

St. John the Divine Anglican Church



Sunday September 13th, 2020
15th Sunday of Pentecost

Service of the Word

We gather on the unceded territory of Squamish Nation

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Diocese of New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

*Take a deep breath.
And again.*

The Gathering of the Community

Leader The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all

All: And also with you.

Leader Let us pray.

**All We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's
Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing.
Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past,
and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Leader Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins.

**All Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Leader Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Leader May the Peace of God be with you.

All And also with you.

Act of Praise: : My God, How Endless is Your Love

CP #353

My God, how endless is your love!
Your gifts are every evening new,
and morning mercies from above
gently distil, like earthly dew.

You spread the curtains of the night,
great Guardian of my sleeping hours;
your sovereign Word restores the light,
and quickens all my drowsy powers.

I yield my powers to your command;
to you I consecrate my days:
perpetual blessings from your hand
demand perpetual songs of praise.

*Text: Isaac Watts Music: William Knapp
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The Collect of the Day

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002)

I God of love, you brought your people out of slavery with a mighty hand. Deliver us from our captivity to self-interest and our indifference to the gifts of others, so that we may be ready to love as you have loved us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's

horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Psalm 114

BAS p.862

Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

Judah became God's sanctuary
and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled;
Jordan turned and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams,
and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?
O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams?
you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob.

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water

and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Acclamation: Alleluia

sung through 4 times

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/8 time signature. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes. The second staff is identical to the first, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes.

Music: Norah Duncan IV, © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

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Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Then 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."

Sermon

The Apostle's Creed

Leader Let us confess our faith as we say,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

**On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray with confidence to the Lord, saying
Lord, hear our prayer

In this week's Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Matthew, Abbotsford, the Reverend Allen Doerksen and the Deanery of Yale, the Reverend Paul Bowie. We pray for the nominees of the upcoming election for a new Bishop of our Diocese of New Westminster. Here at St. John's we pray for the Reverend Cameron Gutjahr and all those involved in worship as we get ready to have in-person services again. We pray for your direction that we may continue to grow and flourish and serve you in this area of Sea to Sky country.

Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for all those preparing for baptism, that they may be strengthened in their faith, and here at St. John's, particularly for Stacey Spencer.

Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for children going back to school this week, and for those who are learning from home. We pray for parents and teachers and school administrators, trying to keep everyone safe. Give them your support in their endeavors.

Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for older people who have been isolated for several months that they may feel your presence.

Lord, hear our prayer

In this time of Covid19 all across the world and with increased internet use, may we be aware that we all inter-connected, perhaps more than ever. Give to all nations an awareness of the unity of the human family.

Lord, hear our prayer

God of all, help us to remember that we are all created in your image. Cleanse our hearts of prejudice and selfishness, and inspire us to hunger and thirst for what is right.

Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for all those who have been affected by wildfires this summer, and especially in Oregon and California and here in B. C. Protect the firefighters.

Lord, hear our prayer

Creator God, help us to be better stewards of this fragile earth. Teach us to use your creation for your greater praise, that all may share the good things you provide.

Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for all who work in health care and research. Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind.

Lord, hear our prayer

Healing God, we pray for those who have requested our prayers: - Muriel, Susan, Eleanor, Lori, The Howe Sound Women's Centre, the residents of Hilltop House and Shannon Falls Retirement Home, and the patients of Squamish General Hospital. We pray for all who are sick, and those who are afraid of getting sick. Set free all who are bound by fear and despair.

Lord, hear our prayer

Grant a peaceful end and eternal rest to all who are dying, and comfort to those who mourn. **Lord, hear our prayer**

Offertory Hymn: Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

CP #614

Forgive our sins as we forgive
You taught us, Lord, to pray,
But you alone can grant us grace
To live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless
The unforgiving heart

That broods on wrongs and will not let
Old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals
The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us;
How great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
And bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of love
Our lives will spread your peace.

*Text: Anna Briggs Music: Kenneth George Finlay
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We invite you to make a gift to support the ministry of St. John the Divine. St. John's accepts e-transfers, online donations through the website and mailed cheques. To learn more, go to

squamishanglicanchurch.ca/pages/donatetostjohn-the-divine-squamish

Leader
All

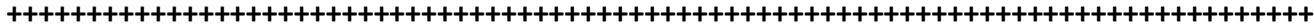
Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

Leader
All

Glory to God
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen**

Leader
All

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power
of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



St. John the Divine Prayers for September 13th, 2020

The Church

St. Matthew, Abbotsford - The Reverend Allen Doerksen
The Deanery of Yale – The Reverend Paul Bowie
St. John the Divine, Squamish- The Reverend Cameron Gutjahr

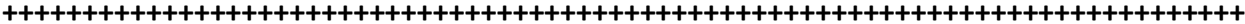
Immediate Prayer Requests

Muriel, Susan, Eleanor, Lori, The Howe Sound Women’s Centre, the residents of Hilltop House, the residents of Shannon Falls and the patients of Squamish General Hospital.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Millar.

We pray for Stacey Spencer as she prepares for her baptism, as well as anyone else preparing for baptism or confirmation."

In this time of COVID-19, we pray for all who are sick, for all who are grieving, for health care professionals, researchers and emergency personnel.



Reflection: “Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister?” (Romans 14:10)

It’s so easy to judge, and it’s because we do it all the time. We need to. It’s important. It’s a good thing.

“To judge” simply means to form an opinion or conclusion about something. Without our ability to judge, we would not be able to make any kind of important decision; we would not be able to practice discernment. God is often portrayed as a judge, and that’s a good thing – God judged that the world was good; God judged that you are good and worth being in relationship with, worthy of God’s loving Incarnation. Maybe our ability to judge is even part of being made in the Divine image.

I think where we can sometimes get in trouble is when we ‘pass judgement’. I think that this is when we believe that we have discerned all there is to know about a person, and found them lacking; when we believe that we have written down all there is to know and then closed the book.

Our judgement has teeth – it has consequences, for us and for others.

Jesus hung out with a lot of people upon whom judgement had been passed, who suffered because of that judgement – sex workers, tax collectors, people who were sick, possessed, or otherwise “unclean.” I wonder what it would mean to judge a bit more like Jesus.

We can still use our God-given judgement with people. It can be important in our functioning, in protecting ourselves, and even in loving others more fully.

However, in our judgement, we remember that we are not God, that judgement – that all-encompassing and final judgement – belongs to God alone. Thank heavens for that, because I firmly believe that God is a far more loving, merciful, gracious, understanding and forgiving judge than I could ever be.

Thanks be to God!

CG+