

***A PRAYER SERVICE
TO BLESS THE TRANSITION
TO A NEW SACRED SPACE***



SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022

**ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2900 ST. CATHERINE STREET
FLORISSANT, MO 63033**

THE THANKSGIVING FOR THE WITNESS OF A SACRED SPACE

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Bishop: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: *Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

Bishop: There is one Body and one Spirit;

People: *There is one hope in God's call to us;*

Bishop: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People: *One God and Creator of all.*

Bishop: God is with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Bishop: O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Bishop: We who are gathered here know that this building, which has been consecrated and set apart for the ministry of God's holy Word and Sacraments, will no longer be used in this way, but will be taken down. To many of you this building has been hallowed by cherished memories, and we know that some will suffer a sense of loss. We pray that they will be comforted by the knowledge that the presence of God is not tied to any place or building. The Altar has been removed and protected from desecration. It is the intention of the diocese that the congregation which worshiped here will not be deprived of the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Bishop: Let the Declaration of Secularization now be read.

The Declaration is read by the Canon to the Ordinary.

Bishop: As we take our leave of this place of worship, we give thanks to God for all the blessings we have found here.

Priest: Blessed are you, loving God. In this place, we have known your love.

People: *We trust our future in your care. Blessed be God forever!*

Bishop: Let us remember the baptisms celebrated here. *(Pause)*

Priest: We thank you and we praise you for the life of faith given to all who have passed through the waters of new life at this font.

People: *May we be always united in Christ. Blessed be God forever!*

Bishop: Let us remember the power of God's word proclaimed here in scripture and in preaching. *(Pause)*

Priest: We thank you and we praise you for your holy word proclaimed here in faith and preached here in sincerity.

Priest: *May it echo always in our hearts. Blessed be God forever!*

Bishop: Let us remember the times we have gathered here for the Holy Eucharist

Priest: The celebrations of Holy Week and Easter kept each year, the Sundays on which we worshiped faithfully, the transitions of life, the feast days of saints, the weddings witnessed here, the funerals held here in hope.

People: *For these we give thanks and praise, knowing that to your faithful people, life is changed, not ended.*

Exodus 33:7-16

As Moses led the people through the promised land, God went with them. So, too, our God is with us wherever we are gathered.

Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the “tent of meeting.” Anyone inquiring of the LORD would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses. Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent. The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

Moses said to the LORD, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”

The LORD replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Bishop: Let us pray.

Silence is kept for a time.

Bishop: God our refuge, our home is in you. You are greater than any temple, church, or cathedral that can be built by human hands, yet in this place, we have met your divine majesty. This church building has been a place of blessing for us. Protect us on our way. Lead us to new friends in faith community. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Deacon: *Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

People: ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

The community then makes its way into the new place of worship.

CONSECRATION OF THE NEW WORSHIP SPACE

Bishop: You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord, in the sanctuary you have established.

Priest: All your works praise you, O God,

People: ***And your faithful servants bless you.***

Priest: We have been brought near and reconciled to God.

Bishop: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of the universe. Your gifts are many, and in wisdom you have made all things to give you glory. Be with us now and bless us as we dedicate our use of this space to your praise and honor. As often as we worship you here, precede us and abide with us. Be known to us in the Word spoken and heard, in fellowship with one another, and in the breaking of bread. Give us joy in all your works, and grant that this space may be a place where your will is done and your name is glorified; through Jesus Christ our Savior, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. ***Amen.***

Bishop: God be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Bishop: Let us pray.

**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.**

Leader: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People: *And grant us your salvation.*

Leader: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People: *Let your people sing with joy.*

Leader: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People: *For only in you can we live in safety.*

Leader: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

People: *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*

Leader: Let your way be known upon earth;

People: *Your saving health among all nations.*

Leader: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People: *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People: *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

Bishop: Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Bishop: O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

Bishop: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

People: *We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.*

Bishop: We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

People: *We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.*

Bishop: Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

People: *Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know*

Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

All:

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Bishop: Let us bless the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Bishop: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*

All are invited to share some refreshments and to gather for the telling of our stories. Where did you experience God in a special way in the worship spaces of St. Barnabas? Who do you want to remember?