

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ AUGUST 23, 2020
A LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR BROADCAST & LIVESTREAM
Book of Alternative Services

We acknowledge that we gather at St. John's on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation. Wherever you are worshiping this morning, consider the traditional land you are on and give thanks for the gift of it, praying we may dwell on the land with respect and peace.

OPENING RITE

All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Officiant: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are hidden: 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.

Officiant: Jesus is the Christ;

All: the Son of the living God.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, we are taught by your word that all our doings without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set task-masters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live." Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 124 (please join in at home and say in unison)

If the Lord had not been on our side, * let Israel now say;

If the Lord had not been on our side, * when enemies rose up against us;

Then would they have swallowed us up alive * in their fierce anger toward us;

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us * and the torrent gone over us;

Then would the raging waters * have gone right over us.

Blessed be the Lord! * he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; * the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, * the maker of heaven and earth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit * as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Apostles' Creed

All: 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.

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

Let us offer our prayers to the source of all love and all life, saying, "Lord graciously hear us."

We pray to you Lord God for the body of Christ throughout the world: for Shane our bishop, all bishops, clergy and lay leaders; for all who call St. John's their spiritual home and for those who are worshiping with us today from different communities; that we may all be bright beacons of your strong, reconciling love, your endless mercy and your indestructible hope, Lord hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you Lord God for the world: for the leaders of the nations; for areas most besieged by the pandemic; for broken places where healthcare and resources are scarce; that your wisdom and compassion will prevail, Lord hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you Lord God for our communities: for the elderly, confined to their homes and separated from family and support; for children, who cannot be with friends; for those who have lost their source of income; for those who have no home or for whom home is not safe; for those offering extraordinary or everyday kindness to others; that you will uphold and sustain them, Lord hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you Lord God for essential workers: those who are visible to the public and those who are working in areas harder to see, all of whom put themselves at risk in service to others; that you will protect them, Lord hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you Lord God for those who are sick: for those afflicted with coronavirus; for those with other illnesses and conditions which leave them vulnerable; for those with poor mental health; for all who suffer; (*people are invited to name those for whom they are praying. You can type a name into the comment section of the Facebook livestream First name only please to respect privacy.*)

That you would bring them healing and wholeness, Lord hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you Lord God, for all who have died: we pray for those who died unexpectedly, those who died alone, those who have no one to remember them. We pray for families and friends who have been left behind; that they may know of your saving help, Lord hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you Lord God, for ourselves: for our complicity and our lack of understanding in the face of racism and discrimination; for turning away from you and failing you by what we do, think or say; that you would forgive us, save us and help us, Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

Lord God, hear the voice of our supplications and those we cannot say as we, who trust in your word and seek your face may know your peace. This we ask through your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. **Amen.**

A Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Our Lord God, we thank you for all your blessings, for life and health, for laughter and fun, for all our powers of mind and body, for our homes and the love of dear ones, for everything that is beautiful, good and true. But above all we thank you for giving your Son to be our Saviour and Friend. May we always find our true happiness in pleasing you and helping others to know and love you.

Glory and praise to you, our Father, through Jesus your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, in the kingdom of light eternal, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Beirut Explosion Crisis Appeal: PWRDF (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund) has been in contact with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) to express our sorrow, solidarity and prayers. PWRDF is pledging \$25,000 to the ACT Alliance appeal for Beirut. ACT is in contact with their implementing members on the ground in Lebanon to determine how best to respond. Please support PWRDF's response to the Beirut Crisis! The government of Canada will match every donation made by individual Canadians to the Humanitarian Coalition and its members between August 4 and 24, 2020, up to a maximum of \$2 million. PWRDF is a member of the HC through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Online

Donate at <https://pwrdf.org/give-today/> and make your gift in Emergency Response, indicating Beirut Explosion in the message box.

By Phone

Call 1-866-308-7973 toll-free (please leave a message and we will return your call), or 416-822-9083 to speak immediately with someone who can process your donation over the phone.

Do not send your credit card number by email or fax.

By Mail

Make cheques payable to PWRDF, Beirut Explosion and send to:
The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
The Anglican Church of Canada
80 Hayden Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2

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