Welcome

Holy Hermits Online Worship

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Today, we remember Holy Hermit St Sergius of Radonezh

We begin with a lovely instrumental version of Come, Ye Thankful People,
Come, to bring us to worship:
https://youtu.be/fIWwBTrcW-I

Preacher: Jamee

Service prep: Leonie

Music prep: Steph

Proofer: Chris

Prayer prep: Roots

Broadcaster: Kieron

Welcomer: Julie

Leader: LA: Jeremy

Fellowship: Julie

Cantor: Dr Julie

Reader 1: Mark

Reader 2: Rose

Tech Support: Paul

Prepped 19 July 23 Proofed 20 July 2023

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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.

All: And also with you.

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Gathering Invitation and Prayer

Leader:

We look for God in the dramatic. We discover God in the ordinary. Invited by God to slow down, we freshly open our eyes to slowly see God's life breaking into our awareness, all around.

All:

Loving God, thank you for the wonder of our interconnected universe, sustained and held in being by your love. Tiny seeds nurtured by earth, that grow into great shrubs, sheltering creatures. Barely visible yeast cultures leavening flour for bread. Treasures that make life precious and joyful. Wisdom handed down to us, freshly understood. Your reign breaks in around us in so many ways; help us to see and rejoice. Amen.

Sentence

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

Cantor:

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

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Leader: We pray the prayer of approach.

Lord God, we leave worldly thoughts behind,
and gather to seek your wisdom. Teach us kingdom
values, we pray, so that we may grow in faith
this day and always.

All:

O God, the protector of all that trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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Prayer of Adoration

All:
Father, all time is in your hand, unfolding;
we see so little of it in a lifetime,
yet sometimes it is overwhelming.
God of the kingdom of heaven,
you are our haven in life's storms,
our lifeline in calamity;
we watch and await your coming in power.
Amen.

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Our first hymn is
Love Divine All Loves Excelling

https://youtu.be/JGGcqhKShQ8

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

Leader mutes

Preparation for Confession

Lord, we confess that the concerns of the world weigh us down. We worry about our needs, our wants, how others perceive us. We are so overwhelmed that we fail to riddle the gold from life's dross. We turn to you, seeking the assurance that your kingdom is with us and among us; help us to discern where it lies, so that we may turn our backs on all else. Grant us the patience to seek you and your ways with the forbearance you show as you wait for us.
Amen.

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We pray the Assurance of Forgiveness prayer together,

All:
Almighty God, although we take forever, you have forever –you are the God of Eternity. We are slow to seek you, slow to learn, slow to grow in faith; but when we are faltering, you wait sure and steady to forgive us; when we are lacking in trust, you forgive us and persist in working out your ways despite us. Thank you, O God of forgiveness and forbearance. Amen.

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Collect prayer

Leader:

O God, the fount of wisdom, you have revealed to us in
Christ the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price:
grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,
that, in the midst of the things of this world,
we may learn to value the priceless worth of your
kingdom, and be ready to renounce all else
for the sake of the precious gift you offer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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We pause for a moment

Reflect and Breathe

The first reader unmutes

The 1st Reading is from Genesis 29:15-28

15 Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my
kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell
me, what shall your wages be?' 16 Now Laban had two
daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name
of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah's eyes were lovely, and
Rachel was graceful and beautiful. 18 Jacob loved Rachel;
so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger
daughter Rachel.' 19 Laban said, 'It is better that I give her
to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay
with me.' 20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and
they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he
had for her.

Continues…

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21 Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in
to her, for my time is completed.' 22 So Laban gathered together
all the people of the place, and made a feast. 23 But in the
evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob;
and he went in to her. 24 (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his
daughter Leah to be her maid.) 25 When morning came, it was
Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to
me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you
deceived me?' 26 Laban said, 'This is not done in our country—
giving the younger before the firstborn. 27 Complete the week
of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for
serving me for another seven years.' 28 Jacob did so, and
completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel
as a wife.

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 105:1-11

1 O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.
2 **Sing to him, O sing praises:**
and be telling of all his marvellous works.
3 Exult in his holy name:
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.
4 **Seek the Lord and his strength:**
O seek his face continually.
5 Call to mind what wonders he has done:
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,
6 **O seed of Abraham his servant:**
O children of Jacob his chosen one.

Continues…

7 For he is the Lord our God:
and his judgements are in all the earth.
8 He has remembered his covenant for ever:
the word that he ordained for a thousand generations,
9 The covenant that he made with Abraham:
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
10 And confirmed it to Jacob as a statute:
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
11 Saying 'I will give you the land of Canaan:
to be the portion of your inheritance',

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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 Romans 8:26-39

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray
as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for
words. **27** And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the
Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who
are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he foreknew he also
predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be
the firstborn within a large family. **30** And those whom he predestined he also
called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified
he also glorified. **31** What then are we to say about these things? If God is for
us, who is against us? **32** He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up
for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

Continues…

33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.
34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised,
who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. 35 Who will
separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or
persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is
written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted
as sheep to be slaughtered.' 37 No, in all these things we are more than
conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither
death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to
come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus
our Lord.

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

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Leader: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 13:44-58

44 ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid;
then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. **45** ‘Again, the kingdom of
heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;**46** on finding one pearl of great value, he
went and sold all that he had and bought it. **47** ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net
that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; **48** when it was full, they drew it
ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. **49** So it will be at the
end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous **50** and
throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth. **51** ‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ **52** And he said to them,
‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of
a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

Continues…

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53 When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.**54** He came to
his home town and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that
they were astounded and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and
these deeds of power? **55** Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother
called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and
Judas? **56** And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get
all this?' **57** And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, 'Prophets
are not without honour except in their own country and in their own
house.' **58** And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their
unbelief.

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:
Search Me, Know Me

https://youtu.be/GxWX95tNFAU

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, we thank you for teaching us the things that matter, the things of true value. We praise you that the treasures of your kingdom are hidden beneath the mundanity, and sometimes the drama, of everyday life; and that they are often there in small ways that, if nurtured, grow in abundance. Thank you for your pearls of wisdom and your seeds of faith. Let your Kingdom grow among us. **Amen**.

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Intercessions

We prayer for those who do not know you, who do not know the depths of your love and care, who live with poverty of spirit and understanding, confusion and denial of you.
For them all, may your Spirit speak to them and may the deeds and the words and the actions of how we live, shine with your Spirt for them.
For those who know you but know they fall short of what you call them to be, give them encouragement to strive more and learn more and believe more.
God of justice and mercy,
Hear our prayers.

We pray for those who mourn, who have had their lives changed, turned upside down by the death of family, friends or neighbours.
In their grief may we and you be a comfort to them.
A strength in times of trouble, a light to lead the way in their darkness.
God of justice and mercy,
Hear our prayers.

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We pray for those who daily, no matter what the cost to themselves, speak out your words of truth, who live lives reflecting your glory, who each day step-out to help and heal and care and show your love even in face of danger.
God of justice and mercy,
Hear our prayers.

We pray for those who find it within themselves to forgive others who really repent, those who forgive for the good of others and society, those who show mercy and compassion.
God of justice and mercy,
Hear our prayers.

We pray for those who work for peace, who strive for peace, who yearn for peace.
Those who engage at the highest levels of government seeking peace and those who stand on the battlefield yearning for conflict to end and peace to be restored.
For those caught in the middle, who feel helpless and hopeless in the face of war and aggression.
For those peoples whose tragedies, injustice, crisis and suffering make the news headlines today, especially all who suffer trafficking and slavery.
God of justice and mercy,
Hear our prayers.

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We pray for our families, our friends, our neighbours, those we know and love and care for who need our prayers this day especially:

Kerry and Les, Mark, Jake,
Dr Julie and Jasmine,
Dilys and Tony,
Julie and Ray, Tracey, Shane,
Paul and Darhon,
Alecia, Martin and Aidan,
Lynette,
Anna, Tony, their daughters and family
Judy and Mary
Jess and Leah
Bill and Vanessa
Bronte
Lesley's family
God of justice and mercy,
Hear our prayers.

Hear our words, O God, and hear the yearnings of our hearts that we may walk humbly with you sharing love and generosity wherever we go.
In the name and for the sake of Jesus.
Amen.

Commitment prayer for the week
People in Need

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**.

Prayer for seeking our new admin officer

Loving God, You know who our new admin officer is to be.
Please enable them to find us,
prepare our hearts to recieve them,
and help us begin our new working relationship with them filled with your grace.
We ask your blessings on our community,
and give you thanks for this opportunity
to expand our Holy Hermits Online family.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our friend and saviour, we pray. **Amen.**

Pray Daily Cycle of Prayer

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

- Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America
- The Parish of Roma: Heather Dearden
- Anglicare SQ Services, Children and Families Leadership

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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 St Sergius of Radonezh

Leader:

One of the Russia's foremost saint and mystic, Sergius was born to a noble family in Rostov. He was christened Bartholomew. At the age of fifteen, he fled with his family to Radonezh, near Moscow, to escape a campaign against Rostov by the rulers of Moscow. As their wealth was all but wiped out, the family became peasant farmers until 1335 when, after the death of his parents, he and his brother Stephen became hermits at Makovka. Stephen left to become a monk, and Sergius received a tonsure from a local abbot. Increasingly well-known as a profoundly spiritual figure in the Russian wilderness, he attracted followers and eventually organized them into a community that became the famed Holy Trinity Monastery.

Sergius sought to promote peace among the ever-feuding Russian princes and founded around forty monastic communities.

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

Feel a sense of your body. (wiggle your fingers)
Your feet on the floor. (tap your toes gently)
Become aware of your breathing. (listen to your breath)
As you breathe in, imagine it is God breathing life into you.
Hold that breath and remember who you are – a child of God.
As you breathe out, imagine it is God's love flowing from you to those around you.
Remember your hands, feet and love are useful to God. **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
Immortal Invisible God Only Wise; Great are You Lord

https://youtu.be/c59R-Ry8q50

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

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Leader and cantor unmute

Sending Prayer

All:

Loving God,

thank you for your reign breaking in, all around, for those with eyes to see.

May the light of your love be focused within us.

May we create space in our hearts to treasure it.

And may we be of service to your love, now and always.

Amen.

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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

- Today-Open Space 11-12noon to reflect on ministry and serving together-all are most welcome
- Wednesday Study continues at 6pm
- 6th August: Contemplative Service Team meeting 2-3pm-all are most welcome

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

Serving next week: 6th August

Preacher: Jamee	Broadcaster: Kristine	Cantor: Margo
Service prep: Kristine	Welcomer: Chris	Reader 1: Bob
Proofer: Viki	Leader: LA: Julie	Reader 2: Ruth
Prayer prep: Viki	Fellowship: Leonie	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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Image credit: Treasure Field by Solomon Okpurukhre, 2008

Extra resources developed by Roots on the Web
https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2023/126-july-august-2023-a/proper-11

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