



# St. Boniface Episcopal Church

5615 Midnight Pass Road • Siesta Key • Sarasota, Florida 34242  
(941) 349-5616      www.bonifacechurch.org

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith, DMin., Bishop  
The Very Rev. Wayne Farrell, Rector  
The Rev. Jonathan Evans, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Elisa Hansen, Deacon  
Dr. James W. Guyer, Organist/Choirmaster

## The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two November 1, 2020 10:00 a.m. ~ All Saints' Day

Prelude

Londonderry Air *arr. Ellsasser* / *Elegy C. H. Parry*

Welcome and Announcements *(see notes page 9)*

### The Word of God

Hymn 287 For all the saints (vs. 1, 2, 4, 8)



1 For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who  
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:\_\_\_  
3 O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,\_\_\_  
4 O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!\_\_\_



thee\_\_\_ by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy  
thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well - fought fight;\_\_\_  
fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old, and  
We feeb - ly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet



Name, O\_\_\_ Je - sus, be for ev - er blessed.  
thou, in the dark - ness dread, the one true Light.  
win, with\_\_\_ them, the vic - tor's crown of gold.  
all are\_\_\_ one in thee, for all are thine.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



\*5 And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long, steals on the ear the  
\*6 The gold-en eve-ning bright-ens in the west; soon, soon to faith-ful



dis - tant tri - umph song, and hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are  
war - riors com - eth rest; sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the

strong.  
blest. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

\*7 But lo! there breaks a yet more glo - rious day; the  
\*8 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through

saints tri - umph - ant rise in bright ar - ray; the  
gates of pearl streams in the count - less host

King of glo - ry pass - es on his way.  
sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

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

*Celebrant:* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

**Song of Praise S-278**

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For  
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant* Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *People* **Amen.**

### The Lessons

#### Revelation 7:9-17

After this I, John, looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 293

I sing a song of the saints of God



1 I sing a song of the saints of God,  
 2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and  
 3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are



pa - tient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and  
 his love made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for  
 hund - reds of thou - sands still, the world is bright with the



lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And  
 Je - sus' sake, the whole of their good lives long. And  
 joy - ous saints who love to do Je - sus' will. You can



one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep -  
 one was a sold - ier, and one was a priest, and one was slain  
 meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains,



herd - ess on the green: they were all of them saints of  
 by a fierce wild - beast; and there's not an - y rea - son -  
 or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of God are just



God - and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.  
 no, not the least, why I should - n't be one too.  
 folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**Matthew 5:1-2**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

## The Baptismal Covenant

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Response after each bidding* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* May the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, who has knit us together in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of Christ our Lord: Grant to your whole Church in paradise and on earth, your light and thy peace. **Amen.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life. **Amen.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Amen.**

Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind. **Amen.**

Grant to all who suffer in body, mind and spirit, a sure confidence in your care, that they may know the healing power of your love. **Amen.**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, the crown of life which you promise to all who share in the victory of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

*Celebrant* 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 Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.** *Greet one another with a nod, or a bow, in the name of the Lord.*

## The Holy Communion

*Celebrant* With grateful hearts, let us give what we have. With joyful hope, let us give for what can be.

### Offertory Anthem

O Thou, whose all-redeeming might *Blackwell*  
O Thou, whose all-redeeming might crowns every saint in glory bright, on this commemoration day hear us, good Jesu, while we pray. Contending for thy holy name thy servants earned their saintly fame, which pious hearts with praise revere in constant memory year by year. Earth's fleeting joys they counted naught, for higher, truer joys they sought, and now with angels round the throne unfading treasures are their own. O grant that we, most gracious God, may follow in the steps they trod; and, freed from every stain of sin, as they have won may also win. To thee, O Christ, our loving King, all glory, praise and thanks we bring; whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost for evermore. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For in the multitude of your saints, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, that we might rejoice in their fellowship, and run with endurance the race that is set before us; and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that never fades away.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### Sanctus S-128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*Celebrant* 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.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant:* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People* **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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S-165



*Celebrant* These are the gifts of God for the People of God. To those who, due to this pandemic, are unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine; I assure you that all of the benefits of this Holy Communion are received spiritually, even though the Sacrament is not received physically.

### *People may pray* **A Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

Lord Jesus Christ, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I offer my praise and thanksgiving in communion with those who are receiving the blessed bread and cup at this Holy Eucharist. As I embrace you with all of my affections, send your body and blood to dwell spiritually in my life. Amen.

Hymn 279 For thy dear saints, O Lord

1 For thy dear saints, O Lord, who strove in thee to live, who  
 2 They all in life and death, with thee their Lord in view, learned  
 3 Thine earth - ly mem - bers fit to join thy saints a - bove, in  
 4 Je - sus, thy Name we bless, and hum - bly pray that we may

fol - lowed thee, o - beyed, a - dored, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.  
 from thy Ho - ly Spi - rit's breath to suf - fer and to do.  
 one com - mun - ion ev - er knit, one fel - low - ship of love.  
 fol - low them in ho - li - ness, who lived and died for thee.

*After Communion, the people stand as the Celebrant says* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People* 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for an Election (BCP page 822)

*Celebrant and People* Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of official and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Blessing**

*Celebrant* May God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

**Dismissal**

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 718 God of our fathers *remain standing, only choir sings*

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y  
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the  
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -  
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band  
 past, in this free land by thee our lot is cast;  
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;  
 way, lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,  
 be thou our ru - ler, guard - ian, guide, and stay  
 thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease,  
 fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.  
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.  
 thy bount - eous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.  
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

Postlude

Processional March in A Major A. Guilmant

## Announcements

- ❖ Best wishes to those who **celebrate birthdays and anniversaries** this week: Joy Beaudry, Al Grabo, Ed Holmes, Reg Irvine, Hal McDuffie, Ralph Morey, Jack Pendray, Sabrina Prell, Melliss Swenson, Peg Wickham, Jane Zarzecki, Deb and Dan Blackwood, Carolyn and Peter Bruder, Jane and Marty Faust, Jan and Rae Hinch.
- ❖ **Faith-filled Generosity** We wrapped up our series of Cottage Meetings this week. But you will soon be able to catch the fun and fellowship, celebration and vision by visiting the stewardship page of our website. You'll hear a special word of encouragement from The Most Rev. Michael Curry and remarks from our parish leadership, and enjoy a chat with St. Nicholas and St. Boniface, and learn what we have to look forward to in 2021. Stay tuned for info about the link as it becomes available. *Be sure to pick up your **pledge packet** this morning, or stop by the church office between 10:00 and 2:00 this Monday or Tuesday!*  
 ... We live in uncertain times for many reasons—the pandemic, the deep divisions among people, the uncharted path our future seems to take. Hope is required to live in our world. *With joyful hope in uncertain times, let us give for what can be.*

- ❖ Gifts towards All Saints' Day **altar flowers** today are given by:  
 The Rev. Jeffrey Hamblin, MD, in memory of David & Opal (Hooker) Hamblin, Harry Lillibridge, James & Angie (Reese) Hamblin, Otto & Julia (Grock) Hooker, Michael Hamblin, James & Eleanor Hamblin, Lamoine, Raymond, Ronald, Michael, Larry, Mary and Ruth Hooker, Dora Cook, Richard Hooker, Adolf & Annabel (Hooker) Brunetti, Edward Hooker, Dr Robert & Blanche (Hooker) Balinson  
 David & Ann Gentry, in memory of The Rev. & Mrs. John G. Holton and sons, Paul, David & Peter, and Lewis & Shirley Gentry and sons, Warren & Charles  
 Betsie Danner & Vince Brennan, in thanksgiving and loving memory for the saints we have known  
 Betsy Hooper, in memory of Gerald J. Catalano and Joseph Hooper  
 Trish & Wayne Farrell and Reid Farrell, Jr., & Dale Willard, in memory of Adelaide & Reid Farrell
- ❖ **Sunday morning Adult Ed** at 9:00 a.m. continues by Zoom, for **Bible Study** contact Fr. Jeff Hamblin, [jlh@jeffreyhamblin-md.com](mailto:jlh@jeffreyhamblin-md.com), and for the **Book Discussion** group contact Vince Brennan, [vhbrennan43@gmail.com](mailto:vhbrennan43@gmail.com).
- ❖ **Evensong today, 5:00 p.m.** The church will be open for limited seating. Reservations, distancing, and face coverings required. To highlight the Feast of All Saints, the choir of St. Boniface will be singing and we will pray the names of those from our parish who died this year. Livestreaming is also available through Boxcast on our website (search "evensong"), St. Boniface or Music at St. Boniface Facebook pages, or our St. Boniface You Tube channel.

#### **This week's meeting and worship opportunities:**

- ❖ Join us weekdays at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer**, and at 5:00 p.m. for **Evening Prayer** via our St. Boniface Church Facebook page. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) to open your account.
- ❖ **Prayer Shawl Ministry** continues on Tuesdays by Zoom to knit prayers together into shawls for those needing to be wrapped in God's healing love. Contact Meg Larrabee by email [meglarrabee@hotmail.com](mailto:meglarrabee@hotmail.com).
- ❖ **Contemplative Prayer** meets via Zoom bi-weekly at 10:30 am on the first and third Wednesdays of the month **November 4 & 18** (ID: 886 9678 4674 Passcode: 077733)
- ❖ **Wednesday** (in-person, masks required) **Eucharist** at 12:00 p.m. in our Chapel, also livestreamed on the Boniface Facebook page or Boxcast channel.
- ❖ **Circulo español** Conversational Spanish Group meets by Zoom on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. - there are no books, no tests, no homework -- just friends who want to improve and refresh their ability to speak Spanish and to help one another in doing so. Contact Mary Gordon for more information, 941-923-2302 or [jmkpl@aol.com](mailto:jmkpl@aol.com).
- ❖ **Wednesday music** offered weekly at 7:30 p.m. on our website [bonifacechurch.org/music](http://bonifacechurch.org/music). This Wednesday's concert features Max Tan, violin, with Jung-a Bang, piano & Chris Chen, organ.
- ❖ Join us for **virtual coffee hour** at 10:00 a.m. every Thursday via this Zoom link (password 207747) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83690988158?pwd=UC9ZSmtiWWtuSGNjcUJKbG9lTnpDUT09>

- ❖ **Men of Boniface** gather each Friday at 8:00 a.m. by Zoom, contact Reg Irvine for the invite information, [reg.irvine@verizon.net](mailto:reg.irvine@verizon.net).
- ❖ **Playground Pick-up!** Join James, Jonathan and families on Saturday, **November 7** at 9:00 a.m. as we get the playground cleaned up and ready for the Siesta Youth Chorale and children of the parish.
- ❖ **Thanksgiving Offering** This month your special giving can do double duty. Not only will it fuel the nurturing ministries at St. Boniface, it can also feed the hungry in our community. Once we have achieved \$1,000, we will donate all additional gifts to All Faiths Food Bank. Your gift may be a memorial or tribute. Please use the envelope in your packet or send your check to Saint Boniface marked Thanksgiving Day.
- ❖ **St. Nicholas 2020: A Virtual Fair!** Visit [bonifacechurch.org](http://bonifacechurch.org) to find out how you can participate in the St. Nicholas Fair safely this year. Purchase a set of exquisite art glass ornaments reflective of the St. Boniface Church windows, or direct a donation to Meals on Wheels, All Faiths Food Bank, and Family Promise of Sarasota. All profits from the art glass sales go to these three organizations.
- ❖ **Nominations** for members of the **vestry class of 2023** are now being accepted. Please contact vestry members Ann Hardcastle (941-538-8980), Phil Baker (214-549-7200) or Tom Krueger (678-699-6956) if interested.
- ❖ Turn your **leftover Halloween candy** into a Christmas treat! Drop your leftover Halloween candy in the special basket provided (outside the church today, and outside the church office the week of November 2 – 6). Our community partner, **Brothers and Sisters Doing the Right Thing**, fills stockings with your goodies, bringing a little Christmas cheer to the youth of Newtown, in the migrant camps and at a local food bank. Early purchase of Christmas candy is an especially welcome donation for this worthy cause!
- ❖ **Literary Ladies** next meet via Zoom **November 12** at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the book *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Contact Marilyn Hill for more info and the Zoom invite, 941-374-1990.
- ❖ **Center for Spiritual Transformation Zoom educational event November 14, 10:00 a.m.** A Saturday Zoom event lead by Judy Sherpa presenting on blending Eastern and Western prayer. (Zoom ID 849 5849 3207 Passcode: 596368)
- ❖ **Hope, Relief and ERD** Bring hope to the residents of southern Louisiana, recently slammed by Hurricane Zeta. This is the fifth storm to hit the state this year! Visit Episcopal Relief & Development's website ([www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org)) or write your check to St. Boniface (with ERD on the memo line). This independent outreach organization of the Episcopal Church is already coordinating with their established partners to bring immediate aid and provide long-term rebuilding.
- ❖ **"Curbside" Communion** Should you desire to receive the Holy Communion at home during the week, please call the church office.
- ❖ The **clergy are always available**, please call Fr. Wayne Farrell, 941-266-2140 or Fr. Jonathan Evans, 786-540-5704.

- ❖ As you are able, your **financial gifts** and continuing payments toward your pledge are appreciated. On-line giving is easy through the donate button at the bottom of the video, or at [bonifacechurch.org/stewardship](http://bonifacechurch.org/stewardship).

November 1, 2020

## *Lives shaped by The Beatitudes*

BY MARY MACGREGOR



Today's Gospel recalls Jesus' sermon on the mount, commonly referred to as The Beatitudes. In his usual manner, Jesus surprised his followers by uttering godly, countercultural truth. In essence, his teaching that day laid the foundation for what it means to live a Christian life.

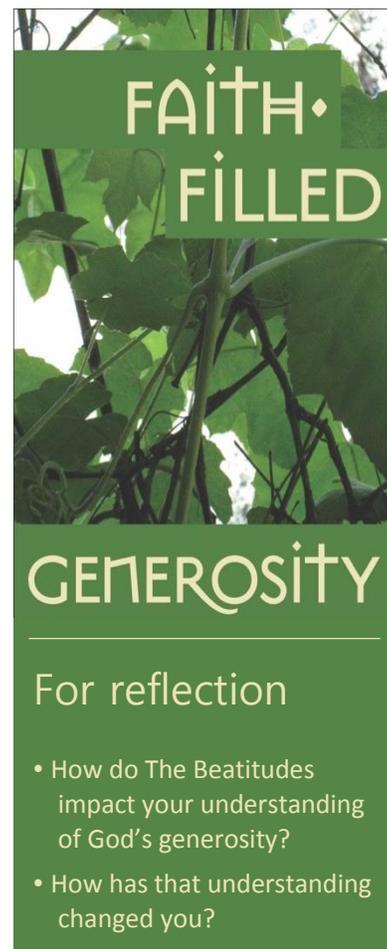
What does it mean to be merciful, pure in heart, meek, poor in spirit, mournful, to be a peacemaker, to hunger and thirst for righteousness and be willing to be persecuted for it? The Beatitudes are a guide that, when studied, reveal layers of meaning for us as believers. They challenge many of our basic human desires and behaviors. Of ultimate importance, they clearly reveal what God seeks to bless.

Aren't we fortunate that our God is forgiving and full of grace as we strive to be transformed by these teachings? Our journey of formation requires change and opening our eyes to see God in action all around us. Included in this change is seeing God's endless blessings poured out upon us and developing a posture of gratitude in return.

Being thankful changes us for the better. Being thankful changes our perspective on life and can profoundly impact our understanding of God's generosity. Being thankful can shape us to be stewards of all God has entrusted to us. Being thankful softens our fears. Being thankful turns fear of scarcity into joyful gratitude for God's abundance.

We remember the saints who have gone before us on this All Saints Day.

Some were revered as saints of old. Some were modern day saints. Some were simple folks like you and me. One distinguishing characteristic of saints is that we can see how they embodied and lived Jesus' teachings, these very Beatitudes. They generously gave of their lives so much so that we remember them today. We are confident they were blessed by God for their faithfulness. May we be thankful for their witness and see in them lives shaped by The Beatitudes and be willing to do the same.



*Canon Mary MacGregor is a member of the board of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship. She has been deeply involved in congregational development for over 25 years, and served as Canon for Congregational Vitality and Mission Amplification for the Diocese of Texas.*