chris White, **Drummer/Choral**

**Director**

John Grayson, **LEMS Co-**

**Ordinator**

Elizabeth Humes, **Admin.**

**Assistant**

### Our Clergy

The Right Reverend John Howard

**Bishop – Diocese of Florida**

The Reverend Hugh Chapman,

**Rector**

340-513-1123

[Frhugh\\_chappy63@yahoo.com](mailto:Frhugh_chappy63@yahoo.com)

TRINITY SUNDAY

May 30, 2021

10:00 a.m.



1405 Melvin Street, FL 32301

Phone (850) 681-0814

Office Hours: Monday to Friday

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Email:

[office@stmichaelandallangels.org](mailto:office@stmichaelandallangels.org)

Website:

[www.stmichaelandallangels.org](http://www.stmichaelandallangels.org)

Find us on Facebook as well!

Follow us on

[Twitter@SMAA.Tally](https://twitter.com/SMAA.Tally)

## HOLY EUCHARIST- RITE TWO

Instrumental Prelude

### Opening prayer

### Opening prayer

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, we pray that you would look graciously upon the Diocese of Florida, and so guide the minds and hearts of the Nominating Committee as they prayerfully select candidates for the election of the next bishop of this diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries: Guide also the minds and hearts of the candidates who will come before the Nominating Committee, that this process will be a time of discernment and growth in their lives and ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### Processional Hymn

### H4,8 v1&2, O Day of Rest and Gladness

*Waldvoegelein*

1. O day of rest and gladness,  
O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness,  
Most beautiful, most bright:  
On Thee, the high and lowly,  
Through ages joined in tune,  
Sing holy, holy, holy,  
To the great God Triune

2. On Thee, at the creation,  
The light first had its birth;  
On Thee, for our salvation,  
Christ rose from depths of earth;  
On Thee, our Lord, victorious,  
The Spirit sent from heaven,  
And thus on Thee, most glorious,  
A triple light was given.

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Collect for Purity**

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; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

## **Collect for the Day**

### **Collect for the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

## **Collect for the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **The Lessons**

*The people sit*

### **A Reading from the Book of the Book of Isaiah (6:1-8)**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!' Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

The Word of the Lord

**People**            **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 29** (*Read responsively by whole verse*)

- 1. Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,\*  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**
- 2. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name;\*  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*
- 3. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders;\*  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.**
- 4. The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;\*  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.*
- 5. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;\*  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**
- 6. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,\*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.*
- 7. The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;\*  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- 8. The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe\*  
and strips the forests bare.*
- 9. And in the temple of the Lord\*  
all are crying, "Glory!"**
- 10. The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;\*  
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.*
- 11. The Lord shall give strength to his people;\*  
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

**Glory be to the Father  
And to the Son  
And to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now,  
And ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.**

**A Reading from the Epistle to the Romans (8:12-17)**

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**People**                      **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn**                      **L111 v1&2, Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**                      Nettleton

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Come Thou fount of every blessing<br>Tune my heart to sing Thy grace<br>Streams of mercy never ceasing<br>Call for songs of loudest praise | 2. Teach me some melodious sonnet<br>Sung by flaming tongues above<br>Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it<br>Mount of Thy redeeming love |
|---|--|

**The Holy Gospel**

**Gospeler**                      **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (3:1-17)**

**People**                      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and

be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

After the Gospel the Reader says:

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sequence Hymn L111 v3&4, Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessings Nettleton**

3. Here I raise my Ebenezer  
Here by Thy great help I've come  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home.

4. Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wandering from the fold of God  
He to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood

**Sermon**

The Reverend Hugh Chapman

**The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, True God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnated from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried. On the third day

he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

### **Prayers of the People Form V**

*Deacon or other leader*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Here and after every petition the People respond by saying Lord, have mercy.*

For **Justin**, Archbishop of Canterbury, for **Michael**, our Presiding Bishop, for **Samuel**, our Bishop, for **Hugh**, our Rector, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

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

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those in positions of public trust especially **Joseph**, our President, **Kamala** our Vice-President, **Ron** our Governor, **Al** our Congressman, and **John** our Mayor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who live and work in this community, we pray to you, O Lord.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

For **St. Michael and All Angels** congregation both present and absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation especially our sick and homebound as well as those who are in need of prayers and healing:

**For those at home:**

Fr. Laughton Thomas, Sharal Jugger, Rosalyn Greene, Ella Woodbury, Sam Oliver Sr., James Manning, Toni Jarmon, Rev. Leslie R. White, Rev. Ralph Griffith, Leonel Jones, Charles Walton, Joan Jackson Taylor, Howard Vincent Lewis, Franklyn Bramble, Christine Seymour, Mary Ann Nottage, Kove Lawson, Cynthia Holland, Genevieve Vaughn, Margaret Edwards and Genevieve Chapman.

**For those in the care of the Doctor:**

Joycelyn Stephens, Jo Ann Robinson, Williamae Jackson, Lauren Sapp, Dr. Derek Spencer, Marva Davis, Delores Brown, Hattie Olivia Scott, Alexis Shermise Brown, Jasmine Hartin, Shevette Newkirk, Rudolph & Marva Griffith, Delois Abraham, Stella Harris, Pamela Harris Williams, Klcey Scott, Erica Scott, Renrick Alleyne, Jeffery Adams, Mayleen Rosheuvel, Ena Mason, Darlene Sheppard, Merrick Winston Edwards, Devonia Sears, Landon Dyre, Brittany Lee, Fr. William Guthrie, Herma Watson Taylor, Fred Hickman, Barbara Gruden, Carolyn Allen, Cn. Nelson Pinder, Diane Martindale, Pennela Chapman and Juliette Mentore.



**For those on the front lines in the fight against the Coronavirus Pandemic:**

Especially all doctors, nurses, scientists, and our own, Dr. Shaun Laurie, Dr. Nwamaka Onyeozili, Dr. Ross Howard McMillan, Dr. Ciara Grayson, Dr. Elaine Sharpe, Zuri A. White and Cheston Williams.

**For those in the Military:**

Linzie Bogan II, Clark Bogan, Brianne Edwards, Vashti Thompson, Thandi Williams and you may add your own .we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Silence*

**Collect for the Coronavirus Pandemic.**

**Confession of Sin**

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept*

*Minister and people*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

*The Celebrant then says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People**      **And also with you.**

## The Peace

## Peace, Perfect Peace

## Pax Tecum

1. Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?  
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.
2. Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?  
To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.
3. Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?  
Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.
4. Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?  
Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.
5. It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,  
and Jesus call to heaven's perfect peace.

## Offertory

## Organ Interlude

## Doxology

## L56, Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

## Hatton

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Presentation of the Offering – prayer to be said

*Father, we offer you these gifts which you have given us; this bread, this wine, this money. With them we offer ourselves, our lives, and our work, to become through your Holy Spirit, a reasonable, holy and lively sacrifice. As this bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, so may we and all your people become channels of your love; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

### ***Eucharistic Prayer A*** (remain standing)

***Celebrant*** The Lord be with you.

***People*** And also with you.

***Celebrant*** Lift up your hearts.

***People*** We lift them to the Lord

***Celebrant*** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People*** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*The Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

*Celebrant and People*

**Sanctus**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*(The people stand or kneel)*

*Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. *Amen.*

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **Communion Hymn**

### **A567 v1&2, I, the Lord of Sea and Sky**

Dan Schuttler

I, I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky,  
I Have Heard My People Cry.  
All Who Dwell In Dark And Sin,  
My Hand Will Save.  
I Who Made The Stars Of Night,  
I Will Make Their Darkness Bright.  
Who Will Bear My Light To Them?  
Whom Shall I Send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night  
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.  
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart

**2.** I, The Lord of Snow And Rain,  
I Have Borne My People's Pain.  
I Have Wept For Love Of Them, they Turn Away  
I Will Break Their Hearts Of Stone,  
Give them Hearts For Love Alone.  
I Will Speak My Word To them  
Whom Shall I Send?

Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?  
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.  
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.  
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.

**Meditation Hymn      Musical Interlude**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing**

**Announcements**

**Recessional Hymn**

**H423 v1&2, Immortal Invisible**

*St. Denio*

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

**Dismissal**

Celebrant      Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

People      **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

## WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

*We extend a warm welcome to our guests. Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are without a church home, we invite you to join our church family. Please sign the guest register, include your home address, phone number and, if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter, news of special events and other happenings, please also add your e-mail address.*

***OUR VISION** is to be a cornerstone for serving the spiritual needs of the greater Tallahassee community, extending an eternal invitation to join our caring parish and to enrich the spiritual life of all people as we journey with Christ.*

***OUR MISSION** is to experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ by feeding the mind, body and spirit of our community in fellowship and service.*



**HOLY COMMUNION:** All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive the real and living presence of Christ in Holy Communion. To receive the Bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed. When receiving the Wine, please guide the chalice as it is offered. If you prefer, you may leave the Bread on your palm for the person administering the chalice to dip into the Wine and place on your tongue. All persons are welcome to give thanks for God's blessings at the altar rail, simply crossing your arms at the wrist with fingertips extending upward towards your shoulders.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY!**

Linda Dilworth (6/2/), Tresia Mongerie (6/3), Neil James (6/4), Oral Payne (6/4), Kevin Satchell (6/4), Edward & Delanie Ornstein (6/1).

#### **Birthday Prayer**

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace, which passeth understanding, abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

#### **Anniversary Prayer**

God our Father, who made men and women to live together in families: we pray that marriage may be held in honor; that husbands and wives may live together faithfully, according to their vows; and that members of every family may grow in mutual love and understanding. In courtesy and kindness, so that they may bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ; for His name's sake. *Amen*

## From the Rector's Desk

### Revisiting Electronic Worship

I have been reading an article entitled – Assembly, liturgical reality we will need again. Gordon Latrop bemoans the fact that the Christian experience of the coronavirus pandemic, has resulted in pain for lots of fellow believers particularly our loss of meeting together. Out of a sense of caution, and at the urging of public health officials (also diocesan bishops) in person worship went away and only recently attempts have been made to regather, with nominal success. So those churches that decided it is time, have done so utilizing unusual arrangements with church members spaced widely apart, no choirs, no touching and the Eucharist only being offered in one kind (the host). Prior to a resumption of the worship experience, virtual gathering became the order of the day – recorded sermons, live streamed eucharistic liturgies (as we do) and virtually everything else on zoom. Underneath all the alternatives we were able to resort to, there remained a profound sense of loss. We here at SMAA, can only imagine how grown the Omars and Coltons must be! A more fundamental question perhaps maybe – what shall we do with our longing for bodily assembly? We are no doubt encouraged about the statistics indicating that COVID-19 has now become less of a threat than say, ten months ago. And yet the hesitance remains, imperiling our return to this sacred space.

Actually we are not alone in our wrestling. Indeed the theologians of our Episcopal Church have been examining what we have lost and what we will continue to lose if we stay apart for much longer. Bishop Howard said to me in a previous conversation, we Episcopalians prefer gathering in person rather than watching mass on TV. The reality for the older among us may be that they will still need to continue to do this “distance connection” for a while to come. Across our communion, some congregations have resorted to encouraging parishioners to surf through digital offerings on a Sunday morning. In others, there has even been the experiment of celebrating the Eucharist, with people at home setting up their own bread and wine before the computer screen and then consuming it. Is this a worthy substitute for what we have all grown accustomed to? The gathering that we all knew, was Sunday School being held prior to the

*Continue on Pg. 15*

Eucharist, and then the Fellowship Hour that followed in the parish hall, with Stacy Tinner holding center stage.

We need to return and recapture what COVID-19 surely stole from us – the worship experience.

*Fr. Hugh+*

*(to be continued next week)*

### **Capital Campaign Prayer**

Most gracious Lord Jesus Christ and generous source of all abundance, in gratitude we invite you to expand our hearts as we seek to increase and improve this place of worship, peace, healing, forgiveness, outreach, service and fellowship. May all who enter here be restored and strengthened on their journey of faith. Guide us Heavenly Father, that we may make manifest your vision of a beloved and enlightened church and community, and be a shining example of the living presence of the Holy Spirit. May we and our Capital Campaign be a channel of God's abundant grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. *Amen.*

### **Collect for the Coronavirus Pandemic**

Almighty God, Heavenly Healer, we bring to you all who are affected by our present pandemic; for the infirm and infected, the anxious and afraid. By your power defend us and heal us. Let us see one another not as vectors of infection, but at opportunities for love and service, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Suggested daily Readings for the Season after Pentecost: May 30 – June 5**

|               |                         |                        |                       |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Mon.</b>   | <b>Eccles. 1:1-11</b>   | <b>Psalm 41, 52</b>    | <b>Matt. 13:44-52</b> |
| <b>Tue.</b>   | <b>Eccles. 2:16-26</b>  | <b>Psalm 45</b>        | <b>Matt. 13:53-58</b> |
| <b>Wed.</b>   | <b>Eccles. 3:1-15</b>   | <b>Psalm 119:49-72</b> | <b>Matt. 14:1-12</b>  |
| <b>Thurs.</b> | <b>Eccles. 3:16-4:3</b> | <b>Psalm 50</b>        | <b>Matt. 14:13-21</b> |
| <b>Fri.</b>   | <b>Eccles. 5:1-7</b>    | <b>Psalm 40, 45</b>    | <b>Matt. 14:22-36</b> |
| <b>Sat.</b>   | <b>Eccles. 5:8-20</b>   | <b>Psalm 55</b>        | <b>Matt. 15:1-20</b>  |