



February 2021

Amanda Gorman's "The Hill We Climb" Poem Transcript

On January 20, 2021, Amanda Gorman became the youngest person to ever read at a presidential inauguration. The 22-year-old poet laureate recited her poem, "The Hill We Climb" to a crowd that included President Joe Biden, First Lady Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, her husband Douglas Emhoff, and Barack and Michelle Obama. And fun fact? The gold hoops and birdcage ring she wore during her big moment were a gift from Oprah herself.

"I wanted it to be a message of hope and unity. And I think that [the inauguration] for me really just underscored how much that was needed," Gorman said on [CBS This Morning](#) ahead of her performance. "But to not turn a blind eye to the cracks that really need to be filled."

Below, a full transcript of Gorman's poem that has everyone talking.



*When day comes, we ask ourselves, where can we
find light in this never ending shade?
The loss we carry, a sea.
We must wade.
We've braved the belly of the beast.
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace.
And the norms and notions of what just is, isn't
always justice.
And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it.
Somehow we do it.
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed a nation
that isn't broken, but simply unfinished.
We, the successors of a country and the time where
a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and
raised by a single mother can, dream of becoming*

president only to find herself reciting for one.

*And yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to
form a union that is perfect.*

We are striving to forge our union with purpose.

To compose a country, committed to all cultures, colors, characters, and conditions of man.

And so we lift our gaze, not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.

*We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences
aside.*

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Pastor's Message – “Free at Last”

For a long-time now, we wondered if we would ever rid ourselves of a president who has torn our country apart, literally, and led to the death of thousands by way of his incompetence. Before any votes had been cast he announced that the only way his opponent could win would be if the election was a fraud. Through the period of the election and its aftermath he filed more than 60 lawsuits to prove he was right. Then, after the electors from each state certified the votes in their states, he implemented a plan, with help from members of Congress, to storm the Nations' Capitol, inciting a riot that led to five deaths, injuries, theft, and damage to this symbol of our precious Democracy .

He then further disgraced himself by ignoring virtually all traditions that reminded us and the world that we have always had a peaceful transition of power. We were a model for all countries in the world who admired the way our government dealt with conflict and challenge.

So, as Dr. King said in his “I Have a Dream Speech”, we are “Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, that we are free at last.” Sadly, as was the case since that powerful statement of promise, while the president is no longer the president, he remains a disrupter in chief, manipulating his minions, and encouraging crazy behavior, thinking, acting and blocking everything President Joe Biden has done so far.

From the night before the Inauguration of the President and Vice President, to this very moment, I have thanked God for what is being done and how it is being done. Competence, courage, truth and honor are back. For that I cannot be more thankful. Openness, truth, competence, respect and reaching out for unity, there is little more we can expect. Sadly, we must continue to be on guard as some of those who did the damage and planned it, are now judging the president for the second time. We know where that will end.

At Grace we have housed voting in the City, continued to feed and support people in our communities, added our voice to those of AHNA, GHIAA, CCFJ and Fresh Start. We have worked at being safe and will continue to do so. We are approaching a year of worshiping by Zoom, and accomplished some remarkable things to boot. New kitchen, solar panels, lots of inhouse improvements delivered by Lee Whittemore and others. AA has continued, Janet's Closet is back, and partners continue to support and work with us.

After the service on February 21st, we will have our Annual Financial Meeting by Zoom. We can see how well we are holding up and how thankful we are for each other.

Read that gorgeous poem delivered by Amanda Gorman during the Inauguration. It was like a spiritual ballet when delivered. Let's try to understand a major source of our division as a country, looking at how Christianity is being redefined as Christian nationalism.

Hear again how well GHIAA is doing and being, and go to Amazon and pick-up the book, The Painted Sky, written by Rabbi Donna Berman and illustrated by our own Louisa.

May we continue to operate with love and safety, keeping our hearts and minds in prayer for those suffering.

This month is BLACK History Month. Lou Oliver our Black History guru suggested we remember what Stacey Abrams has done in her life so far. Read all about her.

Amanda Gorman's "The Hill We Climb" Poem Transcript

(continued from page 1)

We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another. We seek harm to none and harmony for all.

Let the globe, if nothing else say, this is true.

That even as we grieved, we grew.

That even as we hurt, we hoped.

That even as we tired.

We tried that we'll forever be tied together victorious.

Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.

Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree and no one shall make them afraid

If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made.

That is the promise to glade the hill we climb.

If only we dare it's because being American is more than a pride we inherit.

It's the past we step into and how we repair it.

We've seen a force that would shatter our nation, rather than share it.

Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.

And this effort very nearly succeeded, but while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated in this truth.

In this faith we trust for while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.

This is the era of just redemption.

We feared it in its inception.

We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of of such a terrifying hour, but within it, we found the power to author a new chapter.

To offer hope and laughter to ourselves.

So while once we asked, how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?

Now we assert how could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?

We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be a country that is bruised.

But whole benevolence, but bold, fierce, and free.

We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation.

Our blunders become their burdens, but one thing is certain.

If we merged mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy, and change our children's birthright.

So let us leave behind a country better than the one.



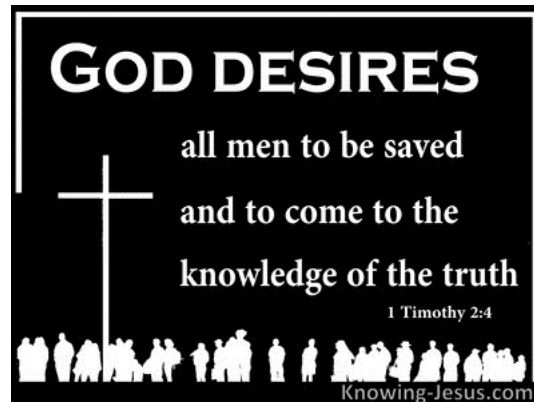
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Amanda Gorman's "The Hill We Climb" Poem Transcript

(continued from page 3)

*We were left with every breath, my bronze pounded chest.
We will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.
We will rise from the gold limbed hills of the West.
We will rise from the wind swept to Northeast where our forefathers first realized the
revolution.
We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the middle Western States.
We will arise from the sun baked South.
We will rebuild, reconciled and recover and every known nook over our nation.*

*And every corner called our country.
Our people diverse and beautiful will emerge, battered and beautiful.
When day comes, we step out of the shade of flame and unafraid, the new dawn balloons, as
we free it.
For there was always light.
If only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.*



THURSDAY JANUARY 28, 2021

"The devil always divides. He always divides because it is convenient for him to divide. He fosters division everywhere, and in any way... In general, the devil does not tempt us with high theology, but with the weaknesses of our brothers and sisters. He is astute: he magnifies others' mistakes and defects, sows discord, provokes criticism and creates factions. God has another way: He takes us as we are, he loves us so much, but he loves us as we are and takes us as we are; he takes those of us who are different, he takes sinners, and he always spurs us towards unity."

Pope Francis

THE IMPORTANCE OF GHIAA IN THIS TIME—Darrell Urban

The events of the last month or so in our nation's public life underscore the importance of our congregation's commitment to the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) and its organizing work for justice.

Much has been written and reported in the news outlets about what has led to the insurrection in our nation's capitol on January 6th. We won't attempt here to reiterate all this except to say, it's been about longstanding and increasing political polarization, unresolved issues with immigration, the affect of the Covid 19, and the realization and reaction to racial injustice and the many ways it has played out particularly in police violence against people of color. These factors have given rise to and been further exacerbated by a president and administration that has spread outrageous and unsubstantiated allegations of voter fraud and conspiracies that have undermined the confidence of people in political institutions of our democracy.



Many of us feel helpless about this. We pray to God that God will intervene to change things but don't feel we are in a position to actually change anything in our country or our cities. However, the work of GHIAA provides you the opportunity to take concrete actions that will make a difference and help change things for the better right here and now. It is clear that racism is a major factor in our national crises right now.

GHIAA has as a goal to have the governor declare racism as a Health Crisis in Connecticut. GHIAA pastors and leaders have been trying for several months to have a meeting with the governor in order to describe to him what GHIAA is and to discuss with him this request.

Despite repeated efforts, there has been no response from the governor's office. What we want is for members of our congregations to call, or write the governor asking him to meet with GHIAA pastors and leaders. The idea is to inundate the governor with enough letters and phone calls that he can understand that the faith community is strongly in favor and this is politically important for him to do. You as a member of Grace, can help do that. Put it into your own words (which works the best) that we request that you, Governor Lamont, meet with pastors and leaders of GHIAA.

Write to Governor Ned Lamont, State Capitol, 210 Capitol Ave. , Hartford, Ct 06106

Phone 860-566-4840. You can also do both.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF GHIAA IN THIS TIME— Darrell Urban (continued from page 6)

To help understand the rationale for why it's important for the governor to declare racism as a public health crisis the following is quoted from Pastor A.J. Johnson of Urban Hope Refuge Church:

“ The declining physical and mental well being of Black Americans is evidence of the violence that has been inflicted through systemic racism. The public health crisis fueled by racism facing Black Americans manifests in a variety of ways including:

- **Segregation**, contributing to disparate health outcomes by race and place, including lower life expectancy and higher asthma rates, diabetes, hypertension, and more.
- **Cultural stereotypes**, imposing negative characterization on Blacks which has been demonstrated to result in inferior medical care for Black patients, abusive treatment at the hands of law enforcement, and increased rates of incarceration amongst black communities.
- **Discrimination**, contributing to increased individual and communal stress, with attendant negative outcomes in physical health and mental health.
- **Opportunity gap**, limiting access to economic and educational resources resulting in higher levels of unemployment, lack of representation in positions of power, poverty and more.”

As a result of the governor declaring racism a public health crisis, it will be more possible to carry through on a wide variety of initiatives and programs suggested by pastors involved in GHIAA as guides to intervening in and righting this situation.

There are two more initiatives that we have noted in earlier articles 1. Clean Slate and 2. Getting rid of welfare liens in Connecticut. Both these have now been introduced as bills in legislative committees and we will keep you updated as to their progress and how you can help with them.



Accountability, Truth and Christian Nationalism— Pastor Rick

As is often true in our lives, I had decided to write an article about accountability and truth. Even after January 6th, it is remarkable to me that we are still listening to blatant and pervasive lies, and, the absence of all accountability for storming our Capitol, beating people in the way and leading to the greatest threat to our democracy since the Civil War. I am deeply concerned about this and was going to write about Christian Ethics and how our current circumstances could benefit from a reflection on what we are to do when confronted by a split between those who see and believe in truth, through the eyes of Jesus of Nazareth, and what it means to be accountable for what we do and how we live.

Chapter 4 in the book Christian Ethics, speaks to what the goal of ethics are for a Christian. It outlines three perspectives on a life lived for the glory of God. Here are the three perspectives offered:

1. a character that glorifies God: a Christlike character.
2. results that glorify God: a life that bears abundant fruit for God's kingdom.
3. behavior that glorifies God: a life of obedience to God, lived in personal relationship with God.



It was within this frame, I was going to comment on the last few weeks of life in this country. But, then, as I was writing, I received an Email from Nancy Urban. She asked if we still had time to add something to the February issue. This led me to watch a webinar on the subject of Christians Against Christian nationalism. I have known of the organization and that our own Bishop Eaton and the wonderful Episcopal Bishop Curry were engaged in it. I had not read the Statement or signed it (I have now), and I watched a Webinar on the website that involved both Bishops and an author who has written books on the phenomenon of Christian nationalism... This hour long presentation did what I was going to try to do coming from a bit of a different yet quite similar place in analyzing where we are now.

From my perspective, Joe Biden, since the night before his Inauguration, has handled his role as President nearly to perfection. His compassion for others, his Christianity, flows from virtually everything he says and does. I can truly say I am proud of , and support our President. And, what a mess he is in. Thank God that he is in it for us. Let me get back to Nancy's interruption. People supporting the organization "Christians Against Christian nationalism are invited to sign on to a statement or declaration that speaks to what this is and why it is un-Christian.

The statement is here:

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Christians Against Christian Nationalism

As Christians, our faith teaches us everyone is created in God's image and commands us to love one another. As Americans, we value our system of government and the good that can be accomplished in our constitutional democracy. Today, we are concerned about a persistent threat to both our religious communities and our democracy — Christian nationalism.

Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities, distorting both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy.

Christian nationalism demands Christianity be privileged by the State and implies that to be a good American, one must be Christian. It often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation. We reject this damaging political ideology and invite our Christian brothers and sisters to join us in opposing this threat to our faith and to our nation.

As Christians, we are bound to Christ, not by citizenship, but by faith. We believe that:

- People of all faiths and none have the right and responsibility to engage constructively in the public square.
- Patriotism does not require us to minimize our religious convictions.
- One's religious affiliation, or lack thereof, should be irrelevant to one's standing in the civic community.
- Government should not prefer one religion over another or religion over nonreligion.
- Religious instruction is best left to our houses of worship, other religious institutions and families.
- America's historic commitment to religious pluralism enables faith communities to live in civic harmony with one another without sacrificing our theological convictions.
- Conflating religious authority with political authority is idolatrous and often leads to oppression of minority and other marginalized groups as well as the spiritual impoverishment of religion.
- We must stand up to and speak out against Christian nationalism, especially when it inspires acts of violence and intimidation—including vandalism, bomb threats, arson, hate crimes, and attacks on houses of worship—against religious communities at home and abroad.

Whether we worship at a church, mosque, synagogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths. All are equal under the U.S. Constitution. As Christians, we must speak in one voice condemning Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus and a threat to American democracy.

I now ask that you go to the following link:

<https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/webinars> and take the time to listen to the Webinar that was done with the two Bishops after January 6th. I particularly appreciated how Bishop Eaton referred to Luther in her interpretations and how both Bishops were so clear about how they saw the issue of Christian nationalism in the very same way. It is almost like a refresher on being Lutheran and Episcopalian. I may come back some time in the future and discuss emerging denials, continued lies and anti-Christian behavior presented as Christian by a large percentage of our population, including Lutherans and Episcopalians. It is also fundamental and historical how it is these behaviors get wrapped up in flags and crosses. If nothing else, we can agree that the American flag doesn't belong in our sanctuary. So, thank you, Nancy, for helping me with this, and I am sure our congregation and readers may be appreciative, too.

Creation Care Corner — Nancy Urban

“Cleanliness is next to Godliness”! How often have we either said this or heard it said? I wonder if, as we look at the Climate Crisis and our role in it, it would not be more correct to say, “Dirtiness is next to Godliness”, or at least a bit of dirtiness. Many articles have been written on the importance of young children being exposed to some good old fashioned “dirt digging” to help build up good bacteria in their system, or how we are killing off the good bacteria along with the bad when we overly clean our surfaces. According to the Biblical stories, we were formed from the dust (dirt) of the earth and I am sure that we could have all sorts of theological discussions around this and our relationship to the earth, BUT today I want to focus this “bit of dirtiness” on our increasing use of water.

There was a time, (not that long ago, since it is part of my life story), when use of water was determined by 1. Fear of filling up the septic tank and 2. Running the well dry. Wednesday and Saturday were bath and shampoo nights. It is a running joke with my siblings that the bath was no more than 2 inches deep. Got dirty hands? Dirty feet from running barefoot all day? Just go clean them in a basin or at the sink. So the question is: Does one really need to take a shower every day? If one just showers every other day what would be the outcome in terms of water, soap, plastic shampoo containers, etc.?

Laundry was done on Monday: Fill up the machine plus the two rinse tubs. In go the whites—wash, put through the wringer, 1st rinse-wringer, 2nd rinse-wringer and into the basket to be hung on the clothes line. Then came the non-whites using all the same water and last came the work clothes, again using all the same water. Doing laundry was a lot of work and you just did not toss in clothes to the laundry basket. After school, our “good” clothes were hung up ready for another day and on went the set of play clothes that lasted us for the week. I am not looking to go back to these days, although I do cringe when I see my grand daughter throw her clothes in the laundry every day, dirty or not. What would be the result if we only did laundry of clothes that were really dirty using a full machine? What effect would that have on the use of water, the town’s sewer system, the garbage that results from detergent containers etc.?

Modern conveniences are just that—very convenient. Our water systems, washing machines, sewer systems etc. have made life much easier, But they have also tended to separate us from being in communion with this precious gift of life-giving water. I would submit that with our modern running water systems, just turn on the tap for unlimited flow, and our modern sewer systems, just pull the drain or flush the toilet and out it goes; we are still in danger of filling the septic tank or running the well dry—just on a larger scale.

Nancy Urban

P.S. For many, a Lenten discipline is to give up something that we like, knowing we can make it through the Lenten Season and get back to it with Easter. I suggest that this Lenten Season one could give something up or make a change—(don’t purchase foods that come in plastic containers—take fewer showers—go meatless one more day per week)—you get the idea, that is good for the earth. AND then keep that change and make it a regular part of your life, through Easter and beyond .



Meet Stacey Abrams, the architect of Georgia's political shift from 'red' to 'purple'

insider@insider.com (John L. Dorman) 1/6/2021



© Jessica McGowan/Getty Images Abrams speaks at voter mobilization rally in Atlanta headlined by former president Barack Obama. Jessica McGowan/Getty Images

- Stacey Abrams, Georgia's 2018 Democratic gubernatorial nominee, has long pushed the national party to invest political resources in the fast-growing Southern state.
- Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and President Donald Trump both seriously competed in Georgia in the 2020 presidential election, reflecting its shift from a reliably conservative state to an emerging swing state.
- In November, Biden won Georgia by nearly 12,000 votes, and Democrats Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff both won their respective Senate runoff elections in January 2021, heralding achievements that once seemed nearly impossible to many in the party.
- Abrams, who helped register hundreds of thousands of new voters in the state over the past decade, has relentlessly focused on uprooting various forms of voter suppression in the state that go back generations.

For years, Stacey Abrams told the national Democratic Party that Georgia was the key to its electoral future.

"Georgia is a state Democrats can and must win," she wrote in a Washington Post opinion piece less than two years ago.

With its rapidly growing Black, Latino, and Asian populations, along with an influx of younger residents and Northern transplants, the state was becoming a symbol of the culturally-ascendant New South.

Republicans have long controlled the levers of power in the Peach State. Democrats haven't occupied the Governor's Mansion since 2003 and the GOP has had unified control of the state legislature since 2005. Population growth, while robust in the Democratic-leaning Atlanta metropolitan area, never seemed like it wasn't enough to overcome the state's deeply conservative rural areas, which consistently deliver huge vote margins to Republican candidates.

This perception of Republican control over the state was shattered on November 3, when President Donald Trump's initial lead over President-elect Joe Biden diminished throughout the night as Atlanta and its populous suburbs reported their vote totals.

By November 6, Biden had pulled ahead of Trump in the longtime Republican state, and on November 14, Decision Desk HQ and Insider called the race for Biden.

The president-elect won Georgia by a 49.5%-49.3% margin over Trump, with nearly 12,000 votes separating the two men out of almost 5 million votes cast, becoming the first Democratic presidential nominee to carry the state since Bill Clinton in 1992.

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Meet Stacey Abrams, the architect of Georgia's political shift from 'red' to 'purple'

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In the January 2021 Senate runoff elections, Democrats Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff won their races against GOP Sens. Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue, respectively, giving control of the upper chamber to the Democrats for the first time since 2015.

To many, Abrams' long-term vision has finally taken hold, and she has been widely praised for steering the Biden campaign and the Democratic Party to this pivotal moment in Southern politics.

Here are five things that you should know about Abrams' life and career, leading up to her work in accelerating Georgia's political transition from a conservative "red" state to a competitive "purple" state:

Education has been a defining part of her life

Abrams, 46, was born in Wisconsin, but spent her childhood in Gulfport, Mississippi and Atlanta.

In an interview with The Washington Post, she spoke about her life in Mississippi and vividly recalled how her parents, Robert and Carolyn Abrams, picked a home on a particular street so that their six children could attend higher-performing public schools.

"My parents understood that education was the essential ingredient to success for both of them," Abrams told The Post. "My mom is the only one of her siblings to finish high school. My dad is the first man in his family to go to college."

Abrams was the first Black female valedictorian at DeKalb County's Avondale High School in 1991.



© Jessica McGowan/Getty Images Abrams addresses supporters of her gubernatorial campaign at an election watch party in Atlanta on November 6, 2018. Jessica McGowan/Getty Images

She then went to Spelman College, a renowned historically Black college in Atlanta, where she distinguished herself as a Harry S. Truman Scholar and graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies (political science, economics, and sociology).

After college, Abrams received a master's degree in public affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin and a law degree from Yale.

She began her professional career as a tax attorney.

She served in the Georgia House of Representatives

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Meet Stacey Abrams, the architect of Georgia's political shift from 'red' to 'purple'

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In 2006, Abrams ran for a state House seat that included parts of Atlanta and suburban DeKalb, winning the Democratic primary and the general election. She began her first term as a state legislator in 2007.

During her tenure, Abrams aimed for bipartisanship, working successfully with Republican legislators, while also scrutinizing the policies of the majority party.

"In 2011, Abrams was largely responsible for blocking what Georgia Republicans initially portrayed as a major income-tax cut," according to a Politico report. "Abrams analyzed the proposal and found that it would amount to a major tax increase. She brought her analysis back to her colleagues and worked to persuade them to vote against it. The proposal was defeated."

She led the House Democratic caucus as Minority Leader from 2011 to 2017, until resigning from the chamber to run for governor.

She is the first Black woman to be a major party gubernatorial nominee in the US

In 2018, Abrams became the first Black female nominee from a major political party to run for governor in US history. This represented a groundbreaking moment not only for Black women, but for Georgia, which was still defined by a largely conservative electorate.

Abrams and her opponent, then-Secretary of State Brian Kemp, were close in the polls throughout the entire race, and both sides aimed to boost their support from their strongest groups - Abrams focused on energizing minority and suburban voters, while Kemp relied heavily on his GOP base in rural and exurban areas.

In the end, Kemp narrowly defeated Abrams by a 50.2%-48.8% margin, or 1.4 percentage points. The race represented the smallest margin in a Georgia governor's race since 1966.

Kemp, who had oversight of the election process, refused to step down during the race, despite numerous calls to do so. While Secretary of State, he "oversaw purges of the voting rolls and supported a tightening of registration rules," according to The New York Times.

Abrams, who ended her campaign but wouldn't formally concede to Kemp, said that voter suppression clouded the legitimacy of the election.

"More than 200 years into Georgia's democratic experiment, the state failed its voters," she said at the time. "Eight years of systemic disenfranchisement, disinvestment, and incompetence had its desired effect on the electoral process in Georgia."

She has long been passionate about voting rights

Over the past decade, Abrams helped register hundreds of thousands of new voters in the state. After her 2018 loss, she started Fair Fight, a national voting rights organization aimed at rooting out voter suppression. The organization is an extension of Abrams' personal mission to bring new people into the voting process.

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Meet Stacey Abrams, the architect of Georgia's political shift from 'red' to 'purple'

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Earlier this year, she reminisced about her passion for voting rights with a group of college students while discussing youth engagement, according to The Washington Post.

"I started my voting rights activism at Spelman College," she told the students. "I started a voter-registration drive even before I was old enough to vote. I was probably the only person who turned 18 in college and got excited to go register and nothing else. But for me, the issue of voter registration is the beginning of the conversation because it is a conversation about power."

After Reconstruction, poll taxes and literacy tests were used to silence the votes of Black citizens for generations, and the runoff election system was put into place to reduce the influence of the Black vote.

In Georgia, the legacy of discriminatory Jim Crow-era voter suppression, which Abrams has fought against, long created a sense of resignation among many Black citizens. Atlanta generally dominates conversations about the state's voting patterns, but a third of voters in rural Georgia are from minority groups and one in four voters outside of the city are Black, and they have now emerged as a powerful voting bloc that for decades had been largely marginalized and ignored.

She worked tirelessly to elect Democrats to both Senate seats

After Abrams declined to run for the Senate in 2020, she immediately made it known that her goal was to elect a Democrat to the seat held by Perdue.

When then-Sen. Johnny Isakson retired from the chamber for health reasons in 2019, Loeffler was appointed to his seat by Kemp, which triggered a separate special election for the 2020 cycle.

Abrams threw her organizing efforts at helping Warnock and Ossoff, who had both never run statewide before, navigate the tricky terrain of running in a state that hadn't recently been hospitable to federal Democratic candidates.

However, Fair Fight, the Democratic Party, and local organizers helped drive up turnout, registering and engaging with new voters.

Warnock and Ossoff both performed strongly in the November election, keeping Republicans from exceeding 50% of the both races, denying them outright wins and triggering the runoff elections.

On January 6, both Warnock and Ossoff emerged as the winners of their respective races against Loeffler and Perdue, respectively, per Decision Desk HQ and Insider.

Abrams not only led the way for Biden to win the state, but created the template for both Senate seats to flip to the Democratic column, the first time that the party held both seats concurrently since 2003.



Monthly Energy Production Report for Grace Evangelical Church

Enphase Energy maximizes your solar energy production and keeps you informed about your system. Your monthly energy report shows how your system performed and how much you contributed to offsetting the global carbon footprint.

Week	Peak Power	Energy Produced
12/01/2020 - 12/07/2020	14.3 kW	267 kWh
12/08/2020 - 12/14/2020	13.6 kW	188 kWh
12/15/2020 - 12/21/2020	13.9 kW	93.9 kWh
12/22/2020 - 12/28/2020	13.8 kW	251 kWh
12/29/2020 - 12/31/2020	13.3 kW	76.8 kWh
December 2020 Total:		876 kWh
Previous Month Total:		1.28 MWh
Year to Date:		7.05 MWh

For more details on these production results, please visit your [Enphase® system](#).

Your **Carbon Offset** for this month: 1,335 lbs
You have offset the equivalent of: **16 Trees**



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1420 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954, USA.

Lights We See—Barbara J. Ruhe

Pastor--So I put candles out on 1-19-2021 at 5:30 pm as bells were rung and places were lighted up to remember those who died from COVID. When I got up the next morning at 5:30 am they were still lit. I have actually had a candle out every night since the 6th--I remember after 9/11 the world lit candles for us--it so touched me--

And then there is this university motto that I try and live out--"In Your Light We See Light" Psalm 36:9.



February 2021 Anniversary & Birthdays!

Happy Anniversary

Otto & Annelies Koenig 2/09

Richard Kremer & Judith Butterworth-Kremer 02/09

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?

Contact the office,
860-527-7792 or email

office.gracelutheranhartford@gmail.com
to update our records.

Happy Birthday

Otto Koenig	02/04
Nilda Bolorin	02/06
Sally Nolen	02/07
Nina Kretschmer	02/09
Lee Whittemore	02/10
Melissa Brown	02/11
Martin Holmeen	02/16
Randall De Rosa	02/18
Susan Carey	02/22
Roy Nelson	02/23
Paul Yigle-Kaljob	02/23
Lisa Dugan	02/24
Joseph Kisiel	02/26





Grace Lutheran Church
46 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06105



Our Staff and Council Leadership

The Rev. Rick Kremer, Pastor

rickkremer@aol.com

Nilda Bolorin, Parish Administrator

***Note new email**

office.gracelutheranchurch@gmail.com

Dorothea Glatte, Lay Minister

Lloyd Smith, Lay Minister

Louisa Barton-Duguay, Religious Worker

Artist in Residence for Outreach

Barbara Ruhe, President

Barbara Calogero, Secretary

Dale Eberhardt, Treasurer

Janice Potter, Financial Assistant

Dale Eberhardt, Organist

Walter Scott, Sexton

www.graceistheplace.org

