

A Service of Praise and Prayer for Sunday, October 3, 2021

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi – The Season of Creation



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

Prelude: Adagio BWV 974 Bach/Marcello

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: O God, you ever delight to reveal yourself to the childlike and lowly of heart: grant that, following the example of the blessed Francis, we may count the wisdom of this world as foolishness and know only Jesus Christ, and him crucified, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

We sing together... All Things Bright and Beautiful (Common Praise #415)

*Refrain: All things bright & beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

1. Each radiant flower that opens,
each vibrant bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their lively wings. *Refrain*

2. The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruit in the garden,
God made them every one. *Refrain*

3. The rocky mountain splendour,
the loon's wild, haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall. *Refrain*

4. God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is the Creator,
who has made all things well. *Refrain*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A READING: (Galatians 6.14-18)

One: May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

CALLED TO LIFE
COMPELLED TO LOVE

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One: From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word,

All: Thanks be to God.

A short silence meditating on the reading is kept.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 11:25-30

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: At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We sing together... I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (Common Praise #508)

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one,
lay down thy head upon my breast:"

I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live."

I came to Jesus and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright:"
I looked to Jesus and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

THE HOMILY: Bishop Susan Bell

Music is played during a time of reflection.

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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: Lord, make us instruments of your peace,
where there is hatred let us sow love.

We pray for peace in the world you love:
that all leaders may hunger for peace,
and work tirelessly for reconciliation.

Bring wisdom and humility and
love of neighbour that overcomes
the love of power and control

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Where there is despair let us bring hope.

We pray for those who feel hopeless this day,
and especially for those whose struggle is unseen by all but you:
for those wrestling with addiction.

for those struggling with depression,
for those consumed by worry and anxiety,
for those isolated and lonely.

Assure them of your presence,
and bring them relief from their burdens
and support for their journey.

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Where there is darkness, let us bring light.

In a world where there is so much injustice,
may your light scatter the darkness:

the darkness of prejudice and ignorance;
the darkness of anger and fear mongering;
the darkness of greed and inequality.

In your light may we live, with justice,
ensuring the safety, dignity, worth and fullness of life,
for all your people.

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

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One: Where there is sadness, let us bring joy.
We pray for those who grieve this day,
for those who carry the heavy weight of loss;
the loss of love or relationship,
the loss of job or security,
the loss of a loved one.
Grant them your comfort and strength.

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

One: May we seek to console and understand.
Open our hearts and our hands to greater generosity,
that we may, with your love
and our resources of time, energy, compassion and prayer,
bring relief to those who suffer.
We pray for those caught in natural disasters.
We pray for those trapped in migrant camps,
for refugees stuck in the systems of government,
for newcomers to Canada,
and for those far from home.

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

One: May we seek to love and to give.
We thank you this day
for all those who give of themselves to serve others,
and for all volunteers who give of themselves in service to your Church.
Help us to work together with new vision, in humility and trust in the years ahead.
Give us patience and loving kindness, and joy in following you.

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

One: May we seek to be born to new life in you.
We pray that by your Holy Spirit you would renew our faith,
give us boldness to proclaim your Good News,
in word, action and in our life together.
As we seek to follow Christ,
may our love for you and one another deepen,
and may we renew the life of the earth,
that your Kingdom may come
on earth as in heaven.

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... God who Gives to Life its Goodness (Common Praise #428)

1. God who gives to life its goodness,
God creator of all joy,
giver of all human freedom
God who blesses tool and toy:
teach us how to laugh and praise you,
deep within your praises sing,
till the whole creation dances
for the goodness of its King.
2. God who fills the earth with beauty,
God who binds each friend to friend,
giver of all human talent,
God who wills that chaos end:
grant us now creative spirits,
minds responsive to your mind,
hearts and wills your rule extending,
all our acts by love refined.

Closing remarks and announcements.

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE: Chorale Prelude on "Nicaea" arr. T. Price