

## Facebook Live Worship Outline

*Pentecost 18 - 4 October 2020*

### GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #580

*How Clear is Our Vocation Lord*

- 1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,  
when once we heed your call  
to live according to your word  
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
that you are Lord of all,  
and will not let us fall.
- 2 But if, forgetful, we should find  
your yoke is hard to bear;  
if worldly pressures fray the mind  
and life itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care:  
our inward life repair.
- 3 We marvel how your saints become  
in hindrances more sure;  
whose joyful virtues put to shame  
the casual way we wear your name,  
and by our faults obscure  
your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
- 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do,  
together or alone,  
in old routines or ventures new,  
may we not cease to look to you,  
the cross you hung upon,  
all you endeavored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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### 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: The heavens declare the glory of God!

C: **The skies proclaim God's handiwork.**

P: The day pronounces God's glory without a sound,

C: **the night expounds God's knowledge without a word,**

P: and yet their voice goes out through all the earth.

C: **Let us join our voices with the voice of creation  
in declaring God's glory!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Creator God, the heavens radiate your glory! You have set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a joyful bridegroom from his wedding canopy. May we emerge from night's waiting with such rampant joy that we too radiate your glory throughout this day. In the name of the Son of righteousness who has risen with healing in his wings.

C: **Amen.**

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## WORD

### FIRST READING

*Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Jesus Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ. Reading from Paul's Letter to the church in Philippi, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter:*

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:4b-14

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

## **GOSPEL**

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfilment of scripture. This is the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:*

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Matthew 21:33-46

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## **SERMON**

- 1 My song is love unknown,  
my Savior's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown  
that they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from his blest throne  
salvation to bestow;  
the world that was his own  
would not its Savior know.  
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,  
who at my need his life did spend!
- 6 Here might I stay and sing—  
no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683, alt.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Today, is St. Francis' Day. Francis cared fervently for the church, the earth and its animals, peace, and the poor. Let us now pray for these concerns, responding to each petition with the words "in mercy, receive our prayers."

God most high, we pray for the church: for our bishop, our pastors and deacons, and our own congregation; for the ministry of Pope Francis; for the work of Franciscan friars and sisters; and for churches that are struggling with few resources. *A brief silence.* That all the baptized may produce good fruit, sowing faith where there is doubt, we pray to you, O God our Redeemer: **in mercy, receive our prayers.**

We pray for the earth and its animals: for farmlands; for animals whose habitat is threatened; for livestock; for all the animals that we raise for human use; for service animals; and for our dear pets. *A brief silence.* That the earth may be sustained with your care, and that we will sow joy where there is sadness, we pray to you, O God our Creator: **in mercy, receive our prayers.**

We pray for peace: between nations; in our cities; among political rivals; between generations; between long-time citizens and new immigrants; in our churches and in our

homes. *A brief silence.* That we may become instruments of your peace, sowing union where there is discord, we pray to you, O God, our Peacemaker: **in mercy, receive our prayers.**

We pray for those who are poor: for those who are unemployed; for migrants; for those who are marginalized by prejudice; for orphans; for school children with no digital access. *A brief silence.* That we may give assistance where there is poverty and need, we pray to you, O God our Provider: **in mercy, receive our prayers.**

We pray for all who are suffering: for those laid low by the coronavirus; for those who like Francis have painful eye disease; for those living with anxiety; for those whose sorrow is known only to you; for those who will die this day; and for those whose names we call out to you here. In this season of Pentecost we pray for: Ferolyn, Jordan, Pat, Carol, Beryl, Elethia, Pat and for all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts. *(Pause)* That we may sow hope where there is despair, we pray to you, O God our Comforter: **in mercy, receive our prayers.**

We pray, finally for ourselves. Strengthen our faith in Christ, and hear our personal petitions. *A longer period of silence.* That we may sow pardon where there is injury and love where there has been hatred, we pray to you, O God our Healer: **in mercy, receive our prayers.**

We praise you, God most high, for all the faithful who have gone before us into the fullness of your life. *A brief silence.* That at our end, where there is darkness, we will join in your light forever, we pray to you, O God, Eternal One: **in mercy, receive our prayers.**

Enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, as we trust in your salvation through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

**Amen**

#### SENDING SONG

**ELW #547** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

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*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.**

**Readings for the Week:**

Monday Psalm 144

Tuesday Isaiah 27:1-6

Wednesday John 11:45-57

Thursday Psalm 23

Friday Isaiah 22:1-14

Saturday Mark 2:18-22

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Thanksgiving Sunday: Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 17: 11-19