

St. Mary's

Episcopal Cathedral

*HOUSE of PRAYER
for All People*

Constance and Her Companions Daughters of Divine Love

September 13, 2020

Welcome to St. Mary's Cathedral on this Feast of Constance and Her Companions 2020. We are so glad you are celebrating your life in Christ with us today.

We are celebrating Constance and Her Companions: Daughters of Divine Love. Today, we sing hymns and spiritual songs to remember the bold Christian witness of Sr. Constance, Sr. Thecla, Sr. Ruth, Sr. Frances, Fr. Schuyler and Fr. Parsons. May our celebration propel us in our modern day to do new acts of healing and love to face the issues plaguing God's beautiful yet bruised world.

This service bulletin is a guide through the liturgy today. May our hearts be open to the wonder and mystery Grace has in store. We are so glad you are celebrating with us in these new online ways during this global pandemic, and we invite you to stay connected to the St. Mary's community!

Worship opportunities, including daily musical offerings, are available on our website at

<http://www.stmarysmemphis.org/worship/> and also on our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmemphis/>.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CONSTANCE AND HER COMPANIONS:

The 1878 Yellow Fever epidemic was one of the most wrenching in our nation's history, and St. Mary's was a central force of healing and benevolence. Almost everyone who could afford to do so left the city and fled to higher ground away from the river. A heroic team of nuns, both Anglican and Roman Catholic, priests, doctors and parishioners, had the opportunity of leaving, but chose to stay and nurse the sick. They made the ultimate sacrifice to care for the sick and contain the disaster. Thirty-eight of them were themselves killed by the fever. One of the first to die (on 9 September 1878) was Constance, head of the (Anglican) Community of St Mary.

CATHEDRAL PRAYER LIST:

We pray for family members & friends of the Cathedral: Michael and Rebecca DeMorse; Rayna Moore; John Coleman; Bess Gillis; Damon Graff; Margaret Smith; Gary Prewitt; Bruce Galbraith; Stacey Loftis; Jessica Oliver; Tom Moore and family; Jean Sorrells; the Newberry family; Jenifer Herndon and family; Sheila O' Donnell; The Rev. Jerry Crook; Mimi Baker; Steve Keltner; the Carruthers family; Kaki Whitley; Ronnie Rodgers; Dave Della Rocco and family; Sally Wolcott and family; Sheila Rhudy; Karen Andre; Charlotte Blanton; Beth Cabrera; Susan & Ed Chazal (parents of Aimee McMillin); Margaret and Madeleine Duncan; Cheryl Gentry; The Gossett family; Kristina Holland; Elizabeth Holt; Lanney Mack; Carol McBride; June Mitchell; Charlotte Myrdal (sister-in-law of Jan Morrell); Rosemarie Myrdal, mother to Jan Morrell; David Ostrow & family; Joan Owens; Geraldine Page; Elliot Mason Patrick; Erica Perkins; Clarke Simpson; Lee Stewart; Andrew and Lucero Street; Edie Street; JT Swartzel; Martha Taylor (sister of Billy Pullen); David Thomas; Greg Traver; Thomas Wernham; Kenneth Ford, Carolyn Ford, and Mack Wiggins; Willie; and those who care for them.

We pray for Cathedral members: Iolis Carruthers; Beth Stone; Carol Morris and the Snowden family; Joanne Statham; Peggy Templeton; and those who care for them.

We pray for those serving in the armed forces: Victor Galloway, U.S. Navy & Melanie Galloway; Ian Harvey (brother of Natalie); Sgt. Sean Harber, U.S. Army (grandson of Jerry & Carol); Lt. Nicholas Wilde, U.S. Army (grandson of Jim and Julie Powell)

SERVICE OF LETTERS AND MUSIC

VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on "It is well with my soul"

Dennis Janzer

THE WELCOME FROM THE INTERIM DEAN

The Very Reverend Patrick Williams

PROLOGUE

It struck silently and swiftly. The city of 50,000 had endured outbreaks in 1855, 1867 and 1873. Each outbreak became progressively worse. The announcement on August 13, 1878 that the first victim, Kate Bionda, had died of yellow fever, sent fear throughout Memphis. Panic arose, and a mass exodus ensued. Friends and family were often abandoned if ill.

HYMN

When Shadows Gather On Our Way

Dennis Janzer

When shadows gather on our
Fast deepening as the night,
Be Thou, O God, the spirit's stay,
Our inward Light.

Amid the outward toil and strife,
The world's dull roar and din,
Still speak Thy word of higher life,
Thou Voice within.

Though fond hopes fail, and joy depart,
And friends should faithless prove,
O save us from the bitter heart,

Indwelling Love! *Text: Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1912)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

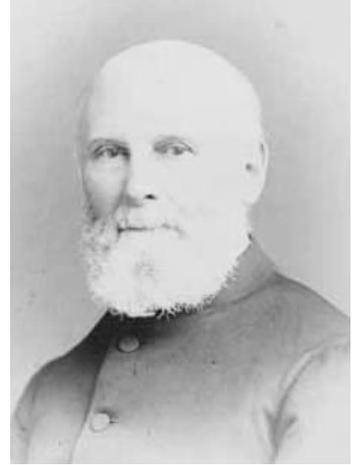
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old, the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect for the Poor and the Neglected

FIRST READING: FROM AN ADDRESS GIVEN BY THE REV. HOUGHTON

When the third epidemic broke out in 1878, Sister Constance and Sister Thecla were at St. Gabriel's Mother House, at Peekskill, on the Hudson having gone there to rest at the end of the school term. When the news of the epidemic reached them, Constance and Thecla immediately returned to Memphis. In an address to his congregation, The Rev. George H. Houghton said: "A week ago yesterday I commended to the protection of Almighty God two of the Sisters of St. Mary's, just as they were setting out on their return to Memphis, from whence so many that could, were fleeing. Two weeks before, they had come on to New York for needed rest and refreshment. News came of the breaking out of the yellow fever. Without delay or hesitation, they went back to the post of duty and of danger, and, it may be, of death. I have had a varied experience, and have witnessed much, but I have seen no braver sight than that which I saw in Varick Street, in front of the Trinity Infirmary, when, just at evening, I blessed those Sisters sitting alone in the carriage which was to take them to the train for the journey to Memphis. Is it much for us who are to come, please God, into no such peril of death, to fill their hands with such things as they need for the sick and the dying and the destitute? If it be more convenient, send to me whatever you will, good friends, and there shall be no delay in its reaching the Sisters."



Read by Larry Gossett

LEVAS 144

Where He leads me

E. W. Blandy

I can hear my Savior calling,
"Take thy cross and follow, follow me."

Where He leads me I will follow,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

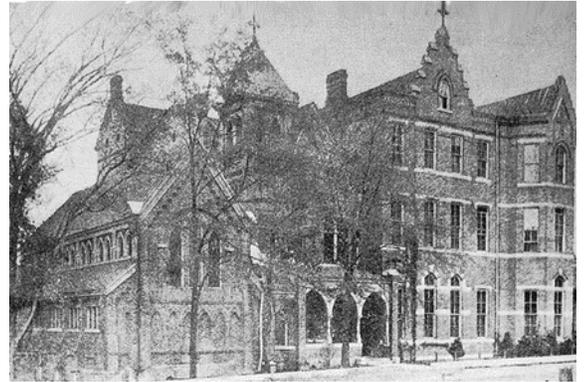
I'll go with Him through the judgement,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

He will give me grace and glory,
And go with me, with me all the way.

SECOND READING: FROM ONE OF THE COMMUNITY

Wednesday, August 28

Sister Constance went out first to the sick. Before she reached the house to which she was going, she was met by a young girl weeping and in great distress. She said her sister was just taken with the fever, that they could get no doctor, and did not know what they ought to do for her. My Sister went immediately to the sick child, did for her all that could be done, and ministered to her wants daily till her recovery. My Sister always loved to speak of this little Louise as her first patient.



A soup kitchen was at once begun in the Sisters' House, and during the epidemic, soups, broths, gruels, and tea were made daily for the sick, and distributed by the Sisters on their round of visits. Sister Amelia was placed in charge of the Church Orphan Home, to which children left orphans by the fever were sent. The work of the Sisters consisted in visiting the sick, supplying nurses, medicines, and delicacies, speaking words of comfort and strength, offering prayers, and, in some cases, performing the last offices for the dead. During that time, The Rev. George C. Harris, Dean of St. Mary's Cathedral, celebrated the Holy Communion daily, and the Blessed Sacrament was also reserved for the sick and dying. Other clergy of the Church assisted Dr. Harris in his work, aiding and strengthening all by their zealous labors.

Read by Anna Calvo

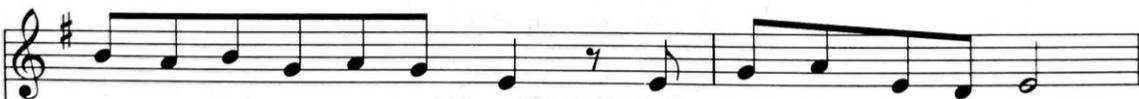
HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Christian Love



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found; Brought
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear true char - i - ty we learn; Let
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults as we our faults con - fess; And
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known, let all con - ten - tion cease; Be



here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in re - turn.
let us love each oth - er well in Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
Christ the glo - ry that we seek, be ours Christ's ho - ly peace.

THIRD READING: FROM SISTER CONSTANCE



Your telegram brought me a kind of Brightness, but I cannot help a great deal of anxiety for Sister Helen and Sister Ruth, my sense of duty in the matter is so divided between the feeling that I ought to secure all the help I can for these poor suffering people, and the fear for those who come. I will guard them to the utmost; but they know and you know that they are offering their lives. Our ward visitor was here just now to give me some directions about to-morrow, 'For I am down,' he said. When I said something cheering he put a hand that fairly burned me on my wrist and asked me to feel his pulse if I could. He is a bright, brave young man; his father is dying, his two poor sisters are here asleep, and I am sitting up waiting till Dr. Harris calls me

to go to the old man with these two poor girls. Sister Thecla and Miss Murdock are in bed worn out with last night's nursing and watching. This is the dreariest night we have had. Pray doubly for us now, dear mother. I think of the Sisters who are coming and of those who are praying at home so constantly.

Read by Terra Nwobilor

ANTHEM

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey

Precious Lord, take my hand,
 Lead me on, help me stand,
 I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 Through the storm, through the night
 Lead me on to the light.
 Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.
 When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
 When my life is almost gone;
 Hear my cry, hear my call,
 Hold my hand lest I fall.
 Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

FOURTH READING: FROM ONE OF THE SISTERS

I knew at once that she was very ill. She insisted that it was only a slight headache, and would not listen to my entreaties that she would go to bed. ... Her face was flushed with the fever; she allowed me to get a pillow and make her somewhat more comfortable; but she talked of resuming her work among the sick as soon as possible. I called in Dr. Armstrong as he passed the house. 'I have not the fever,' she said to him, 'it is only a bad headache; it will go off at sunset.' When told that she must go to bed, she called Mrs. Bullock to her assistance, to spare the Sisters. They were about to place her on a comfortable mattress; she refused, saying, 'It is the only one you have in the house, and if I have the fever you will have to burn it.' It seemed as if she would keep her pledge of poverty to the last.

Within the same hour Sister Thecla came in from the death-bed of a poor woman. She said at once, calmly and quietly, 'I am so sorry, Sister, but I have the fever. Give me a cup of tea, and then I shall go to bed.' Like Sister Constance, and for the same reason, she refused to have the mattress; the same practical spirit animated these two brave, thoughtful women.

I was obliged to tell each Sister that the other was ill, as each wanted the other to come to her. I asked Sister Thecla if she would like Mrs. V. to nurse her. Mrs. V. was a motherly woman, and one of our best nurses. She replied that she would prefer to have her, adding, 'But you must come to me very often, Sister; will you come to me as often as you can, and say the prayers for me? We have no priest. Oh, what shall I do for the blessed sacrament? I have no strength without it.' 'We have the reservation, dear Sister.' 'Yes, I know.' When Dr. Armstrong came in, at eight o'clock, he pronounced both Sisters ill with the fever.

Read by Patricia Geelan

REFLECTION

Margery Wolcott

St Mary's Cathedral member; Co-founder Constance Abbey

FIFTH READING: FROM SISTER RUTH'S LETTER TO THE MOTHER SUPERIOR, SEPTEMBER 10, 1878:

Our hearts ache, and we have not many words: and yet you must know all. Yesterday morning, dear Sister Constance entered into rest...Few know what a wonderful life it was that ended, for this world, when Sister Constance died...She was but thirty-three years old when called away; a woman of exquisite grace, tenderness, and loveliness of character... All that she had she gave without reserve to her Lord, asking only himself in return as her own.

Read by Terra Nwobilor

ANTHEM

O rest in the Lord (*Elijah*)

Felix Mendelssohn

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him,
And He shall give thee thy hearts desires.
Commit thy way to Him, and trust in Him.
O rest in the Lord, and wait, wait patiently for Him.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, THE 12TH CHAPTER, BEGINNING AT VERSE 24

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” *John 12:24-28*

Deacon The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 694

God be in my head

Lytlington

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

We give you thanks and praise, O God of compassion, for the heroic witness of Constance and her companions, who, in a time of plague and pestilence, were steadfast in their care for the sick and dying, and loved not their own lives, even unto death: Inspire in us a like love and commitment to those in need, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *The Collect for Constance and Her Companions*

THE BLESSING

adapted from the Franciscan tradition

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that we may live from deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of God’s creations so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war; so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with just enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in the world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

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

HYMN 208

The strife is o'er

Victory

The strife is o'er, the battle done,
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:
let shout of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped,
he rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia Hosanna, Hosanna Alleluia.**

VOLUNTARY

Jubilant Blessings - "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Dennis Janzer

**WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE A VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE TO ELMWOOD CEMETARY,
ACCESSIBLE ON OUR FACEBOOK OR YOUTUBE PAGES.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO :

BRADLEY LEAVITT AND CREW FOR CLEANING UP THE GRAVESITES AT ELMWOOD;

**ANNE BOYKIN, CAROL MORRIS, SUSAN NELSON, MARCIA WUNDERLICH,
AND MAUREEN WOODRUFF FOR THEIR WORK IN PLANNING.**



THE HISTORIC ALTAR OF THE COMMUNITY OF ST. MARY



- 1866** This small, black walnut altar was the first altar of the Sisterhood of St. Mary.
- 1873** It was given to **St. Mary's School, Memphis**, by Sister Harriet, Mother Foundress.
- 1888** The altar was moved to **St. Mary's on the Mountain, Sewanee, TN**.
- 1973** The altar was placed in the **Sisters Chapel** when they moved into **St. Mary's Retreat Center, Sewanee**.
- 1988** On August 6, 1968, the altar was rededicated in the new **Convent Chapel** on the 100th anniversary of the Sisters arrival in **Sewanee**.
- 1999** In August, the Sisters donated the altar to **St. Mary's Cathedral, Memphis**, to be placed in or near the Sisters Chapel.
- 2008** The Sisters' Altar was refurbished and then rededicated on September 14. The service leaflet stated as follows: With Grateful Appreciation to Jack McFarland, Architect; Posey Hedges and the Old City Millwork Company; and Bill Boykin, Cathedral Building and Grounds Director.

*In April of 1999, the Sisters had a smaller altar made for the sanctuary of the present chapel. The old altar was too large for the space, but because of its historical significance, the Sisters had cherished and continued to use this large altar for eleven years. Because of our long history with St. Mary's Cathedral and the City of Memphis, the Community is happy to have it returned there. It was in the Sisters Chapel during the Yellow Fever epidemics of 1873 and 1878. This altar has been a treasure to the Sisters of St. Mary. We are sure that the congregation of St. Mary's Cathedral will also treasure this old altar for years to come.

The Community of St. Mary

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FINANCE SNAPSHOT

Pledge income remains ahead of both our original budget and our COVID-adjusted budget. Continued thanks for your support of the Cathedral. Expenses remain slightly higher than budget. Please reach out to Tim Baker or Matt Morice if you have any questions.

<i>Selected Financial Information through July 2020</i>			
	Budget YTD *	Actual YTD	Actual vs Budget
Pledges	223,125.00	309,603.53	86,478.53
Other Income	84,851.65	113,314.40	28,462.75
Total Income	307,976.65	422,917.93	114,941.28
Total Expenses	458,858.40	490,319.47	31,461.07
Net Income/Loss	(150,881.75)	(67,401.54)	83,480.21

* Original budget income and expenses were adjusted by Finance Committee to reflect adjustments due to COVID 19

LIVE WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICES

Monday Morning Prayer @ 8am on Facebook Live

Wednesday Noonday Prayer @ 12 noon on Facebook Live

Friday Night Compline @ 7:30pm on Facebook Live

Wherever you are, take a moment to pause in prayer with the St. Mary's community for any or all of these prayer services - to begin the day on the first day of the week, to mark midday in the middle of the week, or to the end the day before the weekend. Go to the [St. Mary's Facebook page](#) and click the "video" button to begin watching live.

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf

Bishop of West Tennessee

The Very Rev. Patrick Williams

Interim Dean

The Rev. Drew Woodruff

Deacon for Social Justice

Allison Musick

Communications Strategist

Emily Barnwell Pratt

Cathedral Administrator

Sanda Smith

Episcopal Bookshop Manager

Development Strategist

The Rev. Eyleen Farmer

Associate Priest

Kenyetta Thompson Powell

Associate for Youth and Family Formation

Jasper Delaney

Sexton

Dr. Dennis Janzer

Director of Music

Paul Murray

Choirmaster

Associate for Liturgy



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