

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Lexington Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

UNDERCROFT DEDICATION AND BLESSING

February 3, 2019

Introduction to the Jonathan Myrick Daniels Community Room

INTRODUCTORY RITES

A suitable song may be sung.

PRESENTATION

Keith Gibson

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*[+]

May God, who sent us his Son as the herald of salvation and who continually pours the Holy Spirit of truth into our hearts, be with you all.

R: *And also with you.*

The wisdom of God is beyond imagining and his goodness, a boundless treasure. He unfailingly enlightens our minds to open up new and better means of sharing with each other all kinds of information, ideas, and aspirations. These may be resources for education, spiritual growth, entertainment and even for spreading and building up the kingdom of God.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

Sisters and brothers, listen to the words of the holy scripture according to Baruch 3:29-37

Psalm 84:1-4

R. *How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!*

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!*
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. **R.**

Even the sparrow finds a home,*
and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God. **R.**

Happy are those who live in your house,*
ever singing your praise. **R.**

Let us pray.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Lord God almighty, we humbly praise you, for you enlighten and inspire those who by probing the powers implanted in creation develop the work of your hands in wonderful ways.

Look with favor on your servants who will gather in this clean and simple space.

Enable them to communicate truth, to foster love, to uphold justice and right, and to provide enjoyment.

Let them promote and support that peace between peoples which Christ the Lord brought from heaven, for he lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

R. *Amen.*

CONCLUDING RITE

May God, the Creator of all things,
who never ceases to work his wonders among us
enlighten our minds, inspire our hearts
so that we may know him more deeply
and strive always to spread his truth and his peace.

R. *Amen.*

Introduction to the Brooke Family Center

INTRODUCTORY RITES

A suitable song may be sung.

PRESENTATION

Tom Gosse

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* [+]

The grace and peace of Christ be with you all.

R. *And also with you.*

After much work and prayer by so many members of our parish, we gather now to bless and dedicate this new activities hall. It will be a center for our parish choir, our Minister of Music, other musical groups, and other small activity needs of all kinds, a place where we may come to know one another and give witness to the faith which is within us.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the apostle Paul to the Ephesians 2:19-22

Psalm 96:1-6

R. *We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.*

O sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, bless his name; *
tell of his salvation from day to day. **R.**

Declare his glory among the nations, *
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; *
he is to be revered above all gods. **R.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols, *
but the LORD made the heavens.
Honor and majesty are before him; *
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. **R.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say,
Our Father, who 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

God of mercy and truth,
you sent your only Son
to be our Savior and Lord.
He calls us together as his Church
to carry on the work of salvation.

We ask you now to bless us
and all who will use this hall.
May all who come here know the presence of Christ,
experience the joy of his friendship,
and grow in his love.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. *Amen.*

CONCLUDING RITE

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and may the word of Christ dwell in you,
so that all that you do in word and in work,
you will do in the name of the Lord.

R. *Amen.*

Introduction to the Grace Church Sacristy

INTRODUCTORY RITES

A suitable song may be sung.

PRESENTATION

Jane Brooke

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* [+]

May the Holy Spirit of God inhabit this holy place and may blessing, healing and inspiration always be with you all.

R. *And also with you.*

This sacristy is the dedicated space where week after week and event after event, the altar is prepared by a cadre of faithful followers of Jesus. Their work is holy work, not at all diminished by its frequency, but rather enhanced by small and careful rituals that bring bread and wine to the people of God around God's altar.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

Sisters and brothers, hear the word of the LORD from Exodus 27, 28.

You shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubit long and five cubits wide; You shall make the court of the tabernacle. On the south side the court shall have hangings of fine twisted linen. For the court there shall be a screen twenty cubits long, of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and of fine twisted linen, embroidered with needle-work; all the utensils of the tabernacle for every use, and all its pegs and all the pegs of the court shall be of bronze.

You shall further command the Israelites to bring you pure oil of beaten olives for the light, so that a lamp may be set up to burn regularly. In the tent of meeting, outside the curtain that is before the covenant, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before the LORD. It shall be a perpetual ordinance to be observed throughout their generations by the Israelites.

You shall make sacred vestments for the adornment of your brother Aaron. And you shall speak to all who have ability, whom I have endowed with skill, that they are Aaron's vestments to consecrate him for my priesthood. When they make these sacred vestments for your brother Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests, they shall use gold, blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and fine linen.

I Chronicles 29

R. *It is yours O LORD to give grandeur and strength to all.*

Blessed may you be, O Lord,
God of Israel our father, *
from eternity to eternity. **R.**

Yours, O Lord, are grandeur and power,
majesty, splendor, and glory. *
For all in heaven and on earth is yours

Yours, O Lord, is the sovereignty; *
you are exalted as head over all. **R.**

Riches and honor are from you, and you have dominion over all.
In your hand are power and might; *
it is yours to give grandeur and strength to all. **R.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-Begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. *Amen.*

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. *Amen*

CONCLUDING RITE

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*