

Celebrating Creation: A Jubilee for the Earth: Week FOUR

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

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Pat Rustand is at the piano; Bishop Gordon Light sings, and the Rev. Barb Liotskos preaches.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bishop Gordon

Our service today originates from the traditional territory
of the Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc – Kamloops & Area First Nation.
We acknowledge their care for and working of the land
prior to contact with Europeans.
As Canadian Anglicans,
we continue to work toward healing and reconciliation
and a new experience of sharing the land together. kukwstsétsemc (Kooksgem)

CREATION CANTICLE

Christ is the image of the unseen God,
**the first-born of all creation,
for in him were all things made,
in heaven and on earth.**
Through him and for him were all things made,
before all he exists, holds all things in one.
The Church is his body, and he is its head.
**He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead;
in all things he alone is supreme.**
God made all his fullness to dwell in him,
**to reconcile through him all creation to himself,
everything on earth and everything in heaven,
all gathered into peace by his death on the cross.**
Colossians 1.15–20

HYMN

MV 37

Bishop Gordon

Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
The waves that sweep across a distant shore,
Make full the circle of God.
Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
Make full the circle of God.

Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honeyed comb,
Make full the circle of God.
Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry outstretched hand,
The wind that leaps and sails across the land,
Make full the circle of God.

Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
Make full the circle of God.
Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
Making full the circle of God."

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Let us pray

Bishop Gordon

Grant, O merciful God,
that your Church,
being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one,
may show forth your power among all peoples,
to the glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Rev. Barb Liotskos

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?" EXODUS 17:1-7

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

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16

Rev. Barb Liotskos

Hear my teaching, O my people;

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us,

we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come

**the praise-worthy deeds and the power of the Lord,
and the wonderful works he has done.**

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers,

in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass through;

he made the waters stand up like walls.

He led them with a cloud by day,

and all the night through with a glow of fire.

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness

and gave them drink as from the great deep.

He brought streams out of the cliff,

and the waters gushed out like rivers.

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS Melissa Green

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

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

HYMN CP 9

Today I awake and God is before me.
At night, as I dreamt, God summoned the day;
For God never sleeps but patterns the morning
with slithers of gold or glory in grey.

Today I arise and Christ is beside me.
He walked through the dark to scatter new light,
Yes, Christ is alive, and beckons his people
to hope and to heal, resist and invite.

Today I affirm the Spirit within me
at worship and work, in struggle and rest.
The Spirit inspires all life which is changing
from fearing to faith, from broken to blest.

Today I enjoy the Trinity round me,
above and beneath, before and behind;
The Maker, the Son, the Spirit together
they called me to life and call me their friend.

Words and Music: John Bell; Wild Goose Resource Group (The Iona Community; used with permission through One License A-605242)

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

Rev. Barbara Liotskos

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think?"

A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?"

They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him." MATTHEW 21:23-32

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

Sermon

The Rev. Barbara Liotskos

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Melissa Green

**Christ Jesus, by nature divine,
did not grasp for himself
a rank as equal with God.**

**He chose to empty himself,
becoming a humble slave,
and living the life of a man.**

**And human in every way,
he abased himself still more,
obedient to death on a cross.**

**So God has exalted him on high,
and given to him the name,
the greatest of all the names;
So that at Jesus' name
every knee should bend low
in heaven, on earth, in the depths,
And every tongue proclaim:
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father!**

Philippians 2.6–11

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Melissa Green

Creator God, teach us to see you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for everything that you have made.

Give us the grace to perceive that we are connected
to everything that is. *Silence*
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord
We give you thanks, O God.

God whom we love, we stand before you with open and humble hearts.
In our imagination, allow us to see and hear and feel
the beautiful expressions of the earth, that speak to each of us -
Mountains, rivers, prairie, oceans,
Forest, meadows, trees, flowers. *Silence*
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord
We give you thanks, O God.

God of love, show us our place in this world,
as kin to all the non-human creatures with whom we share the earth.
They came forth from your hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
and not one of them is forgotten in your sight. *Silence*
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord
We give you thanks, O God.

Saving God, we give thanks for all human beings on the earth,
Created from dust, yet crowned with glory,
Those we know and those who are strangers;
Those near to us and those far away;
All of us beautiful, all of us flawed. *Silence*
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord
We give you thanks, O God.

God of abundance, we give thanks for the sun, for water, for soil, for air,
On which our lives depend moment by moment.
In silence we are aware of our frailty, our complete dependence
On our beloved Mother Earth who nurtures us
and sustains our every breath. *Silence*
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord
We give you thanks, O God

Creator God, we enjoy the abundant fruits of the earth,
Yet, we acknowledge that we in the developed world,
have often wasted the gifts of the earth, taking more than our share,
leaving our sisters and brothers in other places in poverty and need.

Renew our minds and transform us into servants of the earth,
so that her richness and bounty will sustain, not only us,
but generations to come after us.

In gratitude let us pray to the Lord

We give you thanks, O God.

Written by Karen Turner for the Diocese of Toronto, Earth Sunday 2018; used with permission

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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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ENCOURAGEMENT

Bishop Gordon

The sky does it simply, naturally
day by day by day
the sun does it joyfully
like someone in love
like a runner on the starting-line
the sky, the sun,
they just can't help themselves
no loud voices, no grand speeches
but everyone sees, and is happy with them.

Make us like that, Lord
so that our faith is not in our words but in our lives
not in what we say but in who we are
passing on your love like an infectious laugh:

not worried, not threatening, just shining
like the sun, like a starry night,
like a lamp on a stand,
light for life – your light for our lives.

After Psalm 19 - Westminster John Knox Press, via the Iona Community; used with permission

Announcements

HYMN

More than we can ask or imagine,
more than we can ever dare to dream,
we are the children of heaven's creation,
God's own beloved, each called by name.
And we cry, Glory! Glory!
Glory to God who calls us by name!
Glory! Glory! Glory to God!
Glory we sing!

More than we will ever imagine,
more than we will ever understand;
we are sent to walk with compassion,
to live out God's love by heart and by hand.
And we cry, Glory! Glory!
Glory to God who presses us on!
Glory! Glory! Glory to God!
Glory our song!

More than we can ask or imagine,
more than we could ever desire;
out of the dust God's building a kingdom,
like wine from the press, like bread from the fire.
And we cry, Glory! Glory!
Glory to God! Glory we cry!
Glory! Glory!
Glory on earth, Glory on high!
Glory! Glory! Glory to God! Glory we cry!
Glory! Glory! Glory on earth! Glory on high!
Glory on earth! Glory on high!

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A Postlude is played