



NOVEMBER 2023

TIDINGS

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, North Carolina

GRACE, WHAT IS IT?

Last week in the context of our Thursday class, I was asked to define grace. *Yikes*. I thought, *What is grace?* Yes, of course I know what grace is. But can I explain it?

From the prayerbook, “grace is God's favor towards us, unearned and undeserved...”, our Catechism goes on, “...by grace, God forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills.” The Catechism also states that the sacraments and the sacramental rites of the church are means of grace.^[1]

Grace is something given by God, freely to all creation.

I also remembered a paraphrased quote from Martin Luther – “grace falls on everyone like a napkin.” The righteous and the unrighteous.^[2] Unmerited and undeserved love for all.

Like many words we throw around in church circles I can take for granted what they mean. So then how do I understand grace in my life – what is my lived-out experience of grace? And then beloved, what is yours?

As many of you know, we are first time grandparents. This is definitely an outward and visible sign [sacrament] of God's love. Watching our son and daughter-in-law with baby Eugene is so pure and new and fresh. Inspiring in me a sense of receiving without doing anything. Like watching the colors of fall or staring up at a starry night sky. Completely unbidden. Seeing, witnessing and accepting the beauty and wonder of God's grace meant for all - meant for me and you.

This is God's way. Teaching me again about letting go of thinking that I have to earn something or that others don't deserve this same love. Helping to imagine how I can be more like the One who created me, who sustains me and who offers grace at every turn. At all turns.

There is a moral to my story: even as we struggle to understand the things of this world, to figure who is right and who is wrong, what is up or down, to seek the whys for suffering and sadness; we remember the gift of God's grace. We will still struggle with “why”, but we can look for and remember and claim God's grace. For all of us.

Alison+

[1] BCP, pp. 857-860

[2] Matthew 5:44-45



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 SCOTT SANFORD
- 2 KATHY MILLER
- 2 MEG BRADLEY
- 4 JOHN COUNCIL
- 4 IRV WELLING
- 6 BILL WESTON
- 6 CAROL BISHOP
- 6 LAURA FLAHERTY
- 7 GEORGE KRISLE
- 11 EMILY MURPHY
- 12 NEVA THOMPSON
- 13 BILLY ANDERSON
- 13 GEORGE WHELOCK
- 14 MARY JANE HARVEY
- 16 BARBARA CUSACHS
- 16 ALMA O'NEAL
- 16 CRAIG PAULY
- 16 BEN COOPER
- 17 WALT DODGE
- 18 BECKY GREENE
- 18 BRYAN BURKETT
- 18 WES COOPER
- 20 ROB HUNTER
- 21 JOE WARREN
- 21 MELISSA HUDSON
- 22 DARRIN DEAN
- 23 JANIE CREWS
- 23 PAT MCLENDON-KAYE
- 23 HENRY PUSCH
- 23 MAGGIE ACHEY
- 25 CONNIE BISCHOFF
- 25 GREG PORGES
- 25 NANCY JOHNSON
- 26 JODY BAUKNIGHT
- 26 H.A. MOORE
- 27 SHANNON REID
- 29 MARIAN POITEVENT
- 29 RICK DETLEFS
- 29 REESE LANIER
- 29 HELEN JOHNSON
- 30 BETH ARTHUR
- 30 LAURA LANKFORD
- 30 DENNY GOODE

TRANSITIONS

New to Good Shepherd

Marty & Betsy Harvey
Liz Wilson
Elizabeth Perrin

Tom & Martha Davis
Emilie Shaw

Welcome to the Body of Christ

Baptism of Brent Adams Smith III
October 15, 2023



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 WILL & BECKY MCKEE
- 2 BILL & KATHE CANBY
- 8 JOHN & LIDA HERRING
- 10 MARK & DEBBIE LASSITER
- 15 JIM & BARB RECKTENWALD

- 19 BRAD & ANN MUNDAY
- 24 JOE & LEA THOMPSON
- 25 JOHN & SUSIE WEAN
- 25 VIC & ANNE BRANDT
- 30 BILLY & SANDRA ANDERSON

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS MISSING PLEASE CONTACT ELLEN AT 828-743-2359 OR GOODSHEPADMIN@FRONTIER.COM



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JOSÉ

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope that this letter finds you all well. It is with a heart full of gratitude and renewed vigor that I write to you today, having recently returned from my sabbatical.



First, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for your support, understanding, and patience during my absence. Your dedication to our community and your unwavering faith continued to inspire me throughout my sabbatical.

I also wish to express my deep appreciation to the diocesan staff and leadership for keeping things going, and to the clergy and staff who tirelessly worked to meet the spiritual needs of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina in my absence. Your commitment to our mission is truly commendable.

A sabbatical is more than time away from work. The intention of a sabbatical is to go deeper with God, seeking God's guidance and inspiration while also enjoying a respite along the way. During my time of rest, reflection, and prayer, I had the opportunity to seek God's guidance for my ministry in a deeper way and engage in activities that renewed my mind and spirit.

I spent time in London, England working alongside the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. I also dedicated a portion of my sabbatical to exploring my family's roots and genealogy. I'm grateful for the discovery of my family's rich tapestry of faith and heritage that has shaped my own journey. I'm thankful also for the cherished moments with my family, including the joy of my son's wedding, which brought us all closer together.

I had time to not only care for myself and to spend some time with my family, but I was also able to step back, look at things with a fresh perspective, and see areas that need adjustment. I'm reminded of the words of Jesus in giving the greatest commandment: to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. In this commandment to love one another, Jesus also recognizes the role of self-care in each person's life. We cannot love one another well unless we also honor and care for ourselves.

During my sabbatical, I realized the importance of observing Sabbath rest and discerning how I spend my time. I am just one person, and I came to a renewed understanding that it is important that I have the energy and clarity of mind to lead effectively. That is why I am making it a priority to maintain a balance between my responsibilities and self-care.

(continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3)

As I return to my episcopal duties, please know that I do so with a profound sense of responsibility and a reinvigorated spirit. I am excited to resume our shared mission of spreading the love and teachings of Christ, and I look forward to walking this journey of faith with each one of you.

I invite you to join me in prayer as we seek God's guidance for our community's future. Together, we will continue to grow in faith, love, and service to one another and to our broader community.

Thank you for your understanding and remarkable support as I set out to embrace new habits and practices of self-care while working to deepen our ministries with an eye toward the future.

I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving as your bishop, and I am eager to see all the many ways we will continue walking the Way of Love together.

My blessings and love to you all.

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin
VII Bishop



THE 101ST ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina

November 9-11, 2023

St. James, Hendersonville

Prelude to Convention

Open to all in the diocese

Savor & Share - Nov. 9

Dinner & Keynote

Prior Ponderings - Nov. 10

Workshops & Lunch

St. John in the Wilderness, Flat Rock

OUR REPRESENTATIVES



VIC BRANDT

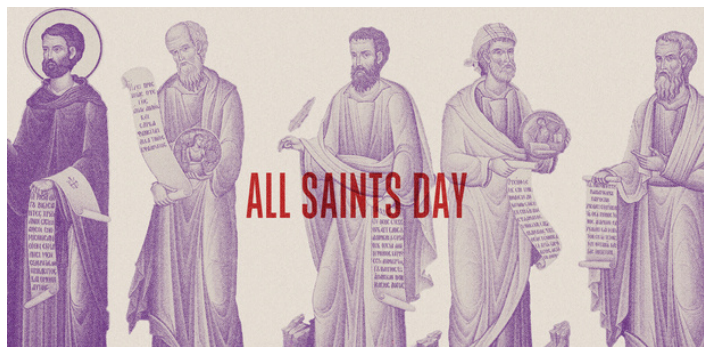


PETER KECK



ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS

You've probably heard of All Saints' Day, and you know about Halloween, of course. But what about All Souls' Day, and All Hallows' Eve, and All Faithful Departed? What's the difference?



November 1 is All Saints' Day, one of the principal feasts of the Episcopal Church, when the church remembers the saints, known and unknown. It is also one of the four holy days denoted as especially appropriate for baptisms. (The others are the First Sunday after Epiphany, the Easter Vigil, and Pentecost.) This year we transfer the Feast of All Saints to the nearest Sunday, November 5th.

The origins of All Saints' Day aren't completely clear. A feast for all martyrs was observed as early as the fourth century on May 13. And Pope Gregory III dedicated a chapel in Rome to all saints on November 1, while Pope Gregory IV officially declared its general observance in 837.

In medieval England this feast was known as All Hallows (hallow was an old English term for saint), and the day before was All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween. It is believed that the traditions we associate with Halloween originate with Celtic harvest festivals, in particular the festival of Samhain, which celebrated the harvest and when the dead were said to return to their homes because the veil between the physical and spiritual worlds was thought to be thinnest at that time. Bonfires were lit to frighten away evil spirits.

November 2 is the commemoration of All Faithful Departed, sometimes called All Souls' Day. It is a day when faithful Christians who have died are remembered.

While in the New Testament "saints" refers to the entire Christian community, it has come to mean people of "heroic sanctity" whose holy deeds are remembered by Christians. Beginning in the tenth century, the church began to remember all departed Christians on November 2. Many remember their loved ones who have died on this day. We offer a liturgy for all the Faithful Departed on Thursday November 2 at 12 noon.



FAITHFUL DEPARTED SERVICE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 12:00 PM

WE WILL HOLD A SERVICE FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED. THE SERVICE WILL INCLUDE MUSIC, EUCHARIST, AND A SPECIAL TRIBUTE FOR THE DEPARTED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A LOVED ONE TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS SERVICE, PLEASE CONTACT ELLEN.



SOJOURNER TRUTH

(c. 1797/98-Nov. 26, 1883)

Antislavery reformer and prophet

She was born a slave in Ulster County, New York, and named Isabella Baumfree. She purchased her freedom when she was twenty-eight. After one of her many religious visions, on June 1, 1843, she took the name Sojourner Truth. She moved to New York City and became a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. She was a traveling preacher, an advocate of woman's rights, and an abolitionist. She was a leading suffrage speaker, and her brief classic speech, "Ain't I a Woman," criticizes men and white women for neglect of the plight of African American women. She was also known as "Miriam of the Last Exodus." She died in Battle Creek, Michigan.



O God, whose Spirit guides us into all truth and makes us free: Strengthen and sustain us as you did your servant Sojourner. Give us vision and courage to stand against oppression and injustice and all that works against the glorious liberty to which you call all your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Stewardship 2024

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

(Revelation 22:13)

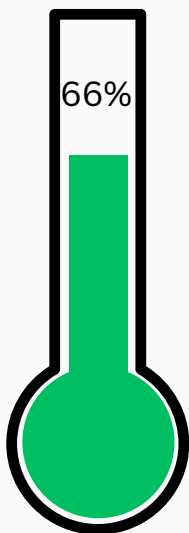
Maybe the founders of Good Shepherd wanted us to focus on that truth by placing the Alpha and Omega windows behind the altar. When we come and when we go, when we receive and when we give, we can't miss this truth.

After a successful Bazaar Barn Campaign (for which we give thanks!) it is now time to turn our attention to our ministry and our pledges for 2024. Please let us know your support by filling out a pledge card and returning it to Good Shepherd within the next few weeks.

In years past, we also asked for time and talent cards in this appeal. We are changing our approach this year. You will hear more week-to-week about ministries and needs and ways to get involved. We hope this in-person approach will help make timely connections for all—and keep the energy to serve and be involved going strong.

May our Alpha and Omega windows remind you (whether in person or on line!) of our life in Christ, that Christ is all in all. Like we say: "all things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee."

As of October 26, 2023: 131 pledges Received for \$546,210





CLIVE STAPLES LEWIS

Apologist and Spiritual Writer, 1963

O God of searing truth and surpassing beauty, we give you thanks for Clive Staples Lewis whose sanctified imagination lights fires of faith in young and old alike; Surprise us also with your joy and draw us into that new and abundant life which is ours in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



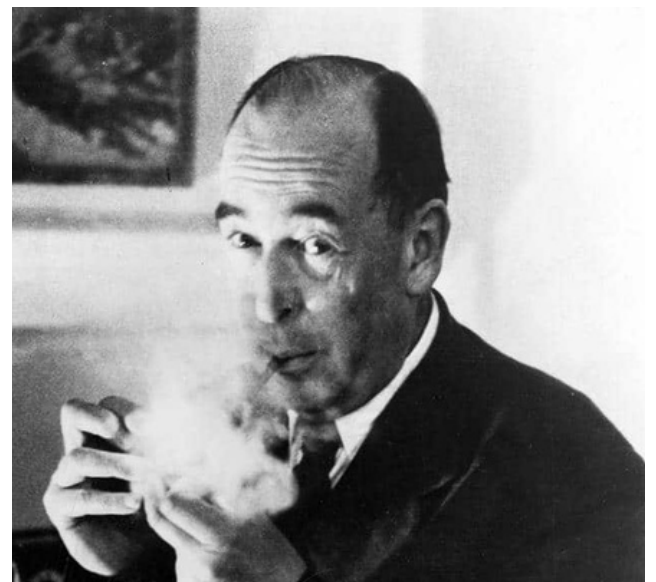
Born in Belfast on November 29, 1918, Lewis was raised as an Anglican but rejected Christianity during his adolescent years. After serving in World War I, he started a long academic career as a scholar in medieval and renaissance literature at both Oxford and Cambridge. He also began an inner journey that led him from atheism to agnosticism to theism and finally to faith in Jesus Christ. C S Lewis wrote many books and essays on the Christian faith, some defending it, some meditating on it. In the judgment of many, he is the most popular and most effective explainer and defender of the Christian faith writing in English in this century.

He tried to make a point of avoiding disputes on matters where Christians disagree, and defending those beliefs which they hold in common. His work was valued by many Christians of widely differing backgrounds: Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, etc. A very short list of his writings include: *The Chronicles of Narnia, Mere Christianity, Surprised by Joy* and *The Screwtape Letters*.

The following poem is on a plaque offered in memory of C.S. Lewis outside a gate between Deer Park and a bridge leading to Addison's Walk. It was placed in 1998 to mark the centenary of Lewis's birth.

WHAT THE BIRD SAID EARLY IN THE YEAR

I heard in Addison's Walk a bird sing clear:
This year the summer will come true. This year. This year.
Winds will not strip the blossom from the apple trees
This year, nor want of rain destroy the peas.
This year time's nature will no more defeat you,
Nor all the promised moments in their passing cheat you.
This time they will not lead you round and back
To Autumn, one year older, by the well-worn track.
This year, this year, as all these flowers foretell,
We shall escape the circle and undo the spell.
Often deceived, yet open once again your heart,
Quick, quick, quick, quick! – the gates are drawn apart.



The Reverend Robert B. Wood, Rector
rwood.gs@gmail.com
The Reverend Alison Schultz, Assistant Rector
The Reverend Toby Summerour, Adjunct Priest
The Reverend Steve Hines, Adjunct Priest

Church of the Good Shepherd
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SAVE THE DATE

