

Order of Service: The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020

Prelude *Down to the River / Shall we gather at the river?* Traditional Spiritual arr. Pepper Choplin
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 *Lead Me, Guide Me*

Doris M. Akers

(Mute your device and sing loudly and joyfully)

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,
For if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Fine



1. I am weak___ and I need thy strength and power to___
 2. Help me tread___ in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my
 3. I am lost___ if you take your hand from me, I am



1. help me o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me
 2. aid when sa - tan and sin op - press; I am
 3. blind with - out___ thy light to see; Lord, just



1. through the dark - ness thy face to see,
 2. put - ting all___ my trust in thee.
 3. al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.



1. Lead me, Oh Lord,___ lead me._____
 2. Lead me, Oh Lord,___ lead me._____
 3. Lead me, Oh Lord,___ lead me._____

D.C.

Collect of the Day (*people muted*)

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(*The Prayer for the Human Family – BCP 815*)

A Reading *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 (people muted)*

A reading from the Book of Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? “As I live,” says the Lord God, “this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,” says the Lord God. “Turn, then, and live.”

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

Psalm “*Truth*”

Written by the Rev. Edwin Johnson

Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Dorchester, MA; Deputy to the General Convention;
Member of the Episcopal Church Becoming Beloved Community Working Group

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 Elizabeth Hutchinson’s Letter to the Church (*people muted*)

Elizabeth is our bilingual, Spanish-speaking, Senior Warden for 2020. She has been at St. Luke's for 13 years. While she attends both the 10 am and 12:30 pm services, she primarily worships at the latter, where she is a LEM and assists with leadership development. .

Anthem *Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me*

Arr. K. Lee Scott

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;
Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;
And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;
And with actions bold and meek, For Christ, my Savior, speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;
And, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;
And, with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
Slow thy mercy tenderly, Make me more like thee;
Separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be, Give him who gave me thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
Help me now thy pow'r to see, I would be like thee;
'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;
Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee!

The Gospel *Matthew 21:23-32 (people muted)*

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

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

The Sermon *(people muted)*

The Rev. Jane Gould

Silence follows the sermon.

Hymn / Himno *Bless the Lord / Tengo Sed de Ti*

Bless the Lord my soul
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul,
Who leads me into life.

Tengo sed de ti,
oh fuente del amor.
Tengo sed de ti:
tu amor es libertad.

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 *Guide my feet, Lord*

Traditional Spiritual arr. John Carter

Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race.
Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race.
Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race,
'cause I don't want to run this race in vain.

Stand by me, Lord, while I run this race.
Stand by me, Lord, while I run this race.
Stand by me, Lord, while I run this race,
'cause I don't want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand, Lord, while I run this race.
Hold my hand, Lord, while I run this race.
Hold my hand, Lord, while I run this race,
'cause I don't want to run this race in vain.

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 *What wondrous love is this*

Arr. Josh Garrels
Malek Sammour, Guitar & Vocals

What wondrous love is this,
Oh my soul, oh my soul?
What wondrous love is this,
Oh my soul?

And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on.

What wondrous love is this,
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul;
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing and joyful be,
Through all eternity, I'll sing on;
Through all eternity, I'll sing on.

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

Celebration & Blessing of Adoption for Abraham, Josephine and Benjamin Mascorro Blazer
joining the Family of Luis, Ryan, and Bruno Mascorro Blazer

Dear friends: it has pleased God to hear the prayers of Luis, Ryan, and Bruno to expand their Family to include Abraham, Josephine, and Benjamin. Jesus commanded us to love one another as he loves us. And, we know that in the love of family, we are challenged and inspired to know and show God's love. As we gather this morning, we give thanks for the love of Christ made manifest in the Mascorro Blazer Family as it grows.

Luis, Ryan, and Bruno do you welcome Abraham, Josephine, and Benjamin as part of your family and do you commit yourselves to their love and care?

We do.

Abraham, Josephine, and Benjamin do you accept Ryan and Luis as your parents and Bruno as your brother and do you commit yourselves to love and honor them?

We do.

To all those gathered on Zoom and YouTube screens near and far, do you commit yourselves to supporting these children and their parents with love, generosity, and faithfulness?

We do.

Loving and life-giving God, we ask your blessing upon Luis, Ryan, Bruno, Abraham, Josephine, and Benjamin as they celebrate their unity as a family. Watch over and guide them that their household might be a place of security and celebration, of opportunity and challenge, of learning and love. And now as we all raise our hands in blessing, we ask God's blessing in the name of the Creator who makes each of us in God's own image; who came as Jesus to live and grow in a human family; and who abides in and through us in the Spirit's ever-flowing love. **Amen.**

VIDEO

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 *Come thou fount of every blessing*

Arr. Mark Hayes
Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano