



## ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

AUGUST 24, 2025

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM



The Episcopal  
**CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION**

917 Pond Road, Loudon, TN 37774  
865-986-2390

[www.episcopalloudon.com](http://www.episcopalloudon.com)  
#episcopalloudon



## GOOD MORNING!

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GLORIFYING GOD BY

REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today.

Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you are here for the *first time* (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and ministries; we're happy to help you find your spot!

Our services follow *The Book of Common Prayer*, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the *Hymnal 1982*, the blue books in the pew rack. A hymn noted "S-xxx" is part of the service music, found at the front of the hymnal, appearing before the regular congregational hymns begin. For example, S-280 (*The Gloria*) is found before hymn 1.

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To learn more about Resurrection, check out [www.episcopalloudon.com](http://www.episcopalloudon.com), email us at [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com), or find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a pew card or email [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com) to be placed on on the weekly email, *Parish Tidings*, for the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/episcopalloudon](https://facebook.com/episcopalloudon).



# Holy Eucharist, Rite II

## The Word of God

**Prelude** *(only at 10:30)*  
*Amazing Grace*

*arr. by Anthony Evert*

*Guest Flautist: RaNaye Dreier*

**Entrance Hymn** *(only at 10:30)*  
*O for a thousand tongues to sing*

**Hymnal 493**

*All standing*

**BCP 355**

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

*All* **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.**

**The Gloria** *(Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)*

**Hymnal S-280**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

### The First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

The word of the LORD came to me saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, LORD God!

Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you,  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,” says the LORD.”

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.  
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.”

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Lector* We will read the Psalm responsively by half verse.

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; \*  
**let me never be ashamed.**
- 2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; \*  
**incline your ear to me and save me.**
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; \*  
**you are my crag and my stronghold.**
- 4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, \*  
**from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**
- 5 For you are my hope, O LORD God, \*  
**my confidence since I was young.**
- 6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;  
from my mother's womb you have been my strength; \*  
**my praise shall be always of you..**

## The Second Lesson: Hebrews 12:18-29

*Lector* A reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken--that is, created things-- so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.



*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand*

**Sequence Hymn** (*only at 10:30*)

*Jesus, Lover of my soul (verses 1-2)*

**Hymnal 699**

**The Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:10-17**

*Celebrant*    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People*      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

*Celebrant*    The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sequence Hymn** (*only at 10:30*)

*Jesus, Lover of my soul (verse 3)*

**Hymnal 699**

**Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

**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 and the Son.  
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.

## The Prayers of the People, Form II

BCP 385

*Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, sitting, or kneeling as able.  
Please add those intercessions and thanksgivings on your heart, silently or  
aloud, at the appropriate points in the prayers.*

*Lector* I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Presiding Bishop Sean; our Diocesan Bishop, Brian; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations;  
and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. And we remember especially **Jackie C.; J. L.; David H; Becca H.; Robyn; Kathleen; Jenon; and all your children who suffer the effects of war, oppression, or natural disasters.**

Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.  
Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed.  
Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

*Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present.*  
*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.  
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. *Silence*

*Celebrant* Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:  
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

**BCP 359**

*Continuing in a posture of prayer, we will hold a moment of silence for individual, silent confessions before the priest leads us into the words of corporate confession.*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant 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.**



*Standing as you are able.*

*Celebrant* May the peace of Christ be always with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

## The Holy Communion

*Celebrant* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,  
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2a*

**Offertory Anthem** *(sung by the choir)*

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

*arr. by Gary Lanier*

*The Celebrant invites the people's offerings.*

**Doxology** *(only at 10:30)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*1 Chronicles 29:14*

*Celebrant* For all things come from you, O Lord;  
*People* **and of your own have we given you.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Eucharistic Prayer

*From Enriching Our Worship, The Standing Liturgical Commission of  
the Episcopal Church: New York: Church Publishing, 1997*

**Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts)**

**Hymnal S-120**

*(Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)*

*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 God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

**Sanctus** (*Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

**Hymnal S-125**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant* Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.** (*Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and a period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:**

**Grant us peace.**

*Celebrant*      The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable. Remain seated, until the usher directs you forward to the communion rail. After receiving communion, return to your seat by the side aisle. so that traffic flows one way.*

*If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so. If you prefer not to receive communion, please cross your arms over your chest as a sign that you prefer a blessing.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:*

*The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.***

*The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.***

## **Communion Hymn**

*Hear, O My Lord*

**Hymnal 318**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All*      **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 Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# Announcements | Blessings of Birthdays and Anniversaries

## The Blessing

### Post-Communion Hymn *(only at 10:30)*

*I come with joy to meet my Lord*

**Hymnal 304**

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

### Postlude *(only at 10:30)*

*Prelude on a Theme of Gustav Holst: Thaxted*

*arr. by Charles Callahan*

**Flowers today are given to the Glory of God in thanksgiving  
for those serving in our military  
by Mark & Jen Hennes.**



# Parish Announcements, Prayers, & Thanksgivings

**Memorial Garden Fee Increase September 1st FINAL WEEK to lock in the current pricing** for yourself or a family member. You may apply and pay for your plot or plaque by August 31. Prices will increase from \$700 to \$1,000 (ashes), and from \$300 to \$500 (bronze plaque). Please speak with Jane Mocilac or Jean Cardwell if you have any questions. Applications are available in the church office or from either Jean or Jane.

## **Four Paws Sunday**

Today is the 4th Sunday of the month, so it's 4 Paws Collection Sunday. Cat or dog food — or donations to purchase the same — are most appreciated!

## **Staff Vacation & Labor Day**

Our Parish Administrator will be out of town August 24 - 31. Monday, September 1 is Labor Day, and the church office will be closed that day.

## **Friendship Kitchen needs some cooks!**

We provide meals to about 100 Loudon County folks, every 8 weeks, working in partnership with Church of the Good Shepherd Lutheran church. **On September 15, we need 2 or 3 more cooks in the kitchen, from 12:00 - 4:00** to cook beans, make coleslaw, and assemble plates for delivery. If you can help, please call Diane Van Koughnett at (865)458-6000.

## **Choir Shout Out!**

Most who have attended the 10:30 a.m. service at Resurrection have heard our choir sing the Offertory Anthem and hymns. Membership has doubled to 10 in this past year. Rehearsals are held twice weekly and at special times during special liturgical seasons. We share camaraderie and lots of fun, and are also dedicated to prioritizing this volunteer ministry. There is clearly a heartfelt offering to our communal worship. Please take a moment to express your appreciation to our choir members for their terrific spirits and generous service!

## **We are still tying pinecones!**

Every Tuesday and Thursday through September (EXCEPT August 28) we will be downstairs in the Parish Hall at 1:30 to tie pinecones for our ECW Christmas wreaths. We invite all parishioners with hands - not just the ladies - to help out!

## **Our Parish Prayer List**

Jackie C.; J.L.; David H.; Becca H.;  
Robyn; Kathleen; Jenon

## ***Continuing Prayers for:***

Jim; Daphne; Rosemary O.; the Hentchel family;  
Pat; Claire; Sandy; Rob & Sherry; Cheri; Jane;  
Shannon; Jim; Mel; Wayne; Diana N.; Jack; Ashley;  
Raynella; Ed & Jean; Kim E.; Joe; Beverly; Grace;  
Virginia; Betty Anne; Janey; Johnny; and Karen H.

## ***For our Vestry leaders:***

Class of 2025: Lisa A., Donna B., Diane V.K.

Class of 2026: Drew H., Dawson H., Jenny L.

Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H.

Officers: Jenny L., Diane V.K., Dawson H., Sally L.

## ***Also for the Diocesan Prayer List:***

For Agriculture, BCP 824

For Rain, BCP 828

## **Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries**

August 24	Jan & Bush Hanna
August 24	Betty Martin
August 25	Jan Hanna
August 25	Gloria Andrzejewski
August 27	Jen Hennes
September 3	Liz Berg
September 3	Virginia Perry
September 4	Vicky & Dave St. John
September 6	Cheryl Rikken
September 9	Debbie & Mel Hines
September 13	Betty Anne Haldi
September 14	John McCoy, II

## **Diocesan Women's Day Conference**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, October 25, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Church of the Ascension, Knoxville

More information is available at [dioet.org](http://dioet.org) and in the Parish Tidings.

# For Your Calendars

## THIS WEEK

<b>August 24</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	
Acolyte	Judy Hadjian	Dawson Hope	Altar Guild: Bev Baumgardner
EM	Mark Hennes	Jane Mocilac	Flower Guild: Bev Baumgardner
Lectors	Holly Pate	Judy Egan	Organist: Judy Moyer
Ushers	Andrew Wilkinson	Drew Hawley & Garry Lucas	Celebrant &
Chancellor	Holly Pate	Art Stewart	Preacher: Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Donna Bye	Virginia Perry	Mon Vol: 8/25 Donna Bye
Video	n/a	Mark Blakley	Tues Vol: 8/26 Pam McAfee
Counters	n/a	Alice Anderson & Jean Cardwell	Wed Vol: 8/27 Pam McAfee
			Fri Vol: 8/29 Trish Dooner

## NEXT WEEK

<b>August 31</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	
Acolyte	Donna Bye	Monty Ross	Altar Guild: Bev Baumgardner
EM	Andrew Wilkinson	Jackie Buttinelli	Flower Guild: Dianna Stimpson
Lectors	Jerry Ploeger	Tony Adams	Organist: Judy Moyer
Ushers	Carl Bye	Keytha Graves & David Baumgardner	Celebrant &
Chancellor	Peggy Rogers	David Baumgardner	Preacher: Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Cal Van Koughnett	Jenny Lucas	
Video	n/a	Bob Cantine	Monday Volunteer 9/1 - N/A
Counters	n/a	Monty Ross & Nelda Griffith	CLOSED Labor Day Holiday

### Next Week at Resurrection

Monday, August 25

7:00 p.m. - AA (*open meeting*)

Tuesday, August 26

1:30 p.m. - Pinecone Tying

Wednesday, August 27

9:00 a.m. - Deadline for Parish Tidings  
or bulletin submissions

Sunday, August 31

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, spoken

10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, choral

*Email [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com) by Wednesday  
at 9 a.m. to have your ministry or committee's  
activities added to the parish calendar.*

### COMING UP ...

Monday, September 1

OFFICE CLOSED - LABOR DAY

Tuesday, September 2

Pinecone Tying

Thursday, September 4

Prayers and Squares  
Pinecone Tying

Sunday, September 7

Holy Eucharist, spoken

Holy Eucharist, choral

**Check your Parish Tidings  
for upcoming details!**

*To contact our priest, the Rev. Dr. Rebecca  
Bridges, please email [rector@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:rector@episcopalloudon.com)  
or call the church at (865) 986-2390. For  
pastoral needs after hours, call (865) 242-9240.*

# TODAY'S ART



Title: Snow Hill, 1989  
Artist: Andrew Wyeth (1917-2009)  
Tempera on panel

Andrew and Betsy Wyeth Collection; © Andrew Wyeth / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York;  
Photo: Peter Philbin”

*‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you’, says the Lord to Jeremiah, ‘and before you were born I consecrated you’ (Jeremiah 1:5).*

The Lord reveals that he has always been at the heart of things, always suffusing the scattered moments of Jeremiah’s life with a generative knowledge and a transformative love. But Jeremiah can’t yet see the Lord face to face; he sees him only through the prism of memory.

Six figures holding brightly coloured ribbons dance around a maypole incongruously jutting out of a snowy hilltop, overlooking train tracks, a fence, and some scattered rural buildings. A seventh ribbon floats untended. Atop the pole stands an evergreen tree, somehow both apart from and a part of what happens below.

Snow Hill, one of Andrew Wyeth’s most unexpected and gripping works, comes to life as memory: each of the six figures represents a person who had been important to Wyeth, many long dead, each represented as they appeared in earlier paintings by the artist. Similarly, the structures in the landscape at the foot of the hill recreate spaces from Wyeth’s past—once-significant and now lost.

The seventh, open spot around the maypole seems to invite the viewer to find a suitable addition to the dance: Wyeth himself? His wife? Another ordinary figure from Wyeth’s seventy-year-long life captured in the amber of his previous paintings? Someone new, as yet unknown? The viewer, perhaps?

The unexpected evergreen perched implausibly on the maypole prevents the work from being a mere performance of retrospection or nostalgia. There is something perpetually present-tense about its presence, as if it has always been there, and has always been green. Almost imperceptibly, it unites the manifold pasts of the painting into a single time-defying now.

Speaking both to the great and to the humble, Jeremiah sees visions of desolation. He is disbelieved, imprisoned, abandoned. He is alone. God seems to hide. The circle of memory stays broken, and an untended ribbon escapes his grasp. But Jeremiah’s life is not a mere conglomeration of raw facts; it is a perpetual dance that takes its shape from the Unchanging One whose presence makes it real. He knows ruin is coming—and redemption.

*Commentary by Gabriel Torretta, O.P.*

## References

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