

St. John the Divine Anglican Church



Sunday, May 17th, 2020
Sixth Sunday of Easter
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 Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Leader May his grace and peace be with you.

All May he fill our hearts with joy.

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

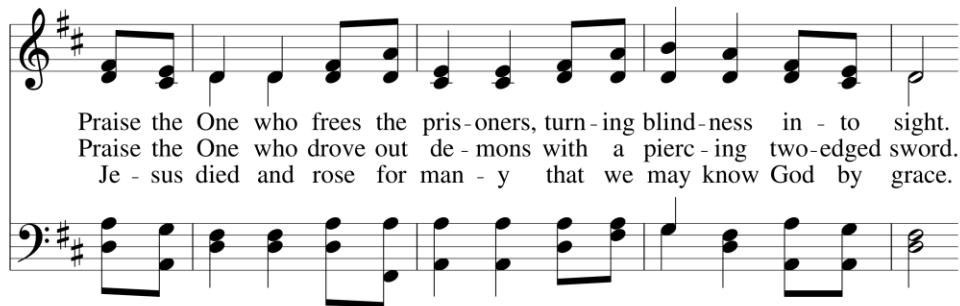
Leader May the Peace of God be with you.

All And also with you.

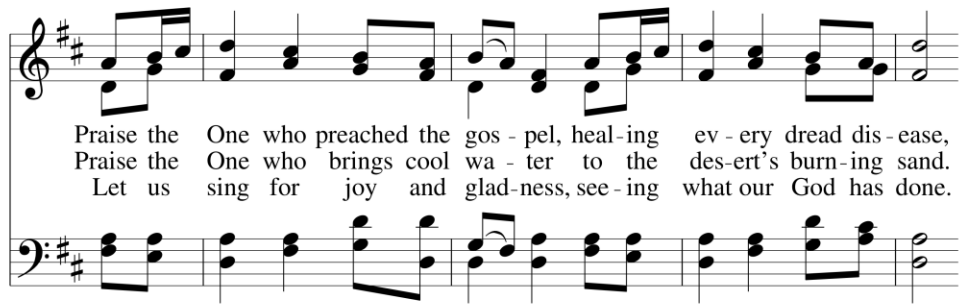
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 93



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light.
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word.
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place.



Praise the One who frees the pris - oners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 Praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - ery dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand.
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 From this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - ery land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

WORDS: Rusty Edwards (1955-)
 MUSIC: John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813
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The Collect of the Day

Propers Working Group (2016)

Risen Christ, whose gift to us is the Spirit of truth: come, make your home with us, so that, keeping your commandments, we may dwell with you and the Father. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown God.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Psalm 66:7-18

BAS p. 787

Bless our God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

Who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows,
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

I called out to him with my mouth,
and his praise was on my tongue.

If I had found evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

But in truth God has heard me;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld his love from me.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to

bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Acclamation: Hallelujah

CP324

sung through 4 times

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

*Music: D. A. Maraire (1943-)
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Gospel: John 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

| | |
|------------|---|
| Leader | Let us confess our faith as we say, |
| All | We believe in one God, |
| | the Father, the Almighty, |
| | maker of heaven and earth, |
| | of all that is, seen and unseen. |

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church
We acknowledge on baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray....

God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to you in faith with thanksgiving.

We pray for one another, for our families and friends, through whom we learn to love and be loved. Thank you for all who care for us, particularly for all those people working hard to keep us safe from the spread of the Covid 19 virus, and those who are caring for the sick and the elderly. Give to each of us the grace to serve Christ by serving our neighbours and our community in whatever way we are able.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We thank you for the unfailing love you hold out to everyone in Jesus Christ. Comfort and heal those who are sick, those who are fearful of getting sick, and those who are feeling lonely and isolated. Give them courage and hope in their distress. Give calm and peace to those who mourn and today we pray especially for the family of Heather Bewza, who passed away this week.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray with gratitude for your many gifts to us in creation, for the beauty of our world, for fresh new life springing up everywhere. Help us every day to notice the good things around us.

During this uncertain time of the pandemic we thank you Lord for the sharing of knowledge and resources that is happening around the world and pray that it will increase understanding between nations and cultures. Give wisdom to those in authority and to the leaders of all the nations.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for your Church throughout the world, thanking you for all who serve Christ and his kingdom. By your Spirit strengthen your people for their work and witness in the world. Unite us in your truth and love, that we who confess your name may also reflect your glory.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We remember with thanksgiving all who have died in Christ, for Heather, and everyone on our hearts.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you look with compassion on all who turn to you. Hear the prayers of your people. Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels



1. Not for tongues of heav-en's an - gels, Not for wis - dom
 2. Love is hum - ble, love is gen - tle, Love is ten - der,
 3. Nev - er jeal - ous, nev - er self - ish, Love will not re -
 4. In the day this world is fad - ing Faith and hope will



to dis - cern, Not for faith that mas - ters moun - tains,
 true, and kind; Love is gra - cious, ev - er pa - tient,
 joice in wrong; Nev - er boast - ful nor re - sent - ful,
 play their part; But when Christ is seen in glo - ry



For this bet - ter gift we yearn:
 Gen - er - ous of heart and mind:
 Love be - lieves and suf - fers long: May love be ours, Lord:
 Love shall reign in ev - 'ry heart:



may love be ours. May love be ours, O Lord.

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Timothy Dudley-Smith, b.1926, © 1985, Hope Publishing Company
 Tune: COMFORT, 8 7 8 7 with refrain; Michael Joncas, b.1951, © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

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Leader Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
 All **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 Glory to God
 All **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 May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

St. John the Divine Prayers for May 17th, 2020

The Church

St. Dunstan, Aldergrove – The Reverend David Taylor
St. Helen, Vancouver - The Reverend Scott Gould
St. Helen, Surrey - The Reverend Stephen Laskey, The Reverend Jonathan Pinkney
St. John the Divine, Squamish- The Reverend Cameron Gutjahr

Immediate Prayer Requests

Susan, Heather Bewza, Eleanor, Lori, Tyler Olfert, The Howe Sound Women's Centre, the residents of Hilltop House, the residents of Shannon Falls and the patients of Squamish General Hospital.

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.

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Reverend Cameron's Reflection

Last week was Mother's Day. The feast of Julian of Norwich (one of my faves) was only a couple days before.

Julian, in her book, *The Revelations of Divine Love*, spoke of the motherhood of God, and even of Christ:

"It is a characteristic of God to overcome evil with good.

Jesus Christ therefore, who himself overcame evil with good, is our true Mother. We receive our 'Being' from Him and this is where his Maternity starts. And with it comes the gentle Protection and Guard of Love which will never cease to surround us.

Just as God is our Father, so God is also our Mother."

This might seem strange for some, but there are many feminine images used to describe God in the Scriptures, like Deuteronomy 32:18, Isaiah 66:13, Psalm 131:2, to name just a few.

This imagery is no different than the image of father that we are so accustomed to – a way of understanding God, of relating what is mysterious and unknowable to what we see and experience. However, we have historically leaned heavily, perhaps even exclusively, towards masculine imagery and understanding of God.

Why does this matter? Well, language affects us; it shapes how we relate to and interact with the world, even if just subliminally.

Without these images, without the motherhood of God, we miss something important about the Divine. We miss opportunities to look at the world around us and be reminded of what God is like.

Let us embrace the femininity of God, and the motherhood of Christ. I hope next time you see a mother and her child, when you reflect on your motherhood, or think fondly of your own mother, I hope that you can be reminded of what God is like. I hope that you can catch a glimpse of the Divine.

Happy (belated) Mother's Day. Happy (belated) Feast of Julian.

Thanks be to God!

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