

A Service of Praise and Prayer for Sunday, September 13, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost – Season of Creation
Adapted from *Common Worship*, Church of England



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

MINISTRY MOMENT – Sarah Bird

GATHERING

Bishop: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: God's grace and peace be with you.

All: **May God fill our hearts with joy.**

THE COLLECT

Bishop: Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

We sing together... God the Creator (#445CP)

1. God the Creator, you in love made me,
who once was nothing, but now have grown
I bring the best of all my life offers;
for you I share whatever I own.

2. O Christ the Saviour, you in love called me
who once was no one, lost and alone.
I pledge to go wherever you summon,
making your will and purpose my own.

3. O God the Spirit, you in love move me
who once was nowhere and felt unknown.
I know my need of you for companion:
all things can change when not on my own.

4. And with the people summoned together
to be the church in which faith is sown,
I make my promise to live for Jesus
and let the world know all are his own

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A READING: Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the

CALLED to LIFE
COMPELLED to LOVE

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Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word,

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A short silence meditating on the reading is kept.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Matthew.

All: **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

One: The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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We sing together... 'There's a Wideness in God's Mercy' (#606CP)

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.
2. There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more keenly felt than heaven:
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given.
3. There is plentiful redemption
through the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the head.
4. For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
5. If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be illumined,
by the glory of the Lord.

THE HOMILY: Bishop Susan Bell

Music is played during a time of reflection.

INTERCESSIONS

One: Let us pray....

Holy God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
we make our prayer to you, saying, Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Holy God, we stand in awe of you and of the creation
which bears witness to your goodness and imagination.
We praise you for the beauty of sun-dappled trees, for the music of running water,
the splendour of mountains, the colour of the flowers, and the wonder of the oceans.
Forgive us for the ways we abuse and pollute the world.
May we turn our hearts and shape our lives, towards its care and restoration.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: God of abundance, we thank you for your generosity toward us,
for the fruit of the soil and the food which nourishes us.
We pray for farmers and all who work the land,
and all who enable the chains of supply and sale,
may we treasure your earth, live thankfully for what we receive,
and share generously so that no one may go hungry.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

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One: God of healing, we pray for those who are sick and ask you to relieve their suffering, take away their pain, surround them with comfort, and lead them to wholeness. And in this moment, we lift them to you, silently or aloud, ...

silence is kept

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: God, your justice springs up like streams in the desert.
Let your justice spring up in this time,
to wash away our prejudice, to reveal our privilege,
to water our desire for healing and righteousness,
to reshape the landscape of our communities, in equality and truth,
until your kingdom is on earth as it is in heaven,

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Teacher of all, we thank you for those who have been teachers to us,
those who have inspired, directed, guided and nurtured, our passions and interests.
We pray for those who are teachers and educational assistants,
professors and principals, and all who seek the safety, wellbeing and nurture
of students in this new school year.
We pray that you would inspire, strengthen and protect them.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Holy one, Giver of peace, healer of our every ill,
you are full of grace and quick to forgive and you entrust to each of us
the work of reconciliation.
Help us to meet you in the difficult times and places
to recognize you and greet you,
to walk with you towards the restoration of relationships
and the freedom that comes from forgiveness.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: You speak to us, loving God in a still small voice of calm.
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire;
the fear, anxiety and worry that trouble us
so deeply in this time of change and unrest.
Give us patience, and love for one another.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

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One: God of new life and resurrection,
this day we give thanks for the ministry of All Saint's Hagersville
as they conclude their parish ministry.
We thank you for their witness and ministry over so many years
and ask that you would bless and lead the members of that community
through grief and to new steps in faith, hope and love.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: God of our gatherings, as we begin the gradual reopening of our church buildings,
bless and guide our leaders and planning teams.
Help us to grieve those things we miss, but also to embrace the joy of worship in community,
to look with hope to the future, and be inspired for the mission that you continue to call us to.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Bishop: Trusting in the compassion of God, and in the language and version of our choice,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**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 for ever. Amen**

Song of Praise: 'Praise God from Whom All Blessings flow" (#666CP)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Closing remarks and announcements.

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE - In dich hab ich gehoffet" by Bach