
St. Paul's Episcopal Church Piney Parish



The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Faces of Our Faith: Joseph of Arimathea

August 23, 2020

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
All **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR PURITY

Officiant Let us pray.
All **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: 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

Let the Whole Creation Cry

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| Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high!" Heav'n and earth, awake and sing, "God is good and therefore King!" Praise Him, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love; sun and moon, lift up your voice, night and stars, in God rejoice! | Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem manifold, and let children's happy hearts in this worship take their parts; from the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll: "Holy, holy, holy One, glory be to God alone! |
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.
Almighty and everlasting God, by your Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified; hear the prayer we offer for all your faithful people, that in the ministry to which you have called us we may serve you in holiness and truth; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

YOUNG DISCIPLES MOMENT

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 51:1-6

Peggy Goldsmith

Listen to me,
you who look for righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
Look to the rock from which you were cut
and to the quarry where you were dug.
Look to Abraham your ancestor,
and to Sarah, who gave you birth.
They were alone when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.
The LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her ruins.
He will make her desert like Eden
and her wilderness like the LORD's garden.

Happiness and joy will be found in her—
thanks and the sound of singing.

Pay attention to me, my people;
listen to me, my nation,
for teaching will go out from me,
my justice, as a light to the nations.
I will quickly bring my victory.

My salvation is on its way,
and my arm will judge the peoples.
The coastlands hope for me;
they wait for my judgment.^[a]

Look up to the heavens,
and gaze at the earth beneath.
The heavens will disappear like smoke,
the earth will wear out like clothing,
and its inhabitants will die like gnats.
But my salvation will endure forever,
and my righteousness will be unbroken.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM *Psalm 103:1-8*

Bless the Holy One, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless God's holy Name.

Bless the Holy One, O my soul, *
and forget not all the gifts of God.

O God, you forgive all our sins *
and heal all our infirmities;

You redeem our life from the grave *
and crown us with mercy and loving-kindness;

You satisfy us with good things, *
and our youth is renewed like an eagle's.

O God, you execute righteousness*
and judgement for all who are oppressed.

You made your ways known to Moses*
And your works to the children of Israel.

You are full of compassion and mercy,*
slow to anger and of great kindness.

THE GOSPEL *Matthew 16:13-20*

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

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

Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Human One is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Then Jesus replied, "Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven." Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Deacon Steve Seely

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

United Church of Canada

Officiant Let us affirm our faith in the Triune God
All **We are not alone,**
 we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
 who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus,
 the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others
 by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
 to celebrate God's presence,
 to live with respect in Creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us.
We are not alone.
 Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jenna Monroe

Intercessor

Maker and Lover of all, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore, in confidence and trust we pray for the Church. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: St. Albans School for Boys; the National Cathedral School for Girls; Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School; Washington Episcopal School; The Bishop John T. Walker School; and St. Andrew's School

(Please add your intercessions/thanksgivings for the Church.)

Merciful God, enliven the Church for its mission
that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.

Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

We pray for the world:

(Please add your intercessions/thanksgivings for the world.)

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

We pray for the community:

(Please add your intercessions/thanksgivings for the community.)

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others

that all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

We pray for those in need:

(Please add your intercessions/thanksgivings for those who struggling in body, soul, or spirit.)

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

May they know the power of your healing love.

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

We remember those who have died and those who mourn:

(Please add your intercessions/thanksgivings for those who have died and those who grieve)

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone.

Merciful One, into your hands we commend them.

Give comfort to those who mourn.

Bring them peace in their time of loss.

We praise you for Joseph of Arimathea and all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

May their example inspire and encourage us.

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant As Christ teaches us, we pray:

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

THE CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

PRAYER FOR A BIRTHDAY

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants *she/he/they* begin another year. Grant that *she/he/they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his/her/their* trust in your goodness all the days of *his/her/their* life(ves); through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ANNIVERSARY

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Officiant During this time in which we cannot gather to celebrate the great sacrament of Holy Communion, let us offer our selves, souls, and bodies to God in this prayer for spiritual communion.

All In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessings of this life. I present to you my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to you.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life, and in the life to come. Amen.

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 *5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, thank you for the gift of this new day. You have blessed me in so many ways in days that have come before. Today I will look and listen for signs of your joy and gladness present in my life, in the lives of others, and in the beautiful world you garden. As I begin this day, I pray that you will strengthen my soul and that whatever your purpose for me will be fulfilled in faithfulness and love. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of my salvation, preserve anyone in danger this night; reach out to anyone who is in trouble. Give us the quiet rest that comes from knowing you are above everything, watching over us with steadfast love. I pray that today, in some word I spoke, in some act of care I offered, Christ was lifted up as Lord and Savior. Continue to transform me so that I may discern what you find good and acceptable and perfect. Help me to dream always your own vision of a world in full bloom, verdant with joy and gladness, teeming with thanksgiving and justice. At the close of this day, I entrust myself, and all those I love, to your care and keeping. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PERMISSIONS

Prayer of the Day & Prayers of the People: *A New Zealand Prayer Book—He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa* © 1988. Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia

The Psalm & Scripture readings: *The Common English Bible* © 2012. All rights reserved.

Affirmation of Faith: United Church of Canada, "A New Creed" from *Voices United: A Hymn and Worship Book* (Nashville: United Church Publishing House, 2007)

Confession: *Enriching Our Worship 1* © 1998, Church Publishing

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