

Order of Service: The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

Prelude *All night, All day*

Traditional Spiritual arr. Ruth Elaine Schram
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 *Great is thy faithfulness*

William M. Runyan

(Mute your device and sing loudly and joyfully)



1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



1. There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;
2. Sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
3. Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



1. Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not,
2. Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness,
3. Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



1. As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
2. To thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
3. Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed,

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

Collect of the Day (*people muted*)

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Dear God, help these people open their hearts and minds and see beyond the flesh and accept the unaccepted. Help them walk with open eyes to see the beauty you have given each one of us." **Amen.**

– Ronny, Age 15; Central Juvenile Hall East Los Angeles

A Reading *Jonah 3:10--4:11* (*people muted*)

A reading from the Book of Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die."

Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

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

Psalm “*The Women Gather*”

Written by Nikki Giovanni

Arranged & performed by Sweet Honey in the Rock

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 Angeles Urban’s Letter to the Church (*people muted*)

Angeles Urban is a Latina/MexAm woman who has spent almost all her life living in the South Bay with her family. She enjoys being an aunt, LA sports, and being a student at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Anthem *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Arr. Craig Courtney

Nobody knows the trouble I’ve seen. Nobody knows like Jesus.
Nobody knows the trouble I’ve seen. Glory Hallelujah.

Lift ev’ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of Liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, Felt in the days when our hope unborn had died.
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet. Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

Lift ev’ry voice and sing till the earth and heaven ring, Glory, Hallelujah
Let us march on till victory. Sing glory, Hallelujah.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” was written and composed by the Johnson brothers from Jacksonville, Florida. They worked together their whole lives in the pursuit of civil rights. For more than a century, the hymn has held a powerful place in American history. The hymn is known as the Black National Anthem, but it’s more than that. It’s a history lesson, a rallying cry, a pledge of unity, and as people gather to fight for equality and justice, it is an ever-present refrain.

The Gospel *Matthew 20:1-16 (people muted)*

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

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

The Sermon *(people muted)*

Tiombe Wallace

Silence follows the sermon.

Music *Aria Op. 51*

Flor Peeters
George Bullock, Cello & Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano

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 *I want Jesus to walk with me*

Traditional Spiritual arr. Lloyd Larson
Harlee Balajadia, Soloist

I want Jesus to walk with me.
I want Jesus to walk with me.
All along my pilgrim journey,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.
When I'm trouble, Lord, walk with me.
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
In my trials, Lord walk with me.
When my heart it almost breaking,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

African-American Christians found great comfort and encouragement in believing that this life was only a journey "passing through" to a better place. As they passed through the bitter trials of this earth, their desire was that they not walk alone, but that Jesus walk with them. Knowing that Jesus, who had already passed through the fiery trials and come out triumphant on the other side, was walking beside them gave them courage to go on.

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 *Now we are ambassadors*

Felix Mendelssohn

Now we are ambassadors in the name of Christ,

And in His holy name, be reconciled to God.

Now we are ambassadors in the name of Christ.

And in His holy name, be reconciled to God.

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 unmuted*)

**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

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 *Promised Land*

Arr. Joseph M. Martin
Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano