

The Second Sunday After Pentecost ~ Proper 11

Cycle A ~ June 14, 2020
(Sunday between 12 and 18 June ~ Proper 11)

Theme: “compassion in action: how do we dismantle racism ?”

Presider & Speaker: Andrew

Readings

Genesis 18.1-15, 21.1-7

Romans 5.1-8

Psalm 116.1, 10-17

Matthew 9.35-10.8 [9-23]

Music for the day:

Hymns from *Common Praise* (1998):

Opening	347	The God of Abraham Praise
Reflective	481	May the Grace of Christ Our Saviour
Gospel	440	(tune 445) For All Your Blessings
Closing	576	For the Healing of the Nations

The Collect ~ the Prayer of the Day:

**God of love,
in your compassion you reach out to the lost and helpless.
Continue this work through us,
so that your Beloved Community
of justice and peace may increase;
through Jesus Christ, the Supervisor of the Harvest. Amen.**

A First Reading :

Can you name something that would make us happy in old age?

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

The Holy One appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.

Abraham looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.

He said, "Sir, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass along - since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Yes ~ do as you have said."

And Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Quick! Make ready three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Then Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; and it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?"

The Holy One said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Holy One? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh"; she was afraid, you see. And he said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

And so the Holy One dealt with Sarah as he had said, and did for Sarah as he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him.

Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

GENESIS 18:1-15 ; 21:1-7. (NRSV, alt)

Optional REFRAIN (R) : I will lift up the cup of liberation.

- 1 I love the Holy One *
who has heard the voice of my supplication. R
- 10 I kept on trusting the Beloved, even when I said to myself, *
“I have been brought very low.”
- 11 In my distress, I said *
“No-one can be trusted.”
- 12 How shall I repay you, Beloved, *
for all the good things you have done for me?
- 13 I will lift up the cup of liberation *
and call upon your name. R
- 14 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all the people.
- 15 Precious in your sight, Holy One *
is the death of your servants.
- 16 Holy One, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 17 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the name of the Holy One. R

PSALM 116:1, 10-17

A Second Reading :

How Do We Develop Patience ?

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ROME

5 ¹⁻² When we are trustful enough to enter into what God has always wanted to do for us— that is, to set us right, to restore us—then we have it all together with God, because of Jesus, our Teacher.

And that's not all. We throw open our doors to God, and discover at the same moment that God has already thrown open the door to us!

We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise.

³⁻⁵ And there's more to come. We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with our troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next.

In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!

⁶⁻⁸ Christ arrives right on time to make this happen. Christ didn't, and doesn't, wait for us to get ready. Christ was self-sacrificial in death, even when we were far too weak and rebellious to do anything to get ourselves ready. And even if we hadn't been so weak, we wouldn't have known what to do anyway.

Now, we can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. But God put love itself on the line for us, even while we seemed to be of no use whatever, by offering us Jesus, the Son, through a self-sacrificial death.

ROMANS 5:1-8. The Message, alt.

A Gospel Reading :

When compassionate feelings become action, what does that look like?

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus went about all the local cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the Beloved Community, and curing every disease and every sickness.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his followers, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few; so ask the Harvest Supervisor to send out workers for the harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve leading followers, and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:

"Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

As you go, proclaim the good news, 'Heaven's Beloved Community has come near.'

Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.

You received without payment; give without payment.

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

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.