

Zoom Best Practices

To make the service run more smoothly and to cut down on distortion and dissonance caused by the response of multiple voices, please leave your computer mic or phone on mute at all times with the exception of the Peace, the Intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer. We will assign and / or ask for volunteers to represent the congregation as one voice for the remainder of the responsorial portions of the service. However, while muted, please do say the words that are written for your response. Even in the muted state, this remains an interactive service.

Order of Service
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 27, Year A
November 8th, 2020

Prelude *Well Tempered Clavier Book 1 - Prelude #10 in E minor* J.S. Bach

Hymn 68 *Rejoice! rejoice, believers* *Llangloffan*

1. Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2. See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
3. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid -night comes the cry.
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect

Holy God, whose fire of love never goes out: free us from the fear of scarcity that keeps us out of love's own feast; renew our trust in your abundance which knows no death and keeps no count; through Jesus Christ, the oil of gladness. **Amen.**

First Reading

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Third Reading

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

The Rev. Tami Burks

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Creator,
who breathed life into creation
and filled this blue sphere with creatures great and small;
who called humanity to be stewards of the earth
and to care for it and its inhabitants with righteousness;
who opposed Pharaoh's economy of greed and violence
and liberated God's people from an oppressive political regime;
who led God's people through the wilderness
and provided them with manna to sustain them on their journey;
who gave us the prophets to steer us back to justice when we strayed**

**and said: “woe unto you who legislate evil;”
who continues to create even to this day
and brings forth new possibilities when we think all is over.**

**We believe in God the Redeemer,
who was born into this world as a brown, Middle Eastern Jewish boy,
and on the run from a cruel politician;
who is no stranger to wilderness
and walks with us as a friend when temptations abound;
who fed the masses simply because they were hungry
and provided free healthcare to the injured and infirm;
who is the way, the truth, and the life,
when other voices claim to be the same;
who calls us to be neighborly to one another
and to be relentless advocates for the oppressed and vulnerable;
who was unjustly and violently executed by the empire
and resurrected by God, defeating death once and for all.**

**We believe in God the Sustainer,
who advocates for us in our times of need
and binds us to one another to cultivate the Beloved Community;
who helps us in our times of weakness
and intercedes on our behalf with sighs too deep for words;
who comes in tongues of flame to bind together God’s disciples
and equips us for the work we are called to do;
who brings us to the Table to eat the bread and drink the cup
and renews us to defiantly proclaim Jesus’ resurrection in word and deed;
who hovers over the waters of baptism
and seals us into the eternal kingdom that supersedes any human administration;
who knits us together with those who are different than us
to heal this world by being neighborly to one another.**

The Rev. Stephen M. Fearing

Prayers

We offer our prayers in the presence of Wisdom, who makes herself known to all who seek her gifts, responding, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Intercessor:

In thanksgiving for our church school teachers, who awaken in their students the mystery of faith: Yaweh’s great acts of deliverance, Christ’s victory of life over death, and the eternal light that breaks through every darkness; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Keep us ever watchful for your face shining through the faces of the poor and downtrodden, the wait staff and the salesperson, the toll collector and the crossing guard, lest that in missing them we may not see you; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Place your wisdom in the heart and mind of our President and Governor, that the decisions they make this year may bring righteousness and justice to all peoples everywhere; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Inspire us with a sense of urgency, that we may relate to others the joy of a Christcentered life, welcoming others into our fold, and showing increase in the household of faith; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for those who have served in the armed forces, defending our country in times of war, and ensuring peace in places where there is instability; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick, and all who minister to them.

Silence

Please add the names of those for whom you wish prayers, either silently or aloud.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for those who have died, especially during military service, may they and all the faithful departed live with the Lord forever;

Silence

At this time please add the names of those you wish remembered this day.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant:

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession

Officiant:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A brief moment of silence is kept

**Most merciful God,
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 neighbors 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.**

Officiant:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Welcome; Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anthem *If Ye Love Me, Keep my Commandments* Thomas Tallis

If ye love me,
keep my commandments,
and I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may 'bide with you forever,
e'en the spirit of truth.

A Prayer For The Time In Which We Are Living

Gracious and merciful God: It is a challenging time for us, your people. Some of us are afraid: afraid of becoming ill, afraid of losing our jobs, afraid we will not be able to feed our families or pay our bills. Others of us are angry at what we view as inconvenience to, and disruption of, our schedules. We are uncomfortable with uncertainty and impatient with what is happening around us. We pray for your continued presence and peace. Remind us that you are the one who loves us, steadies us, so that we may become

secure in and with the insecurity of life. Surround those who fear with your calming presence. Embrace those who are ill with your healing power. Envelop those who are dying in your loving arms and lead them to eternal life. For you are our guide and our grounding, this day and always. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May the Spirit of God draw you out onto the wilderness road. May she send you chasing chariots and smashing alabaster, beyond all propriety. May she bring you to dark-skinned eunuchs and Samaritan women and young ones who dream wild dreams and rich rulers who long to fit through the eye of the needle. And may they receive you into their homes and their worlds, so you might teach and convert one another. And may you enter the waters of baptism together and die and rise in Christ together, in the name of the Creator and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

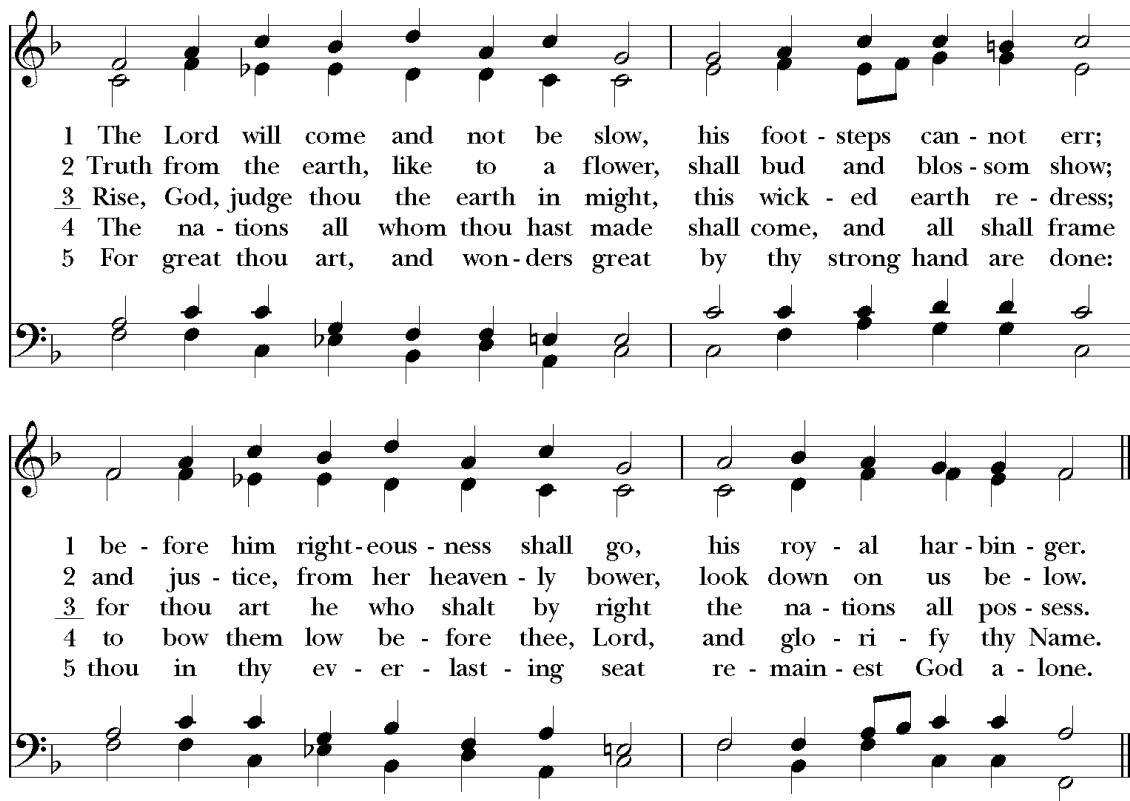
Stephanie Spellers

Hymn 462

The Lord will come and not be slow

York

Verses 1, 2, 4, 5



1 The Lord will come and not be slow, his foot - steps can - not err;
2 Truth from the earth, like to a flower, shall bud and blos - som show;
3 Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might, this wick - ed earth re - dress;
4 The na - tions all whom thou hast made shall come, and all shall frame
5 For great thou art, and won - ders great by thy strong hand are done:

1 be - fore him right - eous - ness shall go, his roy - al har - bin - ger.
2 and jus - tice, from her heaven - ly bower, look down on us be - low.
3 for thou art he who shalt by right the na - tions all pos - sess.
4 to bow them low be - fore thee, Lord, and glo - ri - fy thy Name.
5 thou in thy ev - er - last - ing seat re - main - est God a - lone.

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Both Sides Now

Joni Mitchell