



Worship with Communion 21st Sunday after Pentecost For Our Nation

VIDEO: View & interact on any device live at 10AM on October 25

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You can watch the videos at any time after they air live.

Welcome! We're glad that you chose to worship with us today!

Amma Diane

♪ **We Grieve the Many Thousands**

We grieve the many thousands — yet we can't understand;
we cannot grasp how many have died throughout this land.

We cannot see their faces or hear the stories told
of all the ways they blessed us — the young ones and the old.

O God, we grieve the struggle of those who died alone —
so far from friends and neighbors, from all they'd ever known.

We grieve for precious people who could not say goodbye;
we weep for those, now mourning, who sit alone and cry.

O God, we grieve for millions who now are unemployed
who cannot feed their families — whose hope has been destroyed.

We grieve that needed workers must worry for their health
while some with lives of privilege stay home and build their wealth.

O God of love and mercy, we cry to you, "How long?"
In troubled times remind us: Your love is ever strong.
Now as we grieve the suffering, Lord, show us how to be
A healing, loving presence in each community.

Words: ©2020 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Tune: *AURELIA*, Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864.

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

All And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. **AMEN!**

For Our Nation

Celebrant Excerpts from a recent Word to the Church by The Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry: *This election occurs in a time of global pandemic, a time when there is hardship, sickness, suffering and death. But this election also occurs in a time of great divisions. Divisions that are deep, dangerous, and potentially injurious to democracy.*

There are good and faithful followers of Jesus Christ who are Episcopalian. Some are Republican, some are Democrat, some are independents, some liberal, some centrist, some conservative... The Bible says we have one Lord, one faith, one baptism, not one political party. But it's important to remember that partisan neutrality does not mean moral neutrality. Partisan neutrality, bidden to us by human civil law does not mean moral neutrality, because we are bidden to obey the royal law of almighty God.

When Jesus says that the entire law and will of God is summed up in the words, 'You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself, that's precedent. When Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan... that's precedent. When, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "blessed are the poor and the poor in spirit"; "blessed are those who are compassionate and merciful"; "blessed are the peacemakers"; "blessed are those who hunger and thirst and labor for God's righteous justice to be done on the earth for all"; "do unto others, as you would have them do unto you"; "love your enemies, bless those who curse you, pray for those who despitefully use you"; my sisters, my brothers, my siblings, that is the precedent for what it means to follow in the way of Jesus in the first century or the 21st century... The task of the church in the first century or 21st century is to live by the precedent, to bear witness to the precedent, and lift up the values of the precedent of Jesus in our time. Because as the book of Hebrews says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." What would Jesus do?

What does voting have to do with the Gospel? What does voting have to do with being a Christian? An election for public office is not a popularity contest between two or more people. It's a contest of ideas about how to shape the future of a community, nation and maybe even a world. It's a contest, a debate, a discernment of moral values and their relationship to public policy. Voting is an act of moral agency. It is an act of moral discernment and decision. It is how a community or a nation decides how the moral values that it holds and shares shape public policy and the lives of people. The children of God. It is salutary to remember that partisan neutrality does not mean moral neutrality.

Partisan neutrality is not the same as moral neutrality. It was not in the first century and it is not today. The royal law of love is the fulfillment of the law and the will of God. It is the ultimate standard, norm, and guide for following the way of Jesus in any society, in any time. With grace to aid and conscience to guide, each of us must discern and decide what love of neighbor looks like in our lives, in our actions, in our personal relationships, and in our social and public witness. What did Jesus do? Let us pray.

People

Almighty God, giver of all good things— We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land; they restore us, though we often destroy them: heal us... We thank you for the great resources of this nation; they make us rich, though we often exploit them: forgive us... We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong; they are models for us, though we often fall short of them: inspire us... We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land; It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light: enlighten us... We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety; It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again: renew us... Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name. AMEN!

First Lesson

Leviticus 19. 1-2, 15-18

Reader 1 A reading of Leviticus 19. 1-2, 15-18.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Reader 1 The Word of the Lord.*People* **Thanks be to God.****Unison Reading**

Psalm 1

Reader 1 Let us read in unison Psalm 1.

All **Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on this law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper. It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

Gospel

Matthew 22. 34-46

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.****Sermon**

Amma Diane

Nicene Creed

Celebrant Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN!

Prayers of the People

Reader 2 Loving God, creator of this world who is our source of our wisdom and understanding, watch over this nation during this time of election. Help us to see how our faith informs our principles and actions.

All **God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.**

Reader 2 We give thanks for the right to vote. Help us to hold this privilege and responsibility with the care and awareness it merits, realizing that our vote matters and that it is an act of faith.

All **God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.**

Reader 2 Guide us through this election as a nation, state, and community as we vote for people to do work on our behalf and on the behalf of our communities. Help us to vote for people and ballot initiatives that will better our community and our world so it may reflect the values Christ taught us.

All **God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.**

Reader 2 Help us create communities that will build your kingdom here on earth – communities that will protect the poor, stand up for the vulnerable, advocate for those who are not seen and heard, and listen to everyone's voice.

All **God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.**

Reader 2 We pray for this nation that is deeply divided. May we come together for the common good and do as you have called us to do – to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you through creation.

All **God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.**

Reader 2 Help us act out of love, mercy, and justice rather than out of arrogance or fear.

All **God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.**

Reader 2 Lord, continue to guide us as we work for the welfare of this world. We pray for places that are torn by violence, that they may know peace.

All **God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.**

Reader 2 We pray for communities who are struggling with inequality, unrest, and fear. May we all work toward reconciliation with one another and with God.

All **God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.**

Reader 2 Help us to listen in love, work together in peace, and collaborate with one another as we seek the betterment of our community and world.

All **God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.**

Reader 2 We lift up the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

All **God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.**

Reader 2 We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

All **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!**

Celebrant 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.

All **AMEN!**

Passing the Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Invitation to Communion

from the Iona Community, Scotland

Celebrant The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

♪ God of All Peoples

**God of all peoples, cultures and nations, God of the poor and wealthy ones, too —
Be with our land as we make decisions; help us, we pray, to listen to you.**

May we hear well your call to do justice; may we know all your children have worth.

May we seek leaders who will end violence; may we choose ones who care for your earth.

May we be thoughtful in our decisions: who will be truthful, moral and wise?

Who will restore the streets that we live in? Who will love those whom others despise?

How will the ones campaigning to lead us care for the stranger, outcast and poor?

Will they hear ones who long have been silenced? Or will they say that wealth matters more?

God, may this time of anger be over; may we grow past our current divide.

Make us as one, as sisters and brothers; in this good land, may your love abide.

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Offering Our Gifts

Celebrant Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at mysjec.com/donate. Thank you for your financial support as we've adapted our ministry and mission together these past few months.

Celebrant Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

People **Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.**

Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

All **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

All **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

All **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

All **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take... eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

All **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekah, of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

All **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

All **AMEN!**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **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!**

Breaking Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN!**

Blessing

Celebrant May the blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains, be upon you and all you love and pray for, this day and for ever more.

All Alleluia! AMEN!

♪ By the Streams of Babylon

By the streams of Babylon we sit weeping bitter tears.
 Here so many hopes are gone; now we're filled with countless fears.
 Yet, O God, you tell us: "Rise! See the world through faith-filled eyes!"
 We will rise and seek your way, knowing love will one day win.
 We won't let fear rule the day; we will welcome strangers in.
 Every day, we'll seek and find countless ways to be more kind.
 By your grace, we'll rise above even in this troubled hour.
 Where there's hate, we'll choose to love; we will speak your truth to power.
 With the poor and refugee we will build community.
 We will pray for those who lead even as we take a stand.
 We will rise with those in need, seeking justice in the land.
 We will learn and listen well from the truth that others tell.
 We will rise and work for peace; we will treasure your good earth.
 We will march, that wars may cease; we'll see every person's worth.
 God, now give us faith-filled lives as we heed your call and rise.

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Sending

Celebrant Go forth into the world, sharing the Good News of God's love. Alleluia, alleluia!

All Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

Thank you for your support! Gifts may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank.

There are also online giving options on our web site at mysjec.com/donate.

October's special offering supports the Rector's Discretionary Fund—please label accordingly.