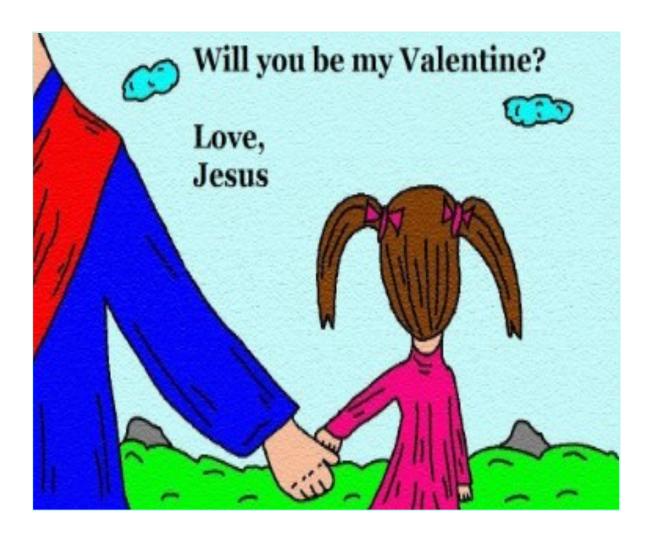
The Last Sunday after the Epiphany



Healing Service February 14, 2021 10:30AM

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn: #448 *O love, how deep (Vs. 1,2,6) Please stand as you are able.* Words: Benjamin Webb; Music: Basil Harwood



Introduction:

Celebrant: Welcome to everyone online and here in the church with us at Grace Episcopal Church in Muskogee, Oklahoma. We are thankful for your presence.

Today is the last Sunday of the season of Epiphany. Although the word "epiphany" has come to mean a manifestation or a revelation, it literally means the outward shining of light. The gospel story of the transfiguration should not disappoint you on that score.

The story may sound strange or magical or other-worldly to you. The point of it is to encourage you to let your light shine before others.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Let us begin by blessing God. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit *People*: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

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. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Please stand as you are able.



Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray. O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

First Lesson: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Please be seated.

Reader: A reading from the second book of Kings.

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

- *Reader:* The word of the Lord.
- People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 50:1-6

Reader: The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; *

People: he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Reader: Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *

People: God reveals himself in glory.

Reader: Our God will come and will not keep silence; *

People: before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.

Reader: He calls the heavens and the earth from above *

People: to witness the judgment of his people.

Reader: "Gather before me my loyal followers, *

People: those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

Reader: Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *

People: for God himself is judge.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Reader: A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: #645 *The King of love my shepherd is (Vs 1,2,6) Please stand as you are able.* Words: Henry Williams Baker; Music: Irish melody

0 #					
				00	
1 The	King of	love my	shep - herd		e good - ness
	streams of	liv - ing	wa - ter	flow, my	ran-somed
* <u>3</u> Per -	verse and		oft I	strayed, but	yet in
	death's dark		fear no	ill with	· ·
	spread'st a	ta - ble	in my	sight; thy	unc - tion
6 And	so throug	gh all the	length of	days thy	good - ness
∧ # =	3	1	1		
				•	
1 fail - eth	n nev	- er;	I	noth - ing	lack if
2 soul he		- eth,		where the	ver - dant
3 love he			and	on his	shoul - der
4 Lord, be	~	me;	thy	rod and	staff my
5 grace be	- stow	- eth;	and	oh, what	trans - port
6 fail - eth	n nev	- er:	Good	Shep - herd,	may I
▲ III				•	·
		0		.	
I I am	his, and	he is	mine fo	or ev	- er.
2 pas - tures	· · · ·		- les - tia		- eth.
<u>3</u> gent - ly	laid, and		- joic - in		- eui: me.
$\frac{3}{4}$ com - fort	still, thy		- fore to		me.
	- light from		chal - ic		- eth!
6 sing thy	praise with		house fo		- er.
8	r				

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ .

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Reader:This is the Gospel of the Lord.People:Glory to you, Lord Christ

Sermon:

Transfigured

The Rev. Bob Wickizer

We need to consider a bit of geography before diving into this text. We are told that Jesus, Peter, James, and John went up a high mountain. When we hear the word "mountain," most of us tend to think of something over 7,000 feet that you might ski down if it were covered in snow. We don't know if this takes place in the southern part of Israel in Judea or in the northern part of Galilee. In the north, the only mountain over 5,000 feet is Mt. Hermon near the modern border with Lebanon. In the south, you have to through the gently rolling hills of Judea, through the challenging Negev desert, all the way to the Sinai before you find mountains. When I hear this story, I can't imagine they would take a difficult journey, a long distance and be challenged with a mountain that required ropes and climbing gear.

I imagine they were in the rolling hills of the north or the south. Hills reaching up two thousand feet with commanding views all around, but walkable hills, nonetheless. We are not told why they went up or what they wanted to see. One clue we are given is the phrase "going up" which almost always means a spiritual encounter with the divine throughout the bible. We are not told if the walking party achieved their goal, only that something unexpected happened on the way back down to civilization.

I am reminded of something that Joan and I did right after we purchased our home in California. It was in October, 1983. We were tired from unpacking boxes. Joan was seven months pregnant with number one child. I had been told of this 17,000-acre county park just a few miles south of us. It was an undeveloped area with only hiking and horseback riding trails. According to one neighbor, you could hike in to a spot where you could see the Pacific Ocean. The coast was about ten miles away, so I was hooked on the idea of the view from our local park.

Of course, we waited too long to go. It gets chilly in the late fall in California. With no humidity, when the sun goes down, the temperature plummets into the low 60s. When we arrived, the park map showed this very long switchback. You had to hike several miles just to get into the hills. It was too late to do all that preliminary walking, so, being good hillfolk from Missouri, I took my pregnant wife down the hill, across the ravine and back up. The climb up was a hundred vertical feet. Near the top we were pretty much on all fours going over loose, chunky gravel. Joan was terrified but going up was much easier than going down at that point.

We made it to the trail on the other side. We hiked as fast as we could and never reached the rumored spot with a view of the ocean. It was getting dark and we headed back to the car. Joan never said a word. It was a very long walk in the moonlight with no flashlight. We stayed on the trail this time. I knew she was furious with me. I gave her my sweatshirt and held her hand. Today we laugh about the whole story. But we learned from that physical encounter, that not

much would ever stand in the way of the two of us. We learned that our love for each other might be challenged but never broken. The sure knowledge of that has helped our marriage endure forty years.

There is a footnote to this story. Our first child was born two months later in December. She lives in Colorado now. She loves mountains and she loves to hike and ski in the mountains. I wonder where she got that idea.

Three disciples went up the mountain with Jesus. Coming back down they are given a lesson they did not expect to find. This teacher they have been living with and following for several years finally settles the question once and for all. The disciples had all wrestled with the question privately. No one really knew for sure. Was he a mighty prophet like Elijah, or was he something more? He said that God was his father, but how were they to know? True, he performed miracles, but so did the prophets.

Suddenly Jesus glows bright as the sun. This should remind us of Moses encounter with God at the burning bush. God's voice comes from the burning bush to Moses. On the mountain, God's voice comes from above. Moses and Elijah are both with Jesus. The disciples are terrified. They think the end of the world has come which is why they offer to build the booths. In the book of Daniel, at the end of times, faithful Jews are to build booths and get ready for the coming of God.

The bright light and the prophets disappear as fast as it came on. Was it a dream? What just happened? The four of them continue walking down the trail in silence. In awe from only a brief encounter with the power of God, one question has been settled for sure. Jesus may be a mighty prophet, but he is the top of them all if he is. More than that, he is God's son because the voice just told them so. He is also the son of man because he told them.

That sure and certain knowledge will sustain these disciples throughout their lives with Jesus; through the cross and resurrection; through their own spread of the good news in the far corners of the empire; even to their own tortured deaths. They will know for sure it was all worth it.

Few of us will ever encounter God or Jesus glowing as bright as the sun. But we do encounter the sparks of God's presence. We believe that a bit of the divine spark is in every human being. In our Eucharistic prayer, we say that Christ dwells in us and we dwell in Christ. When we come together to worship on Sunday, to cook meals for shut-ins, to distribute boxes of food, to socialize, to learn, to teach or to touch, together, we glow brightly. Together, we are a glowing, living reminder of the presence of God with us.

And that sure and certain knowledge that this Jesus is who he says he is, and this God is the power of love in each one of us. That knowledge will sustain you through life and what comes after.

Silence for reflection after the sermon.

Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

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 incarnate 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. 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

Please kneel, sit or stand.

- *Reader:* Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with one heart and mind to God our Father.
- *Reader:* For peace from things that separate us from one another and for our salvation.
- People: Lord, have mercy.
- *Reader:* For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, especially...
- *People:* Emmanuel, Shawnee; St. Andrew's, Mission Church, Tacuarembo, Uruguay; Diocese of Connecticut; The Church of the Province of Central Africa.
- *Reader:* For this holy gathering and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God.
- People: Lord, have mercy.
- Reader: For...
- People: Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Poulson, our Bishop; Bob & Tom, our clergy; Tim & Pat, our wardens; vestry, delegates, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, have mercy.
- *Reader:* For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people. We pray for our leaders, especially...
- *People:* Joe, our President; Kamala, our Vice-president; Markwayne, our Congressman; James & Jim, our Senators; Kevin, our Governor; and Marlon, our Mayor. Lord, have mercy.
- *Reader:* For prisoners, the oppressed, all those in need or suffering, especially...
- People: Barbara & Family, Blackwell Family, Brad, Brewer Family, James & Shirley, Judy, Sherri, Bea, Eathen, Linda, John, Angie, Brian, Glen, Dante, Marilyn, Gary, Ann, Connie, Jan, Thomas, Cedric, Mary-Margaret, Cliff, Gabriella, Esther, Ann, Ronald, Michael, Tom, Marlee, all those affected by the pandemic, all the front line workers involved with patient care, all first responders, law enforcement, all fire and safety personnel, all United States Military serving at home and abroad, and those whose suffering is known only to God.
- *Reader:* We pray for those who have died, *(especially...)*
- People: Lord, have mercy.
- *Reader:* For ourselves, our families, and those we love. We pray for those in our parish, especially ...
- People: Alyssa, Victoria, Murff, Janice.
- *Reader:* Also those who are traveling, *(especially...)*
- People: Lord, have mercy.
- *Reader:* Remembering our most blessed Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.
- People: To you, O Lord.
- *Reader:* Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for healing:

Celebrant: Merciful Jesus, you guide us, you are the joy of our hearts, the author of our hopes, and the object of our devotion. We come seeking refreshment and peace. Show us your mercy, relieve our fears and anxieties, and grant us quiet minds and expectant hearts, that by the assurance of your presence we may learn to abide in you, our Lord, and our God. Amen

Blessed Jesus, in the comfort of your love, we lay before you the memories that haunt us, the anxieties that perplex us, the despair that frightens us, and our frustration at our inability to think clearly. Help us to discover your forgiveness in our memories and know your peace in our distress. Touch us, Lord, and fill us with your light and your hope. **Amen.**

Healing Hymn:

Ken Yadon

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is observed.

- Celebrant & 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.**

Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Please be seated.

Please be seated

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you. *People:* And also with you.

Announcements, Birthdays & Anniversary Blessings

Celebrant: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts with thanksgiving

Offertory

Celebrant: Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Offertory Hymn:# 439

Unison

What wonderous love is this Words/Music: Carlton R. Young



Celebrant: O gracious God

People: We offer you these gifts which you have given us; this bread and this wine. With them we offer ourselves, our lives, and our work, to become through your Holy Spirit a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

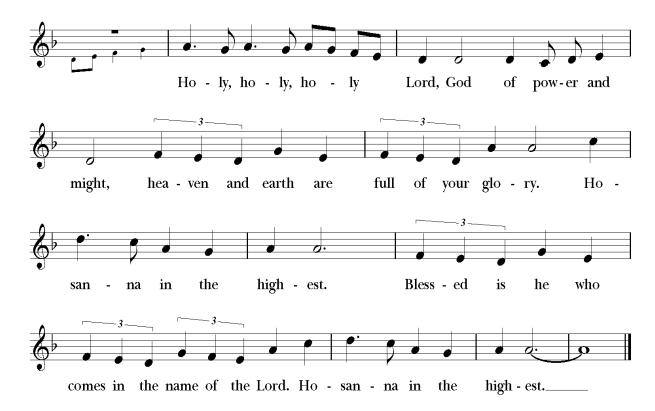
- Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
- People: And also with you.
- Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
- People: We lift them to the Lord.
- Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- *People:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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-129

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 & People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again;

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*.

Lord's Prayer

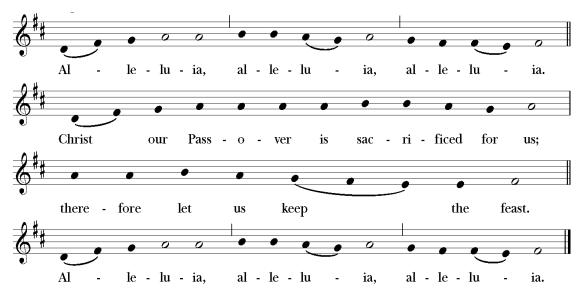
Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Celebrant & People: 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

Breaking of the Bread

A moment of silence is kept following the breaking of the bread.

Fraction Anthem: #S-154



Celebrant: These are 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.

At Grace Episcopal Church, all are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Celebrant: 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 Solo:

Ken Yadon

We Go Out To Do Our Work

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant & People: Gracious God, giver of every good gift, thank you for teaching me to be generous as you have been generous with me. Thank you for showing me all that I am and all that I have are gifts from you and that these gifts from you, Lord are meant to be shared.

Show me the joys of generosity and help me understand that others who may be unknown to me, depend upon me for help. Remind me that in my world of community, parish, family and friends, we need Good Samaritans to heal the wounds inflicted by the world. Lord, make me a gift to others in your name. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional: #657

Love divine, all loves excelling (Vs. 1,3) Please stand as you are able. Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard



Sending

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. *People:* Thanks be to God.



Monitoring COVID

We are monitoring the COVID statistics in Muskogee County carefully. As soon as we see two weeks in a row of declining statistics, we will fling open our doors for in-person worship. Of course, we will continue to wear masks and take recommended precautions.

Ash Wednesday February 17 at 6 pm

We will be open for regular Ash Wednesday service and imposition of ashes. You may attend the service in person or pull into the driveway on 6th Street from 11:00AM - 2:00PM or 6:45PM - 7:15PM for "Ashes to Go"

Lent February 17 – March 21

Whether we are open for in-person worship during Lent remains to be determined from health statistics.

Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday March 28 & April 4

We are praying for a glorious Palm Sunday and Easter. When regular Sunday worship resumes, we will have 8:30 and 10:30 worship in the main church.

Remember to bring a friend to church.



218 N. 6th Street Muskogee, OK 74401 Phone/Fax: (918) 687-5416 Email: Office@GraceMuskogee.org; Website: www.GraceMuskogee.org Ministers: All the People of God (BCP p. 855) Rector: The Rev. Bob Wickizer Deacon: The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington Music Director: Ken Yadon Rector's Email: bob@gracemuskogee.org Youth & Children's Director: Nancy Scott

