

A Service of Praise and Prayer for Sunday May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

Prelude: Traditional Spirituals Medley (arr. anon.)

WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

GATHERING

Bishop: O Lord open our lips!

All: and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Bishop: Lead your people to freedom, O God,

All: and banish all darkness from our hearts and minds

THE COLLECT

Bishop: Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

All: Amen

We sing together... **God, My Hope On You Is Founded** (Common Praise #529)

1. God, my hope on you is founded;
you my faith and trust renew:
through all change and chance
you guide me,
only good and only true.
God unknown, you alone,
call my heart to be your own.
2. Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown, betray our trust;
through with care and toil we build them,
tower and temple fall to dust.
But your power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.
3. Daily does the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
God's desire for us delights us,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Here at hand, love takes stand,
joy awaits God's sure command.
4. God's great goodness lasts forever,
deepest wisdom, passing through:
splendour, light, and life attending,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Ever more from God's store
newborn worlds rise and adore.
5. Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ the Son.
Christ, you call one and all;
those who follow shall not fall.

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

A READING: 1 John 4:7-21

Reader: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word,

All: Thanks be to God.

A short silence meditating on the reading is kept.

THE GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

One: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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We sing together... O for a Closer Walk with God (Common Praise #556)

1. O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!
2. What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!
How sweet their memory still!
but they have left an aching void
the world can never fill.
3. Return, O holy Dove, return,
sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn
and drove Thee from my breast.
4. The dearest idol I have known,
whate'er that idol be
help me to tear it from Thy throne,
and worship only Thee.
5. So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

THE HOMILY: Bishop Susan Bell

Music is played during a time of reflection.

INTERCESSIONS

One: Let us pray.

God of Resurrection, our hope and our joy, our comfort and our support,
we make our prayer to you saying, Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: God of love, we thank you and praise you,
for your love that flows unceasingly to us.
Thank you for the myriad ways
we see it, encounter it, hear it, and feel it.
Thank you for those who embody your love in the world.
Keep us mindful of our sacred call, to love others as you love us.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: God, your love drives out fear,
we pray for the fearful and the anxious,
the exhausted and the overwhelmed.
May your love surround them this day,
hold them fast and bring them peace.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

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One: Christ, the true vine,
keep your church abiding in your love,
that we might live, act, work and minister together,
with deepening faith in the Good News of your kingdom.
Give to all who lead us, your heavenly blessing,
and to all our church communities
a new passion for your mission in the world.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Christ, healer, giver of life, we lift before you the sick,
especially those around our world suffering from COVID-19.
We remember especially at this time, the people of India
amidst the devastation the virus has inflicted.
And we pray for a fair and swift distribution of vaccines,
to the most vulnerable communities in the world.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Christ, Eternal Word, who touched the earth, breathed its air, drank its waters,
we repent of the ways in which our living and our choices, damage, destroy and pollute.
Renew our minds, make us more aware of our connection with your world
our reliance upon it, our duty of care, and the blessings which we receive from it.
And may we together work for its restoration, healing and protection.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Holy Spirit, inspiring presence,
enlighten and guide the leaders of our world,
to listen to the needs of the vulnerable and oppressed,
to speak and act for justice, to work for and pursue peace,
to make wise decisions that bring us together through the challenges we face.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Holy Spirit, life-bringing,
we pray for those suffer from disasters around the world:
for those in the Caribbean affected by recent volcanic activity,
especially those who live on the island of Saint Vincent;
and for those affected by landslides and earthquakes and wildfires.
Strengthen and guide all those who seek to bring relief,
and those who work to rebuild their lives amidst loss and grief.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

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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.**

We Sing Together... Lord of all Hopefulness, Lord of all Joy (Common Praise #506)

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like,
no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled
at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
at the eve of the day.
4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment,
whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
at the end of the day.

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE: Fantasia on "Helmsley" (trad. English melody, 18th c.)