

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SHIPPENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA



July 19, 2020
7th Sunday of Pentecost
(Proper 11)
VIRTUAL SERVICE

Welcome to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

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Dear Friends,

We welcome you today, whether you have been here many times, or this is your first time worshipping with us. We hope that each one of you feels the draw of God, pulling you deeper into the mystery and communion with Christ, which we experience through our shared worship, prayer, song, silence, and community.

We are currently in the season of Pentecost which is often described as the “long green growing season”, for it is one of the longest liturgical seasons of the church year (beginning with the Feast Day of Pentecost, often at the end of May and extending through The Feast Day of Christ the King, immediately before Advent in early December). We refer to this church season as the “green growing season” for we are prompted to focus on our “growth in Christ” as the scripture lessons we read during this time relate the stories of the ministry and life of Jesus and the abiding culture of loving one another, in the midst of challenges and differences in the early church.

Rather than offering the service of Holy Eucharist this morning we will focus on God's Word, in a simpler way, setting before us a time of focusing our thoughts and opening our hearts on the scripture.

We set this Sunday, and our own lives, of course within this season of the Coronavirus and our ongoing and deepening concern for the well-being of the world. We may find this time of isolation and fear to be a very difficult time, and yet, as others have said, this is exactly the time that our spiritual practices of worship, prayer, living in community, and being formed as Christians has prepared us for. I trust that we will find a way to live out of the truth and strength of God in this very challenging time, for I trust God to be a part of our lives.

And so, we can rejoice that we can gather in a new way, for we hold this prayer within our hearts: For the Spirit of Peace that calms our mind and stills our life, we give you thanks. For the Spirit of Love that touches hearts and reaches out, we give you thanks. For the Spirit of Joy that lifts our soul and gives us faith we give you thanks. For the Spirit of Power, that gift of grace for this your church, we give you thanks.

To prepare our hearts and minds for worship, we seek to share quiet and silence before our services. We invite you to join us in this spiritual practice.

Faithfully, Mother Barbara

Worship lies at the heart of our Christian life, for our turning toward God through praise, repentance, thanksgiving, and communion with the Risen Christ through the sacraments, all offered in community, opens our hearts to be changed by the life-giving love of God. It is also in worship that we profess our love of God, deepen our experience of God, and reconnect with our core identity, as expressed through our baptismal vows. And it is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as people of God.

GATHERING WELCOME

We believe God is found in all places and at all times, in the noise and chaos of our lives, and in the times of intentional silence within our hearts. We begin our worship by connecting to that space within our souls, where we can “Be still and know that God is God.”

SINGING BOWL INVITING SILENCE TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS

The first act of our worship is the gathering of God’s people in prayer. In fact, the word “church” means “the gathering.”

GATHERING CHANT

God is in this place



SINGING BOWL CALLING US TO WORSHIP

There are two main sections of the worship service: The Ministry of the Word, and The Ministry of the Table (Altar). During the Ministry of the Word, we hear the sacred scriptures and allow our hearts to be broken to their truth in our lives. We begin our spoken word by acknowledging the triune God is worthy of our praise.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Officiant Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that "collects" or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. Very often, this "collecting" prayer summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray,

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Occasionally, in addition to the Collect of the Day, we are invited to join our hearts in prayer for a particular need in our world, for a particular yearning in our hearts to be met by God's love, or to commemorate a particular occasion. In response to the brokenness of our nation and world, we offer the following prayer, taken from the liturgy of our Washington National Cathedral.

A PRAYER FOR UNITY

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth in our nation, to support one another without hatred or bitterness, that, being bonded in love, we may live in unity with you and one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We begin our worship as a gathered community by praising God and lifting our hearts, in song.

SONG OF PRAISE #405 *Blue Hymnal*

All things bright and beautiful

Descant



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small,

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all.



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



- 1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
- 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
- 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
- 4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

Repeat Refrain



he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky,
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

This reading is typically from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) which Jesus knew and to which he often referred or quoted.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The psalms are prayers that Jesus would have prayed in his daily worship and which express every human emotion of humankind's relationship with God and with one another.

PSALM 139:1-11, 22-23 (*Prayed responsively by whole verse.*)
(*please say aloud the verses in bold type*)

BCP 231

1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 **You trace my journeys and my resting-places ***
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

4 **You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.**

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

6 **Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?**

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 **If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.

10 **If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"**

11 Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

22 **Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.**

23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh~ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ~ if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. When we worship in person, we stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus' words and actions, and we turn toward the Gospel book, as an outward sign of the turning of our hearts to the Way of Love.

SEQUENCE OFFERING

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

Kevin Gorman, Pianist and Vocalist
 Michelle DiBona Trefren, Organist and Vocalist

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder

came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

The sermon or homily follows the Gospel because it is to be grounded in the scriptures. It illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life.

THE HOMILY

Mother Barbara

We lift our hearts in prayer, in praise and in trust of a living God, whose grace and presence in our lives offers healing and salvation. We pray for ourselves and on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the Universal Church, the nation, and all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in particular need or are suffering in heart, mind, body, or soul, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are part of a larger fellowship, the Church – the Body of Christ.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (RITE 2, Form IV)

The Rev. Deacon Wanda Kloza

Good People of God, I bid your prayers for Christ's holy Catholic Church. May it be a beacon of peace, unity and understanding in an often conflicted, divided and confusing world.

We are the Body of Christ on earth,
may we witness to your love.

I bid your prayers for all peoples throughout the world. May we find a way to bring an end to the conflicts that surround us, that all may be safe wherever they may be.

We are the Body of Christ in the world,
may we make peace.

I bid your prayers for all in need of wholeness, especially praying for the residents of the Episcopal Home: Shirley, Cathy, Sharon, Paula, and Myrtle. We pray for staff of the Episcopal Home: Ada, Alyssa, Anita, Becky, Diane, Donna, Effie, Esther, Jane, Jen, Julie, Laurie, Lorrie, Sondra, Tammy, Tonya, Wayne, Mary Grace, Mike, Lois, Kathy, Tamey, and all those who love them.

We also pray for Evan, Kathleen, Amy, Ellen, Tabitha, the Williams Family, Alice, Margaret, Samantha, Wanda, Brian Rotz, Brian Helman, the Watts Family and Pedro, Rachel Mooney, Laura and Brian, Stan and Dottie, and those who are grieving the loss of a loved one: Kathy, Jeanine, Ellen, Fred, Tom, Susan, Connor and Matthew, Blake and Katherine, and those whom we name, either silently or aloud.

We also pray for God's peace and protection to be upon those who are in active duty in our military: Andrew Harkins, Kelley Williams, Levi Nelson, Tawney White, Brad Arnold, Kyle Hubert, and Brent Welch.

We are the Body of Christ to a broken world,
may we bring Christ's healing love.

I bid your prayers for all those saints who have gone before us, especially remembering Peter

Joseph Looker, formerly an active member at St. Andrew's, and the father to The Rev. Jennifer Looker Mattson, a priest serving St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Lancaster, and who was raised up by this parish. May we strive for the fullness of your presence when our earthly time is done.

**We are the Body of Christ in this time,
as we await our time in God's kingdom.**

I bid your prayers of thanksgiving for this parish of faith, especially for our ministries to the hungry in our community, May we be guided in our life at St. Andrew's to learn how to bring others to Christ, seek forgiveness, and strive for unity and concord.

**We are the Body of Christ to one another,
may we seek and serve Christ in our neighbors.**

God, our hope, may your blessing empower our thanksgivings and our prayers; for we put our trust in you. **Amen.**

At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, so that we may support the continued mission and ministry of Christ of bringing in the kingdom of God, here among us.

OUR OFFERING TO GOD'S MISSION

In this green growing season of Pentecost, may we continue to sow seeds of hope in our world. May we grow in our faith as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus. May our love bear fruit in the world. And may we offer our whole selves to the mission of Christ, that of bringing healing and reconciliation to our world. Therefore, walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. We can think of this prayer not so much as ours, but Jesus' own prayer, his own words, in the power of his presence in our midst. Our giving utterance to the words of "Our Father" is really Christ speaking through us in the power of the Spirit.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 priest offers God's blessing upon God's people. The words commonly are given in the trinitarian name of God, accompanied by the sign of the cross.

THE BLESSING

My friends, life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make this earthly pilgrimage with us, so be swift to love, and make haste to do kindness, and the blessing of God, who comes to us as Creative Presence, Saving Grace and Life-giving Spirit be upon you and all whom you love this day, and forever more. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN #372

Praise to the Living God

1 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name
 2 Form - less, all love - ly forms de - clare his love - li - ness;
 3 His Spi - rit flow - eth free, high surg - ing where it will;
 4 E - ter - nal life hath he im - plant - ed in the soul;

who was, and is, and is to be for ay the same.
 ho - ly, no ho - li - ness of earth can his ex - press.
 in pro - phet's word he spoke of old; he speak - eth still.
 his love shall be our strength and stay while a - ges roll.

The one e - ter - nal God ere aught that now ap - pears:
 Lo, he is Lord of all. Cre - a - tion speaks his praise,
 Es - tab - lished is his law, and change - less it shall stand,
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name

the first, the last, be - yond all thought his time - less years!
 and ev - ery - where a - bove, be - low, his will o - beys.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, on land.
 who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.

The point of worship is to get people out the door, transformed by the grace of God, fed by the spiritual food offered through communion and community, sent out into the world for ministry and mission. "The worship has ended, let the service begin!"

THE DISMISSAL

Assisting Ministers

Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

INSTRUMENTAL OFFERING

Clair de Lune, Claude Debussy

Kevin Gorman, *pianist*

Worship Ministers

Officiant & Homilist

The Rev. Barbara Hutchinson

Church Musician

Kevin Gorman

Vocalists

Milan Shepherd

Michelle DiBona Trefren

Jay Williams

Mary Beth Williams

Lectors

Nichol Free (Genesis)

Roseann Sysko (Romans)

Lisa Turchi (Psalm)

Andrew Smeltz (Psalm)

Gospel & Prayers of the People

The Rev. Deacon Wanda Kloza

Dismissal

James and Thomas Williams