

Morning Prayer - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2020

A candle may be lit, to set apart this time of prayer.

Artwork on the Gospel from Daniel Van Heyst. Used with permission

Introit *Psalm 139*

Oh, Lord God, you have searched me in my heart and you have known me.
From highest heaven, you have seen all the things within me.
And before a word is upon my lips for speaking, in your heart you have heard it fully.
Every place where I wander, your Spirit is there, and your hand will guide and guard my way.

Welcome

Opening Hymn #354 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious measure, sung by flaming tongues above;
O the vast, the boundless treasure of my God's unchanging love.

Here I make faith's affirmation: thus far by thy help I've come,
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
take my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Opening Responses

Celebrant: The kingdom of God is at hand;

All: O Come, Let us Worship.

Celebrant: Lord, open our lips

All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Celebrant: O God, make speed to save us.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Celebrant: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

All: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Jubilate - Psalm 100 (Inclusive Language Psalter)

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

serve the Lord with gladness and come into the divine presence with a song.

Know this: the Lord, the Lord, is God;

the One made us and to whom we belong;

we are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving;

go into these courts with praise;

give thanks to God and call upon the name of the Lord.

For the Lord is good, whose steadfast love is everlasting;

and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

O come, let us worship.

Children's Talk

The Proclamation of the Word

Psalm 139:1–11

Refrain Lord, your hand will lead me, and hold me fast.

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

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

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

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

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

Where can I go then from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

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

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

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

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

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

Reading: Romans 8:12–25

So then, 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 labour 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.

Stand or sit for the Gospel reading, as seems appropriate for your setting.

Gradual Hymn #715 *Celtic Alleluias*

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew (13:24–30, 36–43)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among

thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gradual Hymn #715 *Celtic Alleluias*

Sermon

Dr. Alison Hurlburt

The Apostle's Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Dear friends in Christ, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

All: 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 neighbours 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 upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us pure hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn #565 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow;

let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,

be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;

death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;

songs of praises, songs of praises,

I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.

Postlude:

If a candle was lit, it is extinguished now.

Special thanks to Gabe Stephens for singing today.

This service is assembled from resources found in the Book of Alternative Services, Published by the Anglican Church of Canada.

And from ALTERNATIVE COLLECTS FOR YEARS A, B & C OF THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY AND SEASONAL PRAYERS OVER THE GIFTS AND AFTER COMMUNION Prepared by the Liturgy Task Force, Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee

Of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and found online at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Alternative-RCL-Collects-Final-2019.pdf>

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