

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Cycle A – Proper 14 (Green)

Sunday July 05, 2020

Presider and Speaker: the Rev. Andrew Twiddy

Readings

Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Romans 7: 15-25A

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

Music for the day:

Hymns from Common Praise (1998)

Prelude: (659, v.1) O Canada

Opening 528 O God Our Help in Ages Past

Reflective 620 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Gradual 508 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

At Prayer 583 When God Restored Our Common Life (Ps 126)

Closing 619 Fairest Lord Jesus

The Collect – the Prayer of the Day:

**God of heaven and earth,
you reveal your wisdom to the childlike;
may we learn from you humility of heart,
so that we find refreshment and rest,
even as we shoulder the cross of Christ;
for we pray it in the name of Jesus,
Wisdom's Child. Amen.**

Opening Prayers (1997), alt. A. Twiddy

A First Reading: A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Isaac and Rebekah

Eliezer said, "I am Abraham's servant. The Holy One has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has.

My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

I came today to the spring, and said, 'Holy One, the God of my master Abraham, please make my journey successful! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" ~ let her be the woman whom the Holy One has appointed for my master's son.'

Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew.

I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'

She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels.

Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms.

Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Holy One, and blessed the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.

"Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's

servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes."

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master."

So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

GENESIS 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67. ~. NRSV, alt. A. Twiddy

A Response from the Song of Solomon

The Voice of the Beloved

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:8-13 (NRSV)

A Second Reading: FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CHRISTIANS IN ROME

¹⁵ What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise.

So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that spiritual teaching is necessary.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ But I need something *more*! For if I know what the teachings are, but still can't keep them, and if the power of the ego within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes.

I can intend it, but I can't *do* it. I decide to do good, but I don't *really* do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

²¹⁻²³ It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, the ego is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me secretly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

²⁴ I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

²⁵ The answer, thank God, is that Jesus, can help, and does help! The Anointed One acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but I am pulled by the influence of the sinful ego to do something totally different.

8 ¹⁻² With the arrival of Jesus, the Anointed One, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation, freeing you from a lifetime of brutal egotistical tyranny ~ the very hands of sin and death. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air.

The Gospel Reading:

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

Jesus said, "To what will I compare this society? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another: 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed in lament, and you did not mourn.'

My point is this: John the Baptizer came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He's an obsessed fanatic - he has a demon'.

Then the Human One, yours truly, came eating and drinking with others, and they now say, 'Look, an addict - a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of corrupt officials, untouchables, and law-breakers!'

But I am telling you, wisdom is vindicated in the end by its own actions."

At the same time, Jesus went on to say, "I thank you, Beloved, the Holy One of heaven and earth, because you have hidden things from those who consider themselves wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to infants; yes, Beloved, for such was your gracious will.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Beloved. And no-one really knows the Lover except the Beloved, and no-one really knows the Beloved, except the Lover, and anyone to whom the Lover chooses to reveal the Love between them.

So come to me, all you that are tired of carrying a heavy load, and I will give you relief. Connect yourself to my teachings. Be serious in your intentions, and learn from me. You will find that I am gentle and humble at heart, and you will find an end to your unnecessary sufferings. My teachings are a good fit for you. When you carry them with you, you will find that the weight on your back is much lighter."

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

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30, NRSV, alt. A. Twiddy

A Way for Each Day ~ The Prayer Jesus Gave Us

~ A Cascadian Version of The Lord's Prayer ~

Our Beloved,

**Your compassionate essence is unique,
and we want it to pervade the whole universe.**

**Restore everything in the world,
to be in harmony, on the outside, and on the inside.**

**Provide us with what we really need now,
for today, and for each day.**

**Release us from the harm we have done,
and help us, in our journey of recovery,
to release those who have harmed us.**

**Keep us safe during our times of distress,
and liberate us from oppression.**

**For your whole purpose, strength, and glory,
is to restore everything and everyone.**

We are depending on this. We are committed to this.

The Process, version 1.1, Andrew Twiddy, May 2020.

This version of the prayer Jesus gave us, traditionally known as the Lord's Prayer, is similar in intention to the meditations and prayers found in the *Supplement to the Book of Alternative Services* (the grey booklet) of the Anglican Church of Canada, page 81.

To help those who may wish to cross barriers of language and culture to find a new expression for this prayer, this translation, *The Process*, operates on the principle of dynamic-equivalence, based on a search for an intersection point between an evolving world of diversity and a sympathetic reading of ancient Middle Eastern texts and context, Semitic thought forms, and the Greek text of early Christian documents, as found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6, and the Gospel of Luke, chapter 11.

The Process, version 1.1, an evolving process of hearing and receiving historic texts of Scripture, from the islands and inlets of the Salish Sea on the West Coast of Canada, Andrew Twiddy, May 2020.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Cycle A [Proper 14] (Green)

Sunday, July 5th, 2020

Readings

GENESIS 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; PSALM 45:11-18 OR SONG OF SOLOMON 2:8-13; ROMANS 7:15-25A; MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30

Collect

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that what we do for the least of your children
we do also for him.
Give us the will to serve others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us,
but lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Eliezer said, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.' I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.' Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left." And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my

master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

GENESIS 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalm

PSALM

REFRAIN Nations shall praise you for ever.

"Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; forget your people and your father's house.

The king will have pleasure in your beauty; he is your master; therefore do him honour.

The people of Tyre are here with a gift; the rich among the people seek your favour." R

All glorious is the princess as she enters; her gown is cloth-of-gold.

In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.

With joy and gladness they are brought, and enter into the palace of the king. R

"In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; you shall make them princes over all the earth.

I will make your name to be remembered from one generation to another; therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever." R

PSALM 45:11-18

Or

SONG OF SOLOMON

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:8-13

Second Reading

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

ROMANS 7:15-25A

Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus said, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday between 3 July and 9 July (Proper 14) Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45.11-18 or Song of Solomon 2.8-13; Romans 7.15-25a; Matthew 11.16-19-25-30

Alternative Collects:

I

God of heaven and earth,
you reveal your wisdom to the childlike;
may we learn from your Son humility of heart,
so that we find refreshment and rest,
even as we shoulder the cross of Christ;
who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Opening Prayers (1997) alt.

II

Lord of heaven and earth,
whose Son came eating and drinking,
exposing the rivalry that tears the world apart:
may we share his feast and friendship,
and lay our burdens in his liberating arms;
through Jesus Christ, Wisdom's child. Amen.

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009)

The Epistle reading, from *The Message*

¹³ I can already hear your next question: "Does that mean I can't even trust what is good [that is, the law]? Is good just as dangerous as evil?" No again! Sin simply did what sin is so famous for doing: using the good as a

cover to tempt me to do what would finally destroy me. By hiding within God's good commandment, sin did far more mischief than it could ever have accomplished on its own.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ I can anticipate the response that is coming: "I know that all God's commands are spiritual, but I'm not. Isn't this also your experience?" Yes. I'm full of myself—after all, I've spent a long time in sin's prison. What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ But I need something *more*! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't *do* it. I decide to do good, but I don't *really* do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

²¹⁻²³ It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

²⁴ I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

²⁵ The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

(Romans 8. The Message)

The Solution Is Life on God's Terms

8 ¹⁻² With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.