

Kita de Sesa is our Soprano soloist.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Burke Masterson
Dawn and John de Sesa
The James Haefele Family
Sarah & Ralph Mastrangelo
The Zarghami Family
Joe Terramoccia & Muoio Family
Emily & Dwight Dyer

Emma Steck
Eddie Balsamo
Rev. Stark Jones
Inesa Murphy
Kelly Eickenbrock
Helen Lockman

All who are struggling due to the Coronavirus outbreak
And those who are on the front lines helping

First Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Second Reading

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁶ “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” ²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

HYMN

“God Bless America”

- Irving Berlin

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,
Let us swear allegiance to a land that’s free.
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.

From the mountains to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America, my home, sweet home,
God bless America my home, sweet, home.

HYMN
“God of the Sparrow”

God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

ANTHEM
“America the Beautiful” - Katharine Lee Bates

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

A Historical Note

Irving Berlin wrote “God Bless America” when he was stationed at Camp Upton on Long Island during World War I. It was to be part of a musical review, “Yip, Yip Yaphank,” performed in New York City by the soldiers as a fundraiser. (“Oh! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning” was another of his songs in that show.) Berlin cut “God Bless America” from the 1917 show, but Kate Smith popularized it beginning in the late 1930s. In 1926, Berlin married Ellin Mackay, the daughter of Katherine and Clarence Mackay, who lived at “Harbor Hill,” designed by Stanford White on their nearly 650-acre estate in Roslyn. The mansion was razed in 1947 and Country Estates in East Hills was built on some of the Mackay property. Surviving remnants of the Mackay estate today include the Gate House at the northeast corner of Roslyn and Harbor Hill Roads (the Roslyn Landmark Society plans to restore the Gate House), a stone Water Tower on Redwood Drive; and the two *Horse Tamer* statues (both were moved and in recent years restored, one is now in Gerry Park and the other is in front of the Roslyn High School. (The parents of our long-time member, Peg Grosser, worked for the Mackay family.)

Katharine Lee Bates who wrote the words to “America the Beautiful” was an author, poet, and English professor at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She wrote the first draft of her poem in 1893 after a visit to Pike’s Peak, when she was teaching at a summer session in Colorado. Her local connection is that “America the Beautiful” has become a traditional anthem at our church on the Fourth of July weekend (together with the “God Bless America” hymn). Thank you Gary and Kita for enhancing our service with these patriotic musical selections.

—Natalie Naylor