 The Parish of St. Helen’s, Surrey

August 22, 2021 – Pentecost 13

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**Welcome Everyone to this Eucharist in the season of Pentecost.**

We hope you find our Livestream gathering a time of spiritual renewal and encouragement.

**This Week’s Ministry Team**

**Officiant/Preacher**– The Rev. Stephen Laskey

**Music –** Matthew Ma

**Gospeller –** Neil Seedhouse

**Crucifer/Server** – John Palmer

**Psalm & Prayers of the Community** – Lynn Turner

**Readers –** Mareen Mathew and Roshan Mathew

**Greeters –** Jacquie Stinson

**Livestream Tech –** Simon Lee

**The Gathering of the Community**

**Words of Welcome**

**Procession Hymn** – *Be Still for the Presence of the Lord*

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;**

**Come bow before him now with reverence and fear:**

**In Him no sin is found-we stand on holy ground.**

**Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;**

**He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned:**

**How awesome is the sight – our radiant King of light!**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place**

**He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace-**

**no work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place**

**The Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and

The fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Collect for Purity**

Almighty God,

**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.**

**Hymn of Praise -** *Rejoice Today With One Accord*

**Rejoice today with one accord,**

**Sing out with exultation;**

**Rejoice and praise our mighty Lord,**

**Whose arm hath brought salvation.**

**His works of love proclaim**

**The greatness of his name,**

**For he is God alone who hath his mercy shown**

**Let all his saints adore him!**

**When in distress to him we cried,**

**He heard our sad complaining.**

**O trust I him, what e’er betide;**

**His love is all sustaining.**

**Triumphant songs of praise**

**To him our hearts shall raise;**

**Now every voice shall say, O praise our God always;**

**Let all his saints adore him!**

**The Collect**

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** – Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ‘Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.’ Then the people answered, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.’

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 34:15-22**

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, \*

**and his ears are open to their cry.**

16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, \*

**to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.**

17 The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them \*

**and delivers them from all their troubles.**

18 The Lord is near to the broken-hearted \*

**and will save those whose spirits are crushed.**

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, \*

**but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.**

20 He will keep safe all his bones; \*

**not one of them shall be broken.**

21 Evil shall slay the wicked, \*

**and those who hate the righteous will be punished.**

22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, \*

**and none will be punished who trust in him.**

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen**

**Second Reading** – Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God**

**Gradual Hymn –** *Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless*

**Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless**

**Your chosen pilgrim flock**

**With manna in the wilderness,**

**With water from the rock.**

**We would not live by bread alone,**

**But by Your word of grace,**

**In strength of which we travel on**

**To our abiding place.**

**Be known to us in breaking bread,**

**But do not then depart;**

**Savior, abide with us, and spread**

**Your table in our heart.**

**Lord, sup with us in love divine;**

**Your Body and Your Blood,**

**That living bread, that heav'nly wine,**

**Be our immortal food.**

**The Gospel –** John 6:56-69

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, ‘For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So, Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’

The Gospel of Christ

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Homily:** *Father Steve*

**The Apostles’ Creed**

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, 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.**

**Prayers of the People**

**The flowers** on the altar this morning are given for the glory of God and in giving thanks for our mother Elizabeth Matthew as she celebrates her 90th birthday. Given by Roshan & Mareen Mathew.

**We pray for the whole Anglican Church of Canada –** we especially for our primate, Archbishop Linda Nichols. We pray also for: The Rt. Rev. Michael Hawkins, Bishop: The Rt. Rev Adam Halkett, Suffragan Bishop, and the clergy and people of the diocese of Saskatchewan.

**Anglican Communion –** we pray for The Anglican Church of South America.

**In our Diocesan Cycle** - we pray for our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Stephens. We also pray for: St. Aidan & St. Bartholomew, Gibsons, The Reverend Stephen Bailey and people, and The Archdeaconry of Lougheed - The Venerable Allan Carson, Regional Archdeacon.

We pray for our companion diocese of Northern Philippines. We pray for our own twinned parish of Holy Apostles, Abatan, and their priest, Father Joey Napat-a.

In all these prayers for the church near and far, we pray for the people and clergy and for the ministries flowing from these places into the communities.

**In our Parish Cycle we pray for:** Pat Nociar, Marion & Ken O’Bryne; John Palmer & Janette Bulkan. We pray for their work, ministry, and families here and away.

**Confession and Absolution**  God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy. God welcomes sinners and invites them to this table. Let us confess our sins confident in God’s forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

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.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**The Celebration of the Eucharist**

**Offertory Hymn –***Just As I Am*

**Just as I am, without one plea,**

**but that thy blood wash shed for me**

**And that thou biddest me come to thee,**

**O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, Poor, wretched, blind;**

**Sight riches, healing of the mind,**

**Yea, all I need, in thee to find,**

**O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about**

**With many a conflict, many a doubt,**

**Fightings, and fears within, without,**

**O Lamb of God, I come, I come**

**Just as I am, and waiting not**

**To rid my soul of one dark blot,**

**To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,**

**O Lamb of God, I come, I come**

**Just as I am- thy love unknown,**

**Has broken every barrier down –**

**Now to be thine, yea, thine along,**

**O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Prayer over the Gifts**

God of glory,

**receive all we offer this day as a symbol of our love,**

**and increase in us that true and perfect gift.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, Lover of creation,

we give you thanks and praise

for in the ocean of your steadfast love you bear us

and place the song of your Spirit in our hearts.

When we turn from your love and defile the earth,

you do not abandon us.

Your Spirit speaks through Huldah and Micah,

through prophets, sages, and saints in every age,

to confront our sin and reveal the vision of your new creation. Joining in the song of the universe

we proclaim your glory singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Gracious God,

in the fullness of time you sent Jesus the Christ

to share our fragile humanity.

Through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection

you open the path from brokenness to health,

from fear to trust, from pride and conceit

to reverence for you.

Rejected by a world that could not bear the Gospel of life,

Jesus knew death was near.

His head anointed for burial by an unknown woman,

Jesus gathered together those who loved him.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it

and gave it to his friends, saying, “Take and eat:

this is my body which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine,

gave you thanks, and said “Drink this all of you,

this is my blood of the new covenant

which is shed for you and for many.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

And now we gather at this table

in response to his commandment,

to share the bread and cup of Christ’s undying love,

and to proclaim our faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Breathe your Holy Spirit, the wisdom of the universe,

upon these gifts that we bring to you:

this bread, this cup, ourselves, our souls and bodies,

that we may be signs of your love for all the world

and ministers of your transforming purpose.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory is yours, Creator of all,

and we bless your holy name for ever. **Amen**.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Rejoicing in God’s new creation,

let us pray as our Redeemer has 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 for ever. Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

**The Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**We, being many, are one body,**

**for we all share in the one bread.**

**Agnus Dei**

**O Lamb of God,**

**You take away the sins of the nations,**

**Have mercy on us.**

**O Lamb of God,**

**You take away the guilt of creation,**

**Have mercy on us.**

**O Lamb of God, I am not worthy,**

**Yet say one word that will heal my wounded spirit.**

**O Lamb of God,**

**You take away the sins of Your people,**

**O Grant us Your peace.**

**The Communion**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God**

**Prayer after Communion**

Living God,

**increase in us the healing power of your love.**

**Guide and direct us that we may please you in all things, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**The Doxology**

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**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

The peace of God which passes all understanding,

keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now, and always. **Amen**

**Sending Hymn** – *My Life Flows on in Endless Song*

**My life flows on in endless song**

**above earth’s lamentation**

**I hear the real though far off hymn**

**that hails a new creation**

***No storm can shake my inmost calm,***

***while to the Rock I’m clinging.***

***Since Love is lord of heaven and earth,***

***How can I keep from singing?***

**Through all the tumult and the strife,**

**I hear that music ringing;**

**It sounds and echoes in my soul;**

**How can I keep from singing? *Refrain***

**What though the tempest ‘round me roar,**

**I hear the truth it liveth.**

**What though the darkness ‘round me close,**

**Songs in the night it giveth. *Refrain***

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,**

**A fountain ever springing.**

**All things are mine since I am his;**

**How can I keep from singing? *Refrain***

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia**