

A Service of the Word

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost, Aug 23, 2020

Virtual worship from St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Kamloops BC

Pat Rustand is at the keyboard today; Ron Ste Marie leads the singing; The Rev. Canon Len Fraser officiates today.

God of my life, look gently down.

Canon Len

In this time and place, we gather on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Tk'emplúps te Secwépemc.

From many places and peoples we join together in prayer.

In this time and place, we share in the presence of the living God.

The living God who creates us and all that is.

In this time and place, the risen Christ stands in our midst.

The risen Christ who accompanies us and all people.

In this time and place, together, one people of God.

In the name of God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.

O Lord, open our lips **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Blessèd are you, Sovereign God of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever!
In your tender compassion,
the dawn from on high is breaking upon us
to dispel the lingering shadows of night.

As we look for your coming among us this day,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world may rejoice and give you praise,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessèd be God for ever!

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrating Common Prayer

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
Promising revival and rebirth...
Like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
Yearning for an end to want and need...
Like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
Calling for an end to hate and war...
Like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons, living-water-2_1080938639
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow;
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea,
Like a river strong,
Like a gentle rain,
Like a healing stream."

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Let us pray

Almighty God,
we are taught by your word
that all our doings without love are worth nothing.
Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtue;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Ron Ste Marie

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Ron Ste Marie

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live." Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water." EXODUS 1:8-2:10
Hear what the Spirit says to all people **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 124 *Said together*

Ron Ste Marie

**If the Lord had not been on our side, let Israel now say;
if the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us;
then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us;
Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us;
then would the raging waters have gone right over us.**

Blessed be the Lord! he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

**We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Ron Ste Marie

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. ROMANS 12:1-8

Hear what the Spirit says to all people **Thanks be to God**

Hymn MV 135

Ron Ste Marie

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of Life, sanctified
Called by earth and sky

1.Precious these waters endless seas,
deep ocean's dream
Waters of healing, rivers of rain
The wash of love again

2.Precious this gift the air we breathe,

wind born and free
Breath of the Spirit blown through this place
Our gathering and our grace

3.Precious these mountains ancient sands,
vast fragile land
Seeds of our wakening rooted and strong
Creation's faithful song

4.Precious the fire that lights the way,
bright dawning day
Fire of passion sorrows undone
Our faith and justice one

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THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

Canon Len, Gospeller

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. MATTHEW 16:13-20

The Gospel of Christ **Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon

Dean Ken

Affirmation of Faith

Melissa Green

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings
We will pause for silence throughout these prayers

Melissa Green

God of all, thank you for hearing these prayers:

For the human family with whom we share this world:

For those closest to us,
and those whose names we will never know.
We give you thanks and ask your help
in living into our identity as your children.

We pray especially:

For the world we share with all creation:
delighting in the plants and animals we see each day
and the wilderness we have never seen.
We give you thanks and ask your help
in living into our identity as stewards of your earth.

We pray especially:

For Your Church, for our Church,
For those who lead and those who participate
In many and diverse ways.
We pray in four words,
Specially associated with St. Paul's:

Joyful; Rooted; Hospitable; Responsive,
And ask You O healing and loving Lord
To help us birth these possibilities.

We pray especially:

For local and faraway concerns
related to the natural world.
For local, national, and international leaders,
those whose policies we appreciate
and those with whom we struggle.
We give you thanks and ask
that you be at their side,
guiding them to act in justice and mercy.

We pray especially:

For joys and concerns
that occupy our thoughts today;
for those we have spoken aloud,
and those we ponder inwardly.
We give you thanks
and ask that you be at our side,
guiding us to recognize
that our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Acknowledging the Prayer Bowl on the altar, hear the prayers we lift in silence . . .

Accept and heed all these prayers, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

A word of thanksgiving

For the greening of trees
and the gentling of friends
we thank you, God.

For the brightness of field
and the warmth of the sun
we thank you, O God.

For work to be done
and laughter to share
we thank you, O God.

We thank you, and know
that through struggle and pain
in the slippery path of new birth
hope will be born
and all shall be well.

The Iona Community

Confession and Absolution

Canon Len

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Ron Ste Marie

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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 forever. Amen.**

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Closing Responses

Canon Len

Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed to live
as the body of Christ in the world.

May the Lord who made heaven and earth,
the Christ who lived and died for all,
and the Spirit who renews our minds and hearts
abide with you, and bless you
and all God's people, now and forever. **Amen.**

Announcements

Dean Ken

Hymn MV 120

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the one who waits.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,

and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
For the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
These are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forbears heard
is the promise that holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

Paraphrase of Luke 1:46-58 (Magnificat)

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A postlude is played by Pat Rustand