Welcome

Holy Hermits Online Worship

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Today, we remember Holy Hermit Amma Sarah of the Desert

We begin with piano solo to help bring us to worship:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1f_cDQDEYY

Preacher: Cathedral Stream

Broadcaster: Paul

Cantor: Margo

Service prep: Kristine

Welcomer: Julie

Reader 1: Steph

Proofer: Viki

Leader: LA: Jeremy

Reader 2: Leonie

Prayer prep: Viki

Fellowship: Julie

Tech Support: Kristine

Prepped 23 June 23 ❀ Proofed 25/6/2023 ❀

We will be led by our Leader with our Cantor as the voice of all
Leader and Cantor unmute

The Greeting

Leader: The Grace of the lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gathering Invitation and Prayer

Leader:
God welcomes you.
God receives you with joy today.
Come and receive from God all that you need,
and rejoice that you are one of God's beloved.

All: Living God,
we thank you for your kindness towards us.
Give us grateful hearts,
and direct us in ways we can share your kindness
with one another and with your world.
Amen.

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Sentence

Leader: I now invite our cantor to proclaim the sentence for today.

Cantor:

The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

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Leader: We pray the prayer of approach together

All:
You have called us to you, O God;
your welcome awaited long
before we ever responded.
Certain of your joy at our coming,
we gather before you to worship and adore.
Amen.

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Prayer of Adoration

All:
God, you are the open arms of acceptance,
the warmth of a hearty welcome,
the joy of a sincere smile.
We cannot see you,
and Jesus walked the earth long before our time,
yet we know by faith
that he embodied your welcoming presence
in his dealings with your needy children.
We bow before you in worship and adoration
for all that you are.
Amen.

Our first hymn is

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2x5iwj8JT0

We will stay on mute to sing together
or allow the music to nourish us.

Leader mutes

Preparation for Confession

Lord, so often our welcome lacks sincerity.
The word is cold on our lips; the smile does not reach our eyes.
We are polite; but there is little warmth in our hearts. Perhaps no deeds accompany our words, no comfort offered, hospitality withheld.
We ask forgiveness of the One who always receives with open arms – generous, caring, meeting needs and so much more.
We ask forgiveness from the One who accepts us, unconditionally, and is never too weary to care.
As we are welcomed, so may we welcome your children in return, in your name, representing your love and generous nature.
Amen.

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We pray the Assurance of Forgiveness prayer together,

All:
Thank you, O God, for welcoming us even when we do not deserve it; when we have thought, said and done things that others would find hard to forgive.
For with you, God, there is always forgiveness.
You accept our flawed humanity and welcome us back to the fold again and again when we stray.
Thank you for your loving forgiveness,
and for the welcome that encourages us to emulate your generosity.
Amen.

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Collect prayer

Leader:
O God,
your Son has taught us that those who give a cup of water in his name will not lose their reward:
open our hearts to the needs of your children,
and in all things make us obedient to your will,
so that in faith we may receive your gracious gift,
eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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We pause for a moment

Reflect and Breathe

The first reader unmutes

The 1st Reading is from Genesis 22.1-14

1 After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I
am.' 2 He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of
Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show
you.' 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young
men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went
to the place in the distance that God had shown him. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up
and saw the place far away. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the
donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to
you.' 6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself
carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. 7 Isaac said to his father
Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here,
but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?'

Continues….

8 Abraham said, ‘God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.’ So the two of them
walked on together. 9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar
there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the
wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. 11 But the angel of
the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ 12 He
said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since
you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’ 13 And Abraham looked up and saw a ram,
caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering
instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place ‘The Lord will provide’; as it is said to this day, ‘On
the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.’

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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Leader: We now say the psalm antiphonally, I invite the first reader to lead and we will all respond along with our cantor as our voice.

Psalm 13

1 How long, O Lord, will you so utterly forget me:
how long will you hide your face from me?
2 How long must I suffer anguish in my soul,
and be so grieved in my heart day and night:
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?
3 Look upon me, O Lord my God, and answer me:
lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
4 Lest my enemy say 'I have prevailed':
lest my foes exult at my overthrow.
5 Yet I put my trust in your unfailing love:
O let my heart rejoice in your salvation.
6 And I will make my song to the Lord:
because he deals so bountifully with me.

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Leader: Thanks 1st reader, I now invite the 2nd reader to unmute and offer the 2nd lesson when ready.

The 2nd Reading is from the letter to the Romans 6.12-23

12 Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. 13 No
longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those
who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of
righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under
grace. 15 What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you
not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you
obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to
God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching
to which you were entrusted, 18 and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of
righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once
presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your
members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. 20 When you were slaves of sin, you were free in
regard to righteousness. 21 So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are
ashamed? The end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to
God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the
free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 10.40-42

40 ‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the
one who sent me. **41** Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will
receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of
a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; **42** and whoever gives even
a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell
you, none of these will lose their reward.’

Here ends the Gospel reading. All: ***Thanks be to God.***

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The Leader and Cantor mute.

Sermon

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Leader unmutes

Our next Hymn:

Open The Eyes of My Heart, Lord

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMyhN9sUlo8

We will stay on mute to sing together
or allow the music to nourish us.

Leader and Cantor mute

The Leader and Cantor unmute

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ
All: His Spirit is with us

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All: And also with you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving before Intercessions

Leader: As we now enter into prayer, I invite the 2nd reader to unmute to lead our intercessions on the next slide.
If you need to change your body posture to come into prayer,
then please feel free to do that now, as we offer this thanksgiving prayer.

God, in your Son our Lord, you extend your welcome to all nations. You are the universal God.
Christ Jesus, you opened the kingdom of God to all, even those excluded by deed or creed from sacred rites and places.
Holy Spirit, your indwelling is a welcome that embraces us in belonging.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one in word and deed, trinity of welcome in realms above and below, we thank and praise you for the everlasting arms outstretched to welcome us, to enfold us, to catch us when we fall; and for the heart that overflows with love and acceptance.
Help us to see others with your eyes, to love with your heart, and to welcome with your arms, in your holy name.
Amen.

Intercessions

Welcoming God

Thank you for welcoming all with your ever outstretched arms, each minute of every day. It is so comforting to realise that you are with us every step of the way. Help us to outreach to others in our actions as well as our words so we can share this most wonderous gift of all-encompassing welcome. Like a fluffy warm blanket on a cool winter morning or a gentle sunbeam at the end of a hot summer afternoon, You are there for all to lean into.

Open the Eyes of Our hearts, Lord
So we may receive your gracious gifts

Welcoming God

Thank you for creating our wonderful world. Help us to truly appreciate all the natural wonders. We are here for such a short time individually, but together we have been here since before the time of Isaac and Abraham, and before your visit to us in human form dear Lord Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the responsibilities we have to all in nature and allow deep awareness to seep into our daily routines and rhythms so as not to leave a negative impact on our earth. Please God, inspire us to work towards preserving all that is good for the many generations to come.

Open the Eyes of Our hearts, Lord
So we may receive your gracious gifts

Welcoming God

Please bless all governments, councils, committees and communities as they work together to provide the best of living conditions for the people and animals of our world. We are only human and often get distracted by self-importance, power and greed. Please, we pray, help each and every one of us here in 2023 to make the best decisions for those that rely of us. We especially pray today for our Prime Ministers, Presidents, Premiers, Mayors, MPs, Councillors, Senators, all those that have been elected to represent the people of their community. We also pray for those who have taken it upon themselves to seize power and impose their own brand of leadership on their community Please be with everyone who makes decisions for and on behalf of others, please grant fairness, wisdom and grace.

Open the Eyes of Our hearts, Lord
So we may receive your gracious gifts

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Welcoming God

Thank you for all creativity in the world. For the beauty of art in it's many forms. For images that can bring a smile to our faces, for music that can lift our spirits, for stories that can inspire us, for poetry that can bring a laugh to our lips. Thank you for all artists in the world, for their belief in their art, their perseverance and even for the pain that they endure in the process of creating something for others to enjoy.

Open the Eyes of Our hearts, Lord
So we may receive your gracious gifts

Welcoming God

Please bless Rev Jamee, our leaders and servers at Holy Hermits Online. Thank you for being with us all this week and for channeling many wonderful gifts through us, so we can gather together to worship, pray and sing. Thank you for being so generous in rewarding us all, so we can take time out of our week to pause, reflect and refresh ready for another one. Thank you for our partnerships with St Johns Cathedral in Brisbane, The Episcopal Diocese of Texas, St Gabs at Carindale and our many others. Please help us to make this space as welcoming as we can, and please continue to be with each of us as we get ready to pray for our community and those known to us that have asked for our specific prayer at this time.

Open the Eyes of Our hearts, Lord
So we may receive your gracious gifts

We prayer for those who are sick, suffering, recovering and all those known to us who have special need for our prayers: This week we pray especially for

Rev'd Jamee
Kerry and Les, Mark, Jake,
Dr Julie and Jasmine,
Dilys and Tony,
Marcia and family. May their strong faith and sense of family give them strength with the loss of Ewan,
Liz and Leese(y),
Julie and Ray, Tracey, Shane,
Paul and Darhon,
Alecia, Martin and Aidan,
Lynette,
Anna, Tony, their daughters and family

Open the Eyes of Our hearts, Lord
So we may receive your gracious gifts

Welcoming God

Help us not to forget to be generous this week. Let us remember to share a cup of water in Jesus name. We have the wonderful example of Amma Sarah of the Desert to reflect on. We, too, can strive not to allow our past to affect our present and future. Dear God, we need to keep opening our hearts to every opportunity that presents itself. Keep us awake to possibilities and to remember Jesus, the angels and all we love who are now in heaven when we go about our daily living, as there is great comfort and joy available to all who allow themselves to follow in faith.

Open the Eyes of Our hearts, Lord
So we will confidently receive your gracious gifts
AMEN

Pray Daily Cycle of Prayer

Leader: Loving God, joining with the Church in our cycle of prayer, we ask your blessings on:

- Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil – Province
- The Diocese of Adelaide: †Geoff Smith; Assistant Bishops - †Timothy Harris, †Chris McLeod, †Denise Ferguson; Clergy & People
- The Parish of Logan: Geoff Hoyte, Robyn Cairns, Ian Chevis, Peter Grevett, Carol Hebron, Dianne Murphy, Mary Smith, Peter Moore, Kevin Bell
- Anglicare Anglican Church Southern Qld (ASCQ): Sue Cooke & staff
- Anglican Church Grammar School, East Brisbane: Headmaster - Alan Campbell; Chaplain - Jessica Grant; Lay Chaplain - Stephanie Cotroneo; Chair of School Council – Paul de Jersey, members of School Council; staff & students

Commitment prayer for the week

God who gives shelter, we give thanks for opportunities to offer support and prayers for those that are struggling at this time to put a permanent roof over their heads and to shelter those they love.
Please shine a light on homelessness for the people and animals experiencing this and provide a way for homes to be found and others to help, especially governments and churches.
Please protect all living rough and give safety and security to families and young people, and those who are supporting them.
Please help us channel and inspire the hospitality that Jesus and his followers sought and encouraged in their day, and especially strengthen those already offering this ministry.
Awaken compassion in the hearts of all people to reach out with a loving hand. When we feel disheartened by this unfolding situation, please refocus our energies to keep praying and finding small ways to help so we don't feel so overwhelmed.
Usher in a wave of change for systems to be transformed and ways made for large scale transformation. **Amen**.

Leader: Let us join together in the prayer which Jesus gave us saying:

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 for ever.
Amen.

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Devotions

Holy Hermit Amma Sarah of the Desert

Leader:
Amma (Mother)Sarah is believed to have been well-educated and literate. She was attracted to the ascetic life, wanting to be pure at heart so that she could be united with God, but in this pursuit, she struggled with the desires of the flesh, particularly lust. She became a hermit living near a river, which was probably the Nile, for sixty years, connected to a nearby monastic community. Most of what we know of Amma Sarah comes from The Sayings of the Desert Fathers. The sayings show that Sarah challenged the gender roles of her time.
Sarah is known because
1) she sought the approval of God alone,
2) she never asked for temptations to be removed, only for God to strengthen her to resist them,
3) she encouraged acts of charity, even if they weren't for the right reasons, because she believed that God would work through them to make them to change the heart, and
4) she refused to be denigrated because she was a woman.
Let us pray together the prayer that Amma Sarah wrote for the Sixth Hour, i.e., noon:
All:
O Lord, You who have measured The heights and the earth In the hollow of your hand, And created the six-wing Seraphim To cry out to you with an unceasing voice Holy, Holy, Holy, Glory to your name. Deliver me From the mouth of the evil one, O Master. Forget my many evil deeds And through the multitude of your compassions Grant me daily forgiveness, For you are blessed unto the ages. Amen.

Leader: We now enter 4 minutes of silence.
Let us be still together. (Leader mutes)

O God,
who for our redemption
gave your only-begotten Son
to suffer death upon a cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
delivered us from the power of the enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin
that we may evermore live with him in the
joy of his resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Everyone mutes

The broadcaster moves onto the next slide after 2 mins

Making a Spiritual Communion

O my Lord Jesus,
I turn to you present on the Altar and in the Tabernacle.
I believe that you are present in the holy Sacrament of your most sacred Body and Blood.
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.
I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally in Holy Communion.
Come, spiritually, into my heart.
Purify it, sanctify it.
Render my heart like your own heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly with you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.
Amen

Leader unmutes

Our final song is

All Are Welcome

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KU0KoVKnR68

We will stay on mute to sing together
or allow the music to nourish us.
Leader mutes

Leader and cantor unmute

Sending Prayer

All:

Loving God,
as we hold this chain of acts of kindness between us,
send us all out to show people what you are like.
Be with us as we share your love and kindness
each day this week.
Amen.

The Grace

Leader:

The Grace of the lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.

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Notices

- Church craft postponed until further notice.
- Contemplative Service, postponed (new time to be advised)

You can offer your gifts online: https://holyhermits.com.au/give
Thank you for your regular gifts to this ministry.

Serving next week:

Preacher: Cathedral	Broadcaster: Kieron	Cantor: Vanessa
Service prep: Kristine	Welcomer: Chris	Reader 1: Rose
Proofer: Viki	Leader: LA: Julie	Reader 2: Kristine
Prayer prep: Phil	Fellowship: Chris	Tech Support: Paul

Leader: I invite everyone to unmute for the Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ,

Amen.

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Photo by Gary Bendig on Unsplash

Extra seasonal resources developed by Roots on the Web

Weekly lectionary plus Christian festival resources for all ages, adults, children & youth (rootsontheweb.com)