

# Order of Service: The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## September 13, 2020

**Prelude** *Bind us together*

arr. Joel Raney  
Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano

### Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People* **Glory to God forever and ever.**

### Collect for Purity *(people muted)*

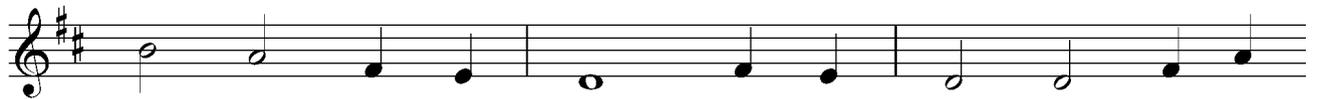
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn** *Come, thou fount of every blessing*  
*(Mute your device and sing loudly and joyfully)*

Nettleton



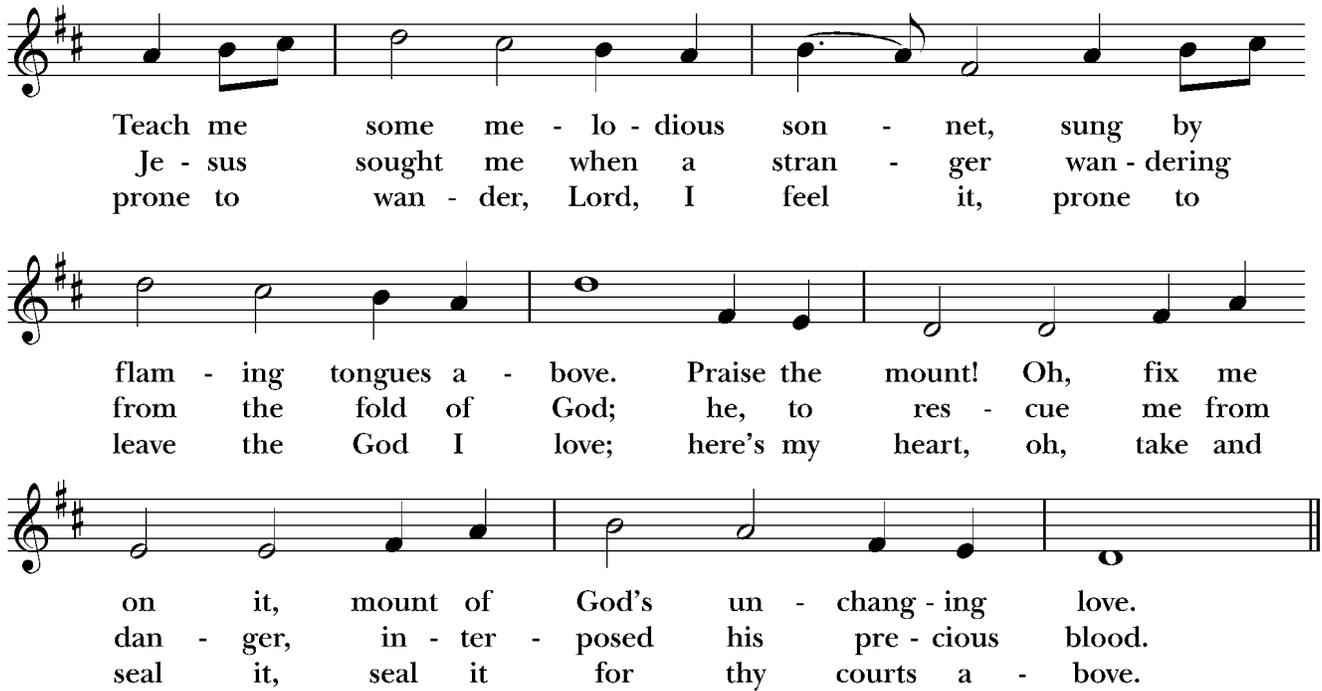
1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my  
2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly



heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er  
by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good  
I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a



ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by  
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering  
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to  
 flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me  
 from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from  
 leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and  
 on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.  
 dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

**Collect of the Day** *(people muted)*

*Celebrant* God be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Ever present God, you call us to be in relationship with one another and promise to dwell wherever two or three are gathered. In our community, we are many different people; we come from many different places, have many different cultures. Open our hearts that we may be bold in finding the riches of inclusion and the treasures of diversity among us. We pray in faith. **Amen.**

*(Martin Luther King Jr.)*

**A Reading** *Genesis 50:15-21 (people muted)*

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

**Psalm** “*All My Relations*”

Ulali

*The Biblical psalms are the prayers of the people of Israel. For our Season of Deconstructing Racism, our psalms will poems, reflections, and songs that are the prayers of our communities of color now.*

**Epistle** Ryan Blazer’s Letter to the Church (*people muted*)

*Ryan is White and works in the entertainment business. He and his Latinx husband Luis recently finalized the adoption on 3 of their 4 Latinx children. As a member of the vestry, Ryan also serves as Junior Warden for St. Luke’s and a part of many working groups including Deconstructing Racism to help St. Luke’s in its journey to becoming a Beloved Community.*

**Anthem** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Thomas A. Dorsey arr. Jack Schrader

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is gone, almost gone;  
Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I fall,  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*In 1932, a week after the death of his wife in childbirth and the subsequent death of his newborn son, Thomas Andrew Dorsey wrote this text. He also arranged the George N. Allen tune Precious Lord to match his text. Dorsey is considered the “father” of the African American gospel tradition (in distinction from the spiritual tradition) and was an active writer in this style from the 1920s through the 1950s. Martin Luther King, Jr. chose the hymn as one of the “freedom anthems” of the Civil Rights Movement and since then it has been one of the most popular gospel songs in the United States.*

**The Gospel** *Matthew 18:21-35 (people muted)*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

**The Sermon** *(people muted)*

Hazel Monae

*Senior Manager of Engagement and Leadership Development  
Episcopal City Mission, Boston, MA*

*Silence follows the sermon.*

**Music** *Mediterranean Dream*

Eric Wallace, Composer & Guitar

**Affirmation of Faith: Our Creed**

Justo Gonzalez

*(people muted)*

**We believe in God, the Father almighty;  
Creator of the heavens and the earth;  
Creator of all peoples and all cultures;  
Creator of all tongues and races.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s Beloved Son;  
God made flesh in a person for all humanity,  
God made flesh in an age for all ages,  
God made flesh in one culture for all cultures,  
God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit  
through whom God became incarnate in Jesus Christ,  
in whom God is present in our peoples and in our cultures;  
through whom, God the Creator of all that exists  
gives us power to become new creatures;  
the Spirit's infinite gifts make us one people,  
the Body of Jesus Christ.**

**We believe in the Church universal  
because it is a sign of God's Reign;  
whose faithfulness is shown in many hues,  
where all colors paint a single landscape,  
where all tongues sing God's praise.**

**We believe in the Reign of God—the day of the Great Fiesta,  
when all creation's colors  
will form a harmonious rainbow;  
when all the peoples will join in joyful banquet,  
when all tongues of the universe  
will be united in one choir of praise.**

**And because we believe, we commit ourselves  
to believe for those who do not believe,  
to love for those who do not love,  
to dream for those who do not dream,  
until what we expect becomes a reality. Amen.**

**Anthem** *Two Prayers*

Gary Alan Smith  
Becky Hasquet, Soloist

Only for these we pray,  
Pray with assurance strong;  
Light to discover the way,  
Power to follow it long.

Our prayers are less than three,  
Nothing we pray but two:  
Let us have light to see,  
Let us have power to do.

Let us have light to see,  
Light to be sure and know  
When the road is clear,  
Then willingly will we go.

Only for these we pray,  
Only for these we pray.

Let us have power to do,  
Though the task is heavy and new,  
Power of the brain and nerve  
Then willingly will we serve.

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

*Leader:* In hope that the arc of history bends toward justice, we lift up our prayers for healing, saying: Bind us together, O God of love.

For the Church, that its prophetic voice and action may proclaim and claim the challenge to deconstruct racism breaking the hopeless cycles of poverty, ignorance, prejudice, and despair which degrade the sacred dignity of humankind, we pray:

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or aloud*

**Bind us together, O God of love.**

For the wonder of creation, that we might use its resources rightly in the service of others and to the Glory of God, we pray:

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or aloud*

**Bind us together, O God of love.**

For our country, that we might celebrate our racial diversity and the distinctive and rich contributions of every fiber of our cultural fabric, we pray:

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or aloud*

**Bind us together, O God of love.**

For wise and decisive action on the part of local and national leaders, that the scandal of racism might be eradicated from our society, and equity and justice established as the law of the land, we pray:

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or aloud*

**Bind us together, O God of love.**

For a reimagining of economic, political, and social systems that have resulted in the disproportionate suffering and death of people of color throughout our history and as revealed during the COVID-19 pandemic, we pray:

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or aloud*

**Bind us together, O God of love.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and those connected to us as part of the human family. For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering; for the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice, we pray:

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or aloud*

**Bind us together, O God of love.**

For all who have died: For the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints, we pray:

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*

**Bind us together, O God of love.**

*Presider:* God of love, You created every human being in your image and you command us to love each other as you love us. Hear our prayers as we come before you, and inspire us to “do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.” **Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

Climate Caretakers, June 2, 2020

*Presider:* Merciful God, we come before you with heavy hearts.

We lament that racial injustice is so tragically common in our society. **God hear us.**

We lament that precious lives are lost because of hate and ignorance. **God hear us.**

We lament the prejudice, violence, and racism that mock your teachings. **God hear us.**

We lament that the Church has too often stayed silent in the face of racism. **God hear us.**

We lament that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts People of Color. **God hear us.**

We lament that racial justice has become polarizing in our society. **God hear us.**

We lament that some church leaders have spoken foolish and hateful words, which support the systemic racism that is a cancer to our world. **God hear us.**

**Forgive us, oh Lord, for our complicity in these sins. Open our ears to listen, our minds to learn, our hearts to break open, and our lives to do the work of justice.**

*Presider:* May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **Anthem Hallelujah**

Leonard Cohen arr. Roger Emerson

I've heard there was a secret chord that David played,  
And it pleased the Lord. But you don't really care for  
music, do you? It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth,  
the minor fall, the major lift; The baffled king  
composing Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

I did my best, it wasn't much, I couldn't feel  
so I tried to touch, I've told the truth, I didn't  
come to fool you. And even though it all  
went wrong I'll stand before the Lord of  
Song with nothing on my tongue, but  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

You say I took the name in vain  
Though I don't even know the name,  
But if I did, well really, what's it to you?  
There's a blaze of light in ev'ry word  
It doesn't matter what you heard,  
The holy or broken Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

*“This world is full of conflicts and full of things that cannot be reconciled. But there are moments when we can reconcile and embrace the whole mess, and that's what I mean by 'Hallelujah'. The song explains that many kinds of hallelujahs do exist, and all the perfect and broken hallelujahs have equal value. It's a desire to affirm my faith in life, not in some formal religious way but with enthusiasm, with emotion.”* – Leonard Cohen

*As we pray the words of The Great Thanksgiving, know that we all are woven together in the Body of Christ as the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood unites us in heart and spirit.*

**The Great Thanksgiving** (*Book of Common Prayer, Eucharistic Prayer A*)

*Celebrant* God 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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Presider and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer** (*people un-muted*)

**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.**

As this broken bread was scattered over the mountains,  
And was gathered together to become one,  
So let Your Body of Faithful be gathered together  
From the ends of the earth into Your kingdom. (*Didache, 1st Century*)

**Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

**In union, Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of Your Church where Your blessed body and blood are offered, I long to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I believe that You are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray You to come into my heart, my soul, and my mind. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing separate me from You; let me serve You in this life until, by Your grace, I join You in Your reign of unending peace. Amen.**

*(St. Augustine of Hippo)*

**Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries**

## **Blessing of the Backpacks**

Thank you, God, for new opportunities to learn and grow whether we are in an actual classroom, a virtual classroom, or at home.

Be with our teachers, leaders, caregivers, and administrators as they guide us into the new school year. Give them the tools and energy to create engaging ways for all of us to learn and grow.

Help us open our hearts and minds to new ideas, new friends, new teachers and coaches, and new ways of learning. Show us how to seek joy in all things as some of us start our senior year. When we feel lonely or isolated, remind us that you are by our side. When our teachers and caregivers seem worried and wary, help them to be gentle with themselves.

When things don't go as planned, help us rejoice in the newness and creativity of this moment. When technical difficulties arise, give us patience to trust that all will be well. When students seem disengaged, remind us that we all are doing our best. And when students shine at unexpected times and in unexpected ways, remind us to notice and celebrate.

As we begin to explore the unknown of this school year, let us rejoice in the small things and open ourselves to the glimpses of grace. When the stress of our children learning from home gets to be too much, allow us to find space to breathe and know you are with us through it all.

*Celebrant* God of joy and light, pour out your blessing upon these students, families, teachers, and leaders. Bless their backpacks, Chromebooks and computers, virtual classrooms, school buildings, and all preparations that help build a strong and safe year for everyone. May each of you be a blessing and light in your new year! Go and light up the world! **Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

May God give you grace never to sell yourself short, grace to risk something big for something good, and grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **Announcements**

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

**Postlude** *They'll know we are Christians by our love*

Mark Hayes  
Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano