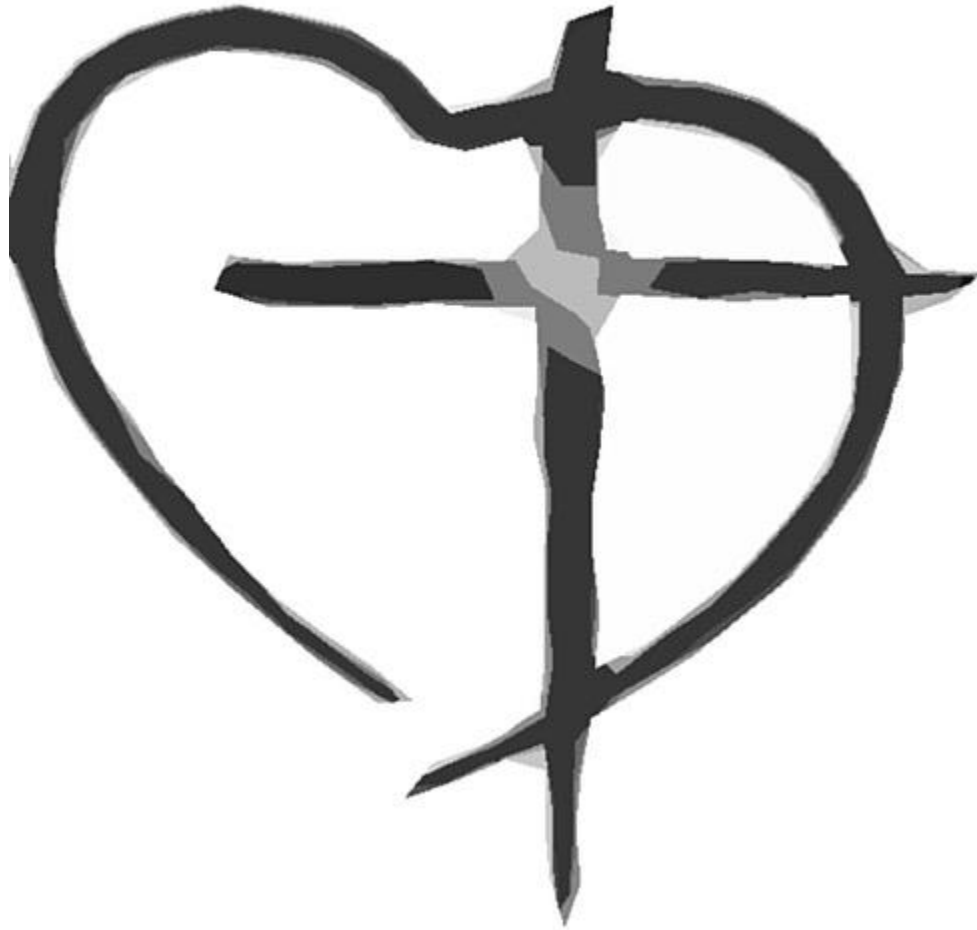


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# St. Paul's Episcopal Church Piney Parish

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*The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Faces of Our Faith: Shiprah & Puah*

August 30, 2020

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## 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*

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!

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

Gentle Father, show us our sins as they really are so that we may truly renounce them and know the depth and richness of your mercy. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### YOUNG DISCIPLES MOMENT

#### FIRST LESSON

*Exodus 1:8-2:3*

Colin Hoover

Now a new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph. He said to his people, "The Israelite people are now larger in number and stronger than we are. Come on, let's be smart and deal with them. Otherwise, they will only grow in number. And if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and then escape from the land." As a result, the Egyptians put foremen of forced work gangs over the Israelites to harass them with hard work. They had to build storage cities named Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they grew and spread, so much so that the Egyptians started to look at the Israelites with disgust and dread. So the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites. They made their lives miserable with hard labor, making mortar and bricks, doing field work, and by forcing them to do all kinds of other cruel work.

The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah: "When you are helping the Hebrew women give birth and you see the baby being born, if it's a boy, kill him. But if it's a girl, you can let her live." Now the two midwives respected God so they didn't obey the Egyptian king's order. Instead, they let the baby boys live.

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So the king of Egypt called the two midwives and said to them, "Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live?"

The two midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because Hebrew women aren't like Egyptian women. They're much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to them." So God treated the midwives well, and the people kept on multiplying and became very strong. And because the midwives respected God, God gave them households of their own.

Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: "Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you can let all the girls live."

*Lector*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

**THE CANTICLE**            *Canticle 9*

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

**I will trust in God and not be afraid.**

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*

**and God will be my Savior.**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*

**from the springs of salvation.**

And on that day you shall say, \*

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God;**

Make our God's deeds known among the peoples; \*

**see that they remember that his God is exalted.**

Sing the praises of the Lord, for God has done great things, \*

**and this is known in all the world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*

**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***

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

**THE GOSPEL**            *Matthew 16:21-27*

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

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

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: "God forbid, Lord! This won't happen to you." But he turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? For the Human One is about to come with the majesty of his Father with his angels. And then he will repay each one for what that person has done.

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

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

Debbie Brown

*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:  
the Campus Ministries of Howard University, University of Maryland, George Washington University,  
Georgetown University, American University, and St. Mary's College.  
*(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.**

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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 Shiprah & Puah 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

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## 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.


## CLOSING HYMN

*Forgive our sins as we forgive you*

vv. 1 & 4



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give" you  
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the  
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the  
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and



taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can  
un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and  
truth we dim - ly knew, how small the debts men  
bid re - sent - ment cease; then, rec - on - ciled to



grant us grace to live the words we say.  
will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
owe to us, how great our debt to you.  
God and man, our lives will spread your peace.

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## THE BLESSING

## THE DISMISSAL

### Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus, I do not know what crosses may arise before me, but give me courage to resist systems of injustice, strength to reject structures of oppression, and wisdom to unmask powers of evil, that I may live as a faithful disciple whose life belongs to you. Amen.

### Household Prayer: Evening

Lord Jesus, if I have lived this day for worldly gain, recenter my life, set me on the path of sincere discipleship, and lead me in the way that leads to eternal life. Amen.

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## PERMISSIONS

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