

Facebook Live Worship Outline

Pentecost 16 - 20 September 2020

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN ELW #852 *Golden Breaks the Dawn*

- 1 Golden breaks the dawn, comes the eastern sun;
like a rider strong, set the course to run.
Birds above me fly, flowers bloom below;
through the earth and sky God's great mercies flow.

- 2 Holy, living God, keep me safe today;
though I weary plod, make me kind, I pray.
Let me guide our youth, honor weak and old;
let me serve with truth, and God's love unfold.

- 3 Give me daily bread, while I do my part;
bright skies overhead, gladness in my heart.
Simple wants provide, evil let me shun;
Jesus at my side, till the day is done.

Text: Tzu-chen Chao; para. Frank W. Price, 1885-1974

Text © 1977 by Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd, Hong Kong, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-736427. All Right reserved.

GREETING

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P: O give thanks to the Lord! The Lord hears the cries of the people.
- C: **Give thanks to the Lord.**
-
- P: The works of the Lord are great. Remember what God has done.
- C: **Give thanks to the Lord.**
-
- P: God has done miracles, and the Lord always remembers God's covenant.
- C: **Give thanks to the Lord. Glory and praise is due to the Lord!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God who knows our every need before we can even ask, you provide all of our needs and some of our wants. You bless us all. Make us truly thankful and empower us to bless others from the gifts you have given us, for the glory of your name.

C: **Amen.**

© Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014

WORD

FIRST READING

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission. Reading from Paul's Letter to the church in Philippi, the 1st chapter:

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Philippians 1:21-30

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve. This is the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw

others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Matthew 20:1-16

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #358 *Great God, Your Love has Called Us*

- 1 Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.
- 2 We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.
- 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own
not through some merit, right, or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.

- 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
- 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Text © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-736427. All Right reserved.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Drawn together by the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding to each petition with the words “graciously hear our prayer.” *(Pause)*

O God, you make the last first, and the first last. Give resources and courage to the churches around the globe that have few resources. When ministry in this time is so difficult, inspire bishops, pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders in their service.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion:
graciously hear our prayer.

Continue your care for your whole creation: sun and wind, bushes and worms, cities and farms, and all your many animals. Make us into extensions of your care. Preserve the food sources of the world's endangered wildlife.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion:
graciously hear our prayer.

To places of conflict and violence, bring peace, especially to the cities of our nation. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Preserve protesters, and guide police. Enlighten our nation, the nations we call friends, and the nations that are deemed our enemies. Keep our election season from dishonesty.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion:
graciously hear our prayer.

Give your blessing to the Jewish people at this time of their new year. Bring an end to anti-Semitism around the globe and strengthen peace efforts in the Middle East.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion:
graciously hear our prayer.

To all who are suffering, show your mercy. We pray for firefighters, for communities devastated by fire, for all who suffer racial injustice, for migrants who seek safety, for all who are imprisoned, for victims of crime, for the unemployed, for students and faculty during the pandemic, for medical workers, for all who are hungry: O God, the list of the needy is so long. . .

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion:
graciously hear our prayer.

Give health and wholeness to all who are sick, to all who are suffering from the coronavirus, and to those we name before you here: we pray for: Ferolyn, Jordan, Pat, Carol, Beryl, Elethia, Pat and for all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion:
graciously hear our prayer.

You show mercy beyond our expectations, far beyond our deserving. Hear now our personal prayers.

A longer period of silence.

O God, you are full of compassion:
graciously hear our prayer.

We praise you for all the saints, especially this week for the apostle Matthew and for the gift of his gospel that speaks to us of your goodness. Give us grace to live for Christ, until we join with all the faithful in your eternal life.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion:
graciously hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy;
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING SONG **ELW #537** *On Our Way Rejoicing*

- 1 On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy?

Refrain

On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!

- 2 Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior
thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing
now and evermore. *Refrain*

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

Then conclude with these prayers:

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word,
for calling creation into being,
declaring forgiveness from the cross,
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.
We praise you, O God, for your Word:
we praise you, O God, for your Word.

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,
a mirror reflecting our selves,
a shield providing us refuge,
a fire burning for justice and truth.
Your word is sweeter than honey:
it nourishes our bodies like milk,
it sustains your people like bread.
We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.
We bless you, O God, for your Word:
we bless you, O God, for your Word.

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,
and to all the cries of the needy.
Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,
that heeding your voice of beauty and power
we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath —
we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word:
we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.

Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

P: Touched, changed, called and empowered,
go now in the power and provision of Christ to heal the sick,
feed the hungry, and serve the world.

God the creator, Jesus ✝ the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: Thanks be to God.