

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise**, **welcome,** and **serve**:
· to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
· to **praise** God in all things,
· to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
· to **serve** the needs of one another and of those
on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Pastor Edward Dufresne, preaching
Connie Mayo, Musical Director
Franklin Nino, Guest Cellist

Morning Prayer
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2020

Prelude

A brief silence

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made;
Congregation: **May we rejoice and be glad in it.**

Confession of Sin

Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Congregation: **God of all mercy,**
we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves,
and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Leader: May God forgive us, Christ renew us,
and the Spirit enable us to grow in love. Amen.

Opening Hymn 694 *God be in my head, and in my understanding (in back of this bulletin)*

The Invitatory

Leader: Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord renews the face of the earth:
Congregation: **Come let us adore her. Alleluia.**
Leader: Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
Congregation: **as it was in the beginning, is now,**
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Psalm 100 *Jubilate Deo*

Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands;
serve the LORD with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The LORD himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the LORD is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

First Lesson: Extracts from Genesis 25 and 27

Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob, (that is, He takes by the heel or He supplants).

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Now, Isaac loved Esau, (but Rebekah loved Jacob.)

When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder son Esau and said to him, "See, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. Then prepare for me savory food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die."

Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, Rebekah said to her son Jacob," Go to the flock, and get me two choice kids, so that I may prepare from them savory food for your father, such as he likes; and

you shall take it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies." So [Jacob] went in to his father, and said, "My father," "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, so that you may bless me." Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." So he came near and kissed him; and he blessed him.

As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of his father Isaac, his brother Esau came in." His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am your firstborn son, Esau." Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, "Who was it then before you came, and I have blessed him?, "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing." Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me."

Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, "I will kill my brother Jacob."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Poem *Is This What I Prayed For* Gary Vencill
July 2, 2020 *(used with permission)*

Is this what I prayed for? So prayed Rebekah
as two wrestled
in her womb.
There are two,
today,
wrestling in the womb
of this republic. Wrestling not with each other. but with us,
with all of us.
They are striving, one striving to breathe, the other striving
to take our breath away.
The angel of death,
the father of one.
The other has many fathers: Malcolm and Martin and Medgar and so many,
so many more.

Treyvon and Michael and Eric and George and so many,
oh, ever so many
more.
All dying,
everyone,
"like a motherless child."
We are blind,
like old Isaac,
we are blind.
We do not know where this is going.
We do not know where we are going.

As we took this land, so, Jacob took, took from his brother, the blessing,
and all that his father possessed.
Is there a more plaintive, a more rending plea
in all the Hebrew scriptures, than the cry of Esau: "Bless me,
even me also,
oh my father."
In the streets.
the children cry for justice. Rachel weeps for her children, wails, for they are no more.

Fathers call out
with nothing, nothing left of their hopes but the bad taste
of broken dreams
in their mouths: "Bless me,
even me also,
oh my father."
Is it possible,
in this time, now,
this time,
for old, blind Isaac to say,
now:
Yes!
Yes, my son, there is for you also, a blessing.
Limping we leave the Jabbok. singing with Charles Wesley as we leave the Jabbok, "And are we yet alive and see each other's face?"
Masked we go forth hoping to meet,
to truly meet our brother, to see in his eyes a smile, to smile with our eyes.

How hard it is to see,
to see each other,
to see
over the masks
of hatred and of fear, over the long dark history of the lash and the noose we have so carefully, ever so carefully, masked.
Yet we go forth hoping
that as Jacob saw, we will see
in our brother's face. in the other's face, this time,
see,
now,
at last,
see
the face
of God.

Gospel: Luke 15: 11-20
Reader: The Gospel according to Luke
Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ**

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon: *Jacob, Esau and Us* Pastor Edward Dufresne

A brief silence

A Creed from the Iona Community

We believe in God, the creator of all life and beauty,
who blesses our journey.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
who lived as a friend and savior to all he met as he traveled,
and who ate and laughed, wept, and celebrated with them in love.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who rides on the gentle breeze,
who strengthens our bindings, and
who offers hope eternal.
We believe in the church,
which stands open to all travelers, and
bears witness to the everlasting love of God. Amen.

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be always with you,
Congregation: **And also with you.**

The Prayers
Leader: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer
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.

Leader: Help us, O God our Savior;
Congregation: **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**
Leader: Look upon your congregation;
Congregation: **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**
Leader: Declare your glory among the nations;
Congregation: **And your wonders among all peoples.**
Leader: Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
Congregation: **Never forget the lives of your poor.**
Leader: Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
Congregation: **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**
Leader: Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
Congregation: **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

The Collect of the Day
Leader: Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Congregation: **Amen.**

For Joy in God's Creation *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 814
Congregation: **O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; so that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**
Leader: Amen.

For Social Justice *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 823
Leader: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Congregation: **Amen.**

Prayer for People Facing Great Uncertainty

Congregation: **God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you.**

Leader: Amen. *A New Zealand Prayer Book—He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa' (adapted)*

Leader: Please add your own prayers

All are invited to add their own prayers here.

Leader: Hear our prayers, and bless us, living God.
Hold the secret longings of our hearts in the mystery of your love,
that the light of the Kingdom will continue to shine on earth.

Congregation: **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit Among the People of God

Leader: God of all power and love,
we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

Congregation: **Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.**
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn,
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.

Leader: Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Prayer crafted by a team of leaders of The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Benediction

Sending Hymn 398 *I sing the almighty Power of God (in the back of this bulletin)*

Postlude
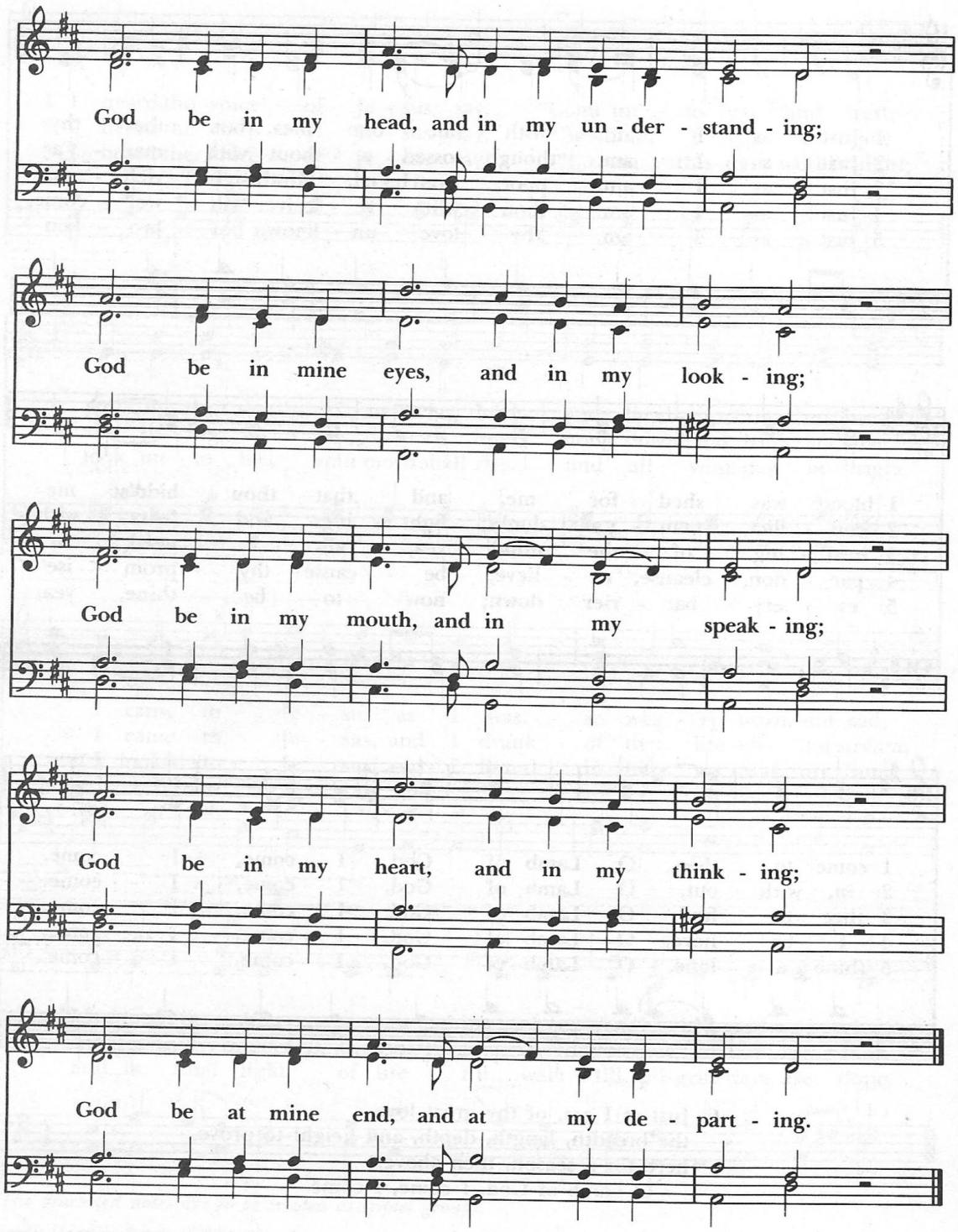
Announcements

Dismissal

You are invited to stay for Virtual Coffee Hour

694

The Christian Life

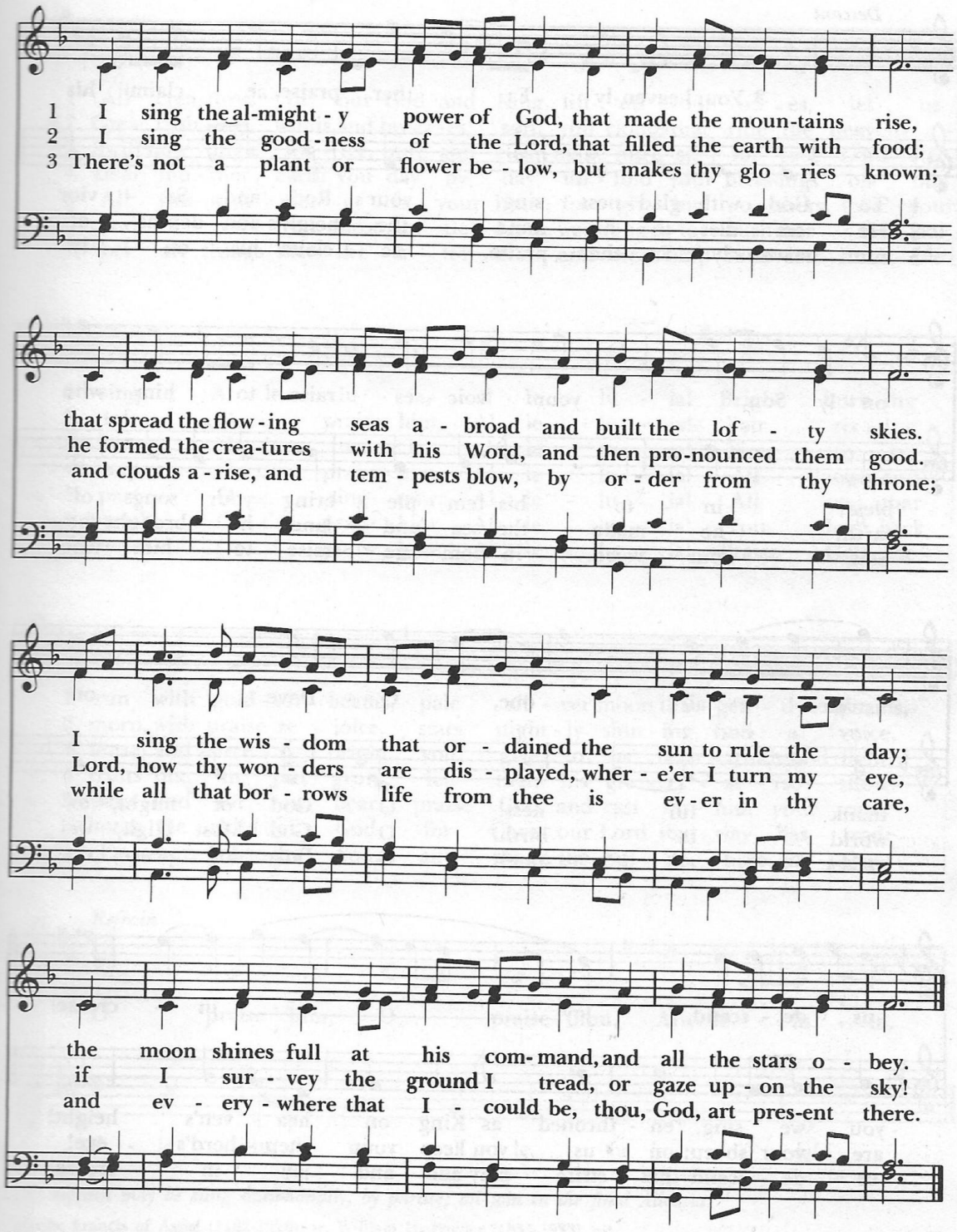


Words: *Sarum Primer,* 1514
Music: *Lytlington,* Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)

Irr.

Praise to God

398



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.
Music: *Forest Green,* English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) CMD