

## **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-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 28, Year A**  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Prelude**      *The Times They Are a-Changin'*      Bob Dylan / arr. Sheens

**Hymn 561**      *Stand up, stand up for Jesus*      *Morning Light*  
Verses 1, 2, 4

1. Stand up, stand up, for Je-sus, ye sold- iers of the cross;  
2. Stand up, stand up, for Je-sus; the trum-pet call o - bey;  
3. Stand up, stand up, for Je-sus; stand in this strength a - lone;  
4. Stand up, stand up, for Je-sus: the strife will not be long;

lift high his roy - al ban - ner, it must not suf - fer loss:  
forth to the might - y con - flict in this his glo - rious day:  
the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own:  
this day, the noise of bat - tle; the next, the vic - tor's song.

from vic - tory un - to vic - tory his ar - my shall he lead,  
ye that are his now serve him a - gainst un - num-bered foes;  
put on the Gos - pel ar - mor, and watch-ing un - to prayer,  
To val - iant hearts tri - um-phant, a crown of life shall be;

till ev - ery foe is van-quished and Christ is Lord in - deed.  
let cour-age rise with dan - ger, and strength to strength op - pose.  
when du - ty calls, or dan - ger, be nev - er want - ing there.  
they with the King of glo - ry shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

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

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

### **Collect**

Merciful God resisting the iron fist which reaps where it did not sow: give us courage to accept your faith in us and compassion to stand with all who are cast aside; through Jesus Christ, who became nothing that we might have everything. **Amen.**

### **First Reading**

Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Third Reading**

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said, “It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.****Homily**

The Rev. Tami Burks

**Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God above us,  
maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon,  
of water and earth,  
of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,  
Born of a woman’s womb, servant of the poor.  
He was tortured and nailed to a tree.  
Knowing full passion and deep sorrow, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present.  
And his Kingdom will one day be known.**

**We believe in God within us,  
The Holy Spirit of pentecostal fire,  
Life-Giving breath of the Church,  
She is the Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
Source of resurrection and of life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayers**

Let us rise from our spiritual complacency and offer our prayers to God, responding, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Intercessor:

That our local and federal judges may have the wisdom of the prophet Deborah, whose strength was revealed in passing judgment for condemnation when necessary and for growth when warranted; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may clothe each other with faith and love, hope and salvation, encouraging one another in discipleship and building up one another for the growth of Christ’s Body, the Church; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may expose our gifts to the light of day, using them as instruments of salvation for those who live on the margins of society, and for those who though rich, have an emptiness too painful to expose; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That our treasures of time and money may be used wisely, to our personal benefit and for the betterment of our Church and society; 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.**

That all who have died may come to the glory of that place where the noise of daily life has given way to the peace of eternal rest;

*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**                    *Lift Every Voice and Sing*                    J. R. Johnson and J. W. Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,  
'Til earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
'Til now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.

### **A Prayer For The Time In Which We Are Living**

Gracious and merciful God: We are weary. We are overtaken by COVID fatigue. We miss the visits of our family members who do not live with us, the ability to share a meal together, the ability to give one another hugs. In the interest of safety, this virus has caused us to be physically isolated from our neighbors and our friends. Our young children do not understand why this new way of living continues, and our older children bristle against the limitations placed on them. Our teachers, doctors, nurses, and essential workers are overworked and placed in difficult situations with little relief. We as a people are challenged by the lack of a uniform policy that calls us all to observe safety protocols, so we continue to live with so much unknown and uncertain that only heightens our anxiety.

Sometimes, loving God, it is so hard for us not to be fearful. Fill our hearts and minds with you so we may do what is required to meet each day with strength and wisdom. Keep us grounded in your peace. Help us to be your hands and heart in all situations, at all times. 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 617

### *Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round*

## *Song 1*

*Ver. 1, 2, 3*

### *Unison or harmony*

Chorus of harmony

1 E - ter - nal Ru - ler of the cease - less round  
 2 We would be one in ha - ted of all wrong,  
 3 Oh, clothe us with thy heaven - ly ar - mor, Lord,

of cir - cling plan - ets sing - ing on their way,  
 one in the love of all things sweet and fair,  
 thy trust - y shield, thy word of love di - vine;

guide of the na - - tions from the night pro - found  
 one with the joy that break - eth in - to song,  
 our in - spi - ra - tion be thy con - stant word,

in - to the glo - ry of the per - fect day;  
 one with the grief that trem - bleth in - to prayer;  
 we ask no vic - to - ries that are not thine;

rule in our hearts, that we may ev - er be  
 one in the power that makes thy chil - dren free  
 give or with - hold, let pain or plea - sure be;

guid - ed and strength-en ed and up - held by thee.  
 to fol - low truth, and thus to fol - low thee.  
 e - nough to know that we are serv - ing thee.

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*It Is Well With My Soul*

*H. Spafford, P. P. Bliss*