**ANTE-COMMUNION SERVICE SEPTEMBER 6, 2020**

*(PastorPam)*

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted us with the message of reconciliation. *2 Corinthians 5.19*

**HYMN** **CP 349 All People That on Earth Do Dwell**

All people that on earth do well,

Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice,

Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;

Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;

Without our aid he did us make;

We are his folk, he doth us feed,

And for his sheep he doth us take.

For why, the Lord our God is good;

His mercy is forever sure;

His truth at all times firmly stood,

And shall from age to age endure.

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

be with you all.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God,

*All* **to you all hearts are open, all desires known,**

**and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**

**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**

**that we may perfectly love you,**

**and worthily magnify your holy name;**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Glory to God in the highest,

*All* **and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High,**

**Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray:

**Collect**

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people,

that richly bearing the fruit of good works,

we may by you be richly rewarded;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

**A READING FROM PSALM 149** (read by Monica Francis)

Sing to the Lord a new song.

Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in his maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

Let them praise his name in the dance; let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with victory.

Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them be joyful on their beds.

Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand;

To wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples;

To bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron;

To inflict on them the judgement decreed; this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS** (read by Isaac Luther)

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. ROMANS 13:8-14

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

**HYMN:** **CP 59 Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him**

Jesus calls us here to meet him,

As through word and song and prayer

We affirm God’s promised presence

Where his people love and care.

Praise the God who keeps his promise;

Praise the Son who calls us friends;

Praise the Spirit who, among us,

To our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him

Word of life and Lord of all,

Sharer of our flesh and frailness,

Saving all who fail or fall.

Tell his holy human story;

Tell his tales that all may hear;

Tell the world that Christ in glory

Came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other;

Found in him are no divides.

Race and class and sex and language –

Such are barriers he derides;

Join the hand of friend and stranger;

Join the hands of age and youth;

Join the faithful and the doubter

In their common search for truth.

*(Deacon Jacquie)*

*Reader* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Reader* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

MATTHEW 18:15-20

*Reader* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**SERMON: Deacon Jacquie Bouthéon**

**The Apostles’ Creed**

*Celebrant* Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

*All* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**The Prayers of the People**  (led by Audrey Shepherd)

The God of our forebears, powerful and mighty, is a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger and rich in mercy, generous and forgiving to all who call for grace. Let us turn with confidence to our God in prayer, saying

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for people all over the world who are suffering at this very hour from famine and flood and fire, from economic and social disruption, from violence and war, and from the disease that rages everywhere. Be with researchers and caregivers, with first responders, doctors and nurses, with all who give themselves that others may live.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the church throughout the world, that we, with our brothers and sisters in Christ, may be messengers or hope and agents of transformation. Bless Linda and Andrew and Kevin, leaders who carry heavy burdens for Jesus’ sake. Bless Pam and Roy and Jacquie, and give them wisdom as they step out with courage to reopen Christ Church safely for us to celebrate your holy feast once again.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for children returning to school, and for their teachers and parents making difficult choices. Give them courage in this new era of apprehension and keep the little ones safe in your tender care.

**Lord, have mercy**

We pray for the sick, those known to us and those known only to you. Your will for us is perfect wholeness of body, mind and spirit, and so we lift up the sick to the light of your presence now (SILENCE) trusting in your promise that you will always do what is best for us.

**Lord, have mercy**

We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who have died. We grieve their empty chair at our table, but we are comforted by the sure knowledge that they live in glory now.

**Lord, have mercy**

Living God, you are among us in your Son and in his church. Hear the petitions we place before you. Increase our faith, that we may see you more clearly; purify our actions that we may show your love to others more surely. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen**

*(Fr. Roy Shepherd)*

**Confession and Absolution**

*Celebrant* Dear friends in Christ,

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;

he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.

Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Most merciful God,

*All* **we confess that we have sinned against you**

**in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,**

**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us,**

**that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy upon you,

pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray:

**DUET:** Our Father *(sung by Leonora Benjamin and Bill Wilkins)*

**The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

**Closing prayer** Great and holy God, accept our offering of labour and love.

May we bring you true and spiritual worship and be one with you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

**Doxology**

*Celebrant* Glory to God,

*All* **whose power, working in us,**

**can do infinitely more**

**than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation,**

**in the Church and in Christ Jesus,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING:** The peace of God, which passes all understanding,

Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God

And of his son Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and those you love, now and always.

**AMEN**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HYMN CP 423 How Great Thou Art**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,

Consider all the works thy hand hath made,

I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder

Thy power throughout the universe displayed

***Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,***

***How great Thou art, how great Thou art,***

***Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,***

***How great Thou art, how great Thou art!***

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,

And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,

And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

When Christ shall come, with shouts of acclamation

And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration

And there proclaim “My God, how great Thou art!

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