

A Service of Praise and Prayer for Sunday, October 10, 2021

Thanksgiving Sunday



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

Prelude: "A Thanksgiving Medley", arr. T. Price

WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

GATHERING

Bishop: O Lord open our lips!

All: and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Bishop: Reveal among us the light of your presence

All: that we may behold your power and glory. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Bishop: Gracious One, you satisfy the need of every living creature.
Fill us with gratitude for the abundance of the earth
and for the bonds of love and care that unite all creation into one family.
May our thanks be the soil in which dreams of justice grow and thrive;
through Jesus Christ, the Lord of the harvest.

All: Amen.

We sing together... Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (Common Praise #262)

1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.
2. All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.
3. For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.
4. Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A READING: Joel 2.21-27

One: Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!
Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

CALLED TO LIFE
COMPELLED TO LOVE

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One: O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word,

All: Thanks be to God.

A short silence meditating on the reading is kept.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 6.25-33

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.

One: 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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We sing together... Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God (Common Praise #458)

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| 1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And God's righteousnes,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia! | 2. Ask and it shall be given unto you;
Seek and you shall find;
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,
Allelu, alleluia! |
| <i>Alleluia! Alleluia!</i>
<i>Alleluia! Allelu, Alleluia!</i> | <i>Alleluia! Alleluia!</i>
<i>Alleluia! Allelu, Alleluia!</i> |

THE HOMILY: Bishop Susan Bell

Music is played during a time of reflection.

INTERCESSIONS

One: Let us pray....

God of all creation, giver of life and beauty, merciful and mighty,
we make our prayer to you saying, Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: We give thanks for the beauty of the world.
for the spectacular colours of fall,
and the fruits of the harvest.
May we find joy in the natural world,
and, finding ourselves connected,
and reliant upon it,
may we grow in our own hearts and minds,
care and respect for the earth.

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: We give thanks for those who love us
and those whom we love.
We thank you God, for all those
who show us what your love looks like in practice in the world,
and who make our lives beautiful and precious.
Bless them with your grace
and give us grace that we may show love to others.

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

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One: We give thanks for food which nourishes and sustains us.
May us generous of our abundance, so that all may be fed.
we lift before you the work of all food banks,
those who provide community meals and those who work for justice,
food security and fair pay for all.

One: Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

One: We give thanks for those who care for us in times of sickness.
Thank you for the work of doctors, nurses and all healthcare professionals.
Thank you for their skill, compassion, dedication and care
and strengthen them for their continued work during this time of pandemic.
Bring your healing to all those who are unwell or suffering
in their bodies, their minds or their spirits, and lead them to wholeness.

One: Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

One: We give thanks for all who teach, nurture and encourage us.
We pray for schools, colleges, and universities, for all their staff and students;
for children and youth workers and leaders;
and for all who shape and educate us in our faith.
We ask for your protection, we ask for your blessing.

One: Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

One: We give thanks for friendship,
which gladdens our hearts and strengthens us along life's journey.
We thank you for those who listen to us,
who come alongside in joy and sorrow,
who hold space for us without judgement.
Open our hearts to new relationships, of transforming love.

One: Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

One: We give thanks for safety and security,
and pray for those who live in places of risk,
homeless, or far from home;
for refugees and all who live at the mercy of others.
Make us merciful, and open to receive the need of the world,
as we would receive you, our Christ.

One: 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... For the Fruits of All Creation (Common Praise #259)

1. For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts of every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.
3. For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Closing remarks and announcements.

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE: Fantasia on "Simple Gifts" (trad.)