

# **The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Sunday, September 20, 2020**

*The liturgy we are using today is from the New Zealand Prayer Book, a Sister member of the Anglican Communion*

### **Liturgy of the Word**

#### **Welcome**

**Voluntary** *Bryn Calfaria* (Hymnal 1982, #307) from “Three Preludes founded on Welsh Hymn Tunes” by R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) played by Donald Hunt

#### **The Word of God**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise** *Glory to God* (S278) setting by William Mathias, sung by the Grace Church (Madison) Blue Choir (youth)

#### **Forgiveness**

*The congregation kneels.*

*The minister then says*

We come seeking forgiveness  
For all we have failed to be and do  
As members of Christ’s body.

*Silence*

In God there is forgiveness.

*All say*

**Loving and all-seeing God,  
forgive us where we have failed to support one another  
and to be what we claim to be.  
Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;  
and where our thoughts and actions have been  
contrary to yours we ask your pardon.**

*The Presiding priest says*

God forgives us; be at peace.

*Silence*

Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection,  
Reconciliation for all the human race.

*All say*

**We shall all be one in Christ,  
One in our life together.  
Praise to God who has created us,**

**Praise to God who has accepted us,  
Praise to God who sends us into the world.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people:*

Christ be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lessons**

#### **First Lesson**

*The first lesson is from the book of Jonah 3:10-4:11*

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

***People: Thanks be to God***

#### **The Psalm**

*Psalm 145:1-8*

*Said in unison*

1 I will exalt you, O God my King, \*  
and bless your Name for ever and ever.

- 2 Every day will I bless you \*  
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*  
there is no end to his greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another \*  
and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty \*  
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, \*  
and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; \*  
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

## Second Lesson

*A reading from the book of Philippians 1:21-30*

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** *Come Labor On* (Hymnals 1982, #541, Tune: Ora Labora by Thomas Tertius Noble) sung by the choir of Saint Clement's, Philadelphia

1. Come, labor on.  
Who dare stand idle on the harvest plain,  
while all around us waves the golden grain?

And to each servant does the Master say,  
“Go work today”.

2. Come, labor on.  
The enemy is watching night and day,  
to sow the tares, to snatch the seed away;  
while we in sleep our duty have forgot,  
he slumbered not.
3. Come, labor on.  
Away with gloomy doubts and faithless fear!  
No arm so weak but may do service here:  
by feeblest agents may our God fulfill  
his righteous will.
4. Come, labor on.  
Claim the high calling angels cannot share-  
to young an old the Gospel gladness bear;  
redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly,  
The night draws nigh.
5. Come, labor on.  
No time for rest, till glows the western sky,  
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,  
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun.  
“Servants, well done.”

### **The Gospel** Matthew 20:1-16

*The Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying:*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

People: **Praise and glory to God.**

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

*After the Gospel, the Reader says:*

This is the Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to Christ, the Word.**

## **Sermon**

### **The Prayers of the People**

*Deacon or other leader*

Knowing that God hears our prayers when they are made in sincerity and humility, we now pray for our church, the world and each other, saying 'Hear our Prayer'.

For the unity of the church in the world as it bears witness to the call of God, and equips us for ministry remembering especially the annual convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota as lay and clergy gather to renew friendships and do the business of the church. We pray to you O God, ***Hear our prayer.***

Because we live in unsettled and trying times, we pray that our world may not continue in strife, but discern what is truly good and just, embracing equality and peacefulness, we pray to you, O God, ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for all political leaders that even as they are faced with so many heavy choices and decisions, that we may find in each of them examples of generous service and self-forgetfulness, rather than divisiveness, we pray to you O God, ***Hear our prayer.***

Because there are so many poor and hungry people right here in our own community, we pray that we may be generous in giving, compassionate in serving, and sensitive in understanding the needs of others, we pray to you O God, ***Hear our prayer***

For everyone affected by the Covid-19 virus, let us prayerfully remember those who are heavily involved: medical personnel, care center workers, scientists, and everyone who is working to overcome this illness, we pray to you, O God, ***Hear our prayer.***

For all of us, as we try to follow the rules set up to keep us healthy, hearing the words of our Bishop, our Governor and the scientists. Help us to understand and care about each other's welfare, not just our own. We pray to you O God, ***Hear our prayer.***

In the face of unrest, anger, killings and protests that are prevalent now in our country, help us to open our hearts and our minds, to people of color. Help us to really hear and understand their lives, so that compassion and love might lead the way to peace. We pray to you, O God, ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for all law enforcement officers, that they may be able to see the need for compassion and understanding as they work to protect and serve all people in the face of turmoil in our nation; and keep them from harm. We pray to you O God. ***Hear our prayer.***

It seems that there is so much happening in the world, as well as in our own lives, that we ask you, O God, to give us not just the eyes to see, but also the voices to speak out. Help us to stand up for justice and equality. Let us not be discouraged because we know that you can accomplish in us infinitely more than we can possibly imagine. This we pray to you O God. ***Hear our prayer.***

Because there are people and situations we hold dear in our hearts, please take a moment to remember them, either silently or aloud. ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray also for those who have died, including those whose death was from this pandemic. Help us to remember that they are indeed now sharing in that heavenly banquet at your holy table with all of your saints, we pray to you O God, ***Hear our prayer.***

(Silence)

The priest adds a concluding prayer.

*The Celebrant says*

Thanksgiving, blessing and praise be yours,  
God of the incarnation;  
Because you have compassion for us and hear our prayer.  
May our love for you and our likeness to you  
Be strengthened every time we pray. **Amen.**

### **Announcements and Blessings and healing prayer.**

*Priest or Deacons says*

As Christ teaches us we pray:

*People and Celebrant*

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

*Officiant and People*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

*Officiant continues*

In union, O Lord, with faithful eucharistic people throughout the world, we offer you our thanks and praise. We present to you our souls and bodies, earnestly desiring that we may always be united with you. You promise, O Christ, to be present with us in the sacrament of your body and blood, so with confidence we claim your

presence among us during this eucharistic fast. We trust you are always with us; unite us with you and one another. May your healing grace abound. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you and you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

**Concluding Prayer:**

Blessed be God who calls us together.

**Praise to God who makes us one people.**

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

**Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.**

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

**Praise to God who is revealed as love.**

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

**Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.**

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

**Accept our thanks for all you have done.**

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

*Deacon concludes with the following*

**Dismissal**

Go now to love and serve the Lord.

People: We go in the name of Christ. Amen.

**Please stay after the service for virtual coffee hour!**