

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020

Meeting ID 715 310 766

Password 014954



Prelude *Berceuse, Op. 40 No. 2* Amy Beach
(Perf. by Aubrey Holmes, violin; Stefanie Watson, piano)

Opening Hymn *Let all mortal flesh keep silent*

Celebrant	Blessed by God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier
People	<i>And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.</i>

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

God be with you
People And also with you

Celebrant Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Wisdom of Solomon 6: 12 - 16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

The Reader may say

If you were content Lord, you would not bother us; but you are restless.

*People: May your restlessness be born in us, that you upset our easiness and
require us to respond.*

Psalm 70 *Sung (Words on screen)*

A Reading from the Epistles of the Early Church

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 Reader may say

Use me, O Lord, for the work you have me do.

People: And taking me, help me not to resist you.

Gradual *Keep your lamps trimmed and burning*

The Holy Gospel

Then the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (25: 1 - 13)

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon Rev. Ken Phelps, Jr.

Sermon Hymn *Love is all* Performed by the Playing for Change Band

An Affirmation of Faith (*New Zealand Book of Common Prayer*)

Celebrant: We are not alone, we live in God's world.
People: *We believe in God: Who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus, The Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:
To celebrate God's presence,
To love and to serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.*

An Invitation to Repentance

The Celebrant says:
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and people:
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 that 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, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. 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. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Inspired by the Spirit, we offer our prayers to God, in the name of Jesus Christ, saying: Lord, have mercy.

For the ministers of the church, especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Eugene and Robert our Bishops, Ken and Lisa, our clergy, Betsy, our clergy emeritus. Kip, Patrick, Deb, Tom and Barbara, our wardens, Steve, our treasurer; for our vestry and other mission leaders, and for those who serve the Gospel at Emmanuel, Baltimore; Grace & St Peter's, Baltimore; and,

Guardian Angel, Baltimore; and, for Joseph M. Cochran, Jessica E. Sexton, and Joseph A. Wood *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For every member of the human family, that we be guided to all truth by the Spirit of truth *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the stewards of the earth, and for the renewed witness to the gospel among people serving in positions of public trust, especially for Donald, President of the United States, Larry, Governor of the State of Maryland, and those who serve us in County and State; that all accept creation as a wondrous gift, and work to preserve its beauty, and the dignity and respect of all creatures great and small *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all the sick and suffering, the lonely and the dying, especially all others we raise before you...

(Members are encouraged to pray silently or aloud for those known and unknown to our community. When all petitions have been offered, and a period of silence has been kept, the leader continues...)

That their affliction lead to endurance, their endurance to virtue, and their virtue to hope *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who have died, and for those who mourn them *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who are in any way affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Comfort and sustain those who have been stricken; relieve their pain and restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength. Grant to all in authority the courage to make wise decisions that are essential for the common good and strengthen them to lead institutions that care for those whom they serve. Watch over all first responders and those in the medical professions whose duty it is to care for the sick; guard them from all danger, and keep them safe in the knowledge that is through their sacrifice and service that the health of the whole community is promoted, *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who have suffered at the hands of hurricane or wildfire, for those who have died, those who have been injured, those who have been displaced,

those who have lost everything, those who bring relief, and those who risk their lives to mitigate the impact of these natural disasters *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those whose lives have been forever altered by racial violence. We remember our Black brothers and sisters, beloved children of God, groaning under the weight of redlining, segregation, underfunded schools, unequal economic opportunity, indignity, and ever-present fear. We pray for those who protest, those whose lives and property have been disrupted and for those who seek to maintain order and safety. May your generous and gentle spirit be present. We remember our public officials, beloved children of God, managing a global pandemic and the grief and anger in our communities. We remember our police officers, beloved children of God, whom we ask, often without appropriate training, to respond to human beings in their worst and most vulnerable moments and who feel their loyalties divided or their cause unclear, and who feel afraid for themselves, their partners, their families, and their fellow citizens. We remember those who have pledged their lives to racist ideologies, beloved children of God. We acknowledge the pain they have caused to victims of violence, to their communities, to their families, and to their own souls. We know that the sickness of racism is in this nation's very bedrock and we beg your mercy to free all your people from it. Help us turn away from this sin of division and toward your all-encompassing love. *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy.*

For our nation, in this time of uncertainty and crisis. We raise before you our fears, our anxiety, our deepest concerns and our greatest hopes. We pray that you will bring us together in this moment as a people; that we may rise as one to the single purpose of doing all in our power to protect dignity, promote justice, and support the healing and safety and recovery of all our neighbors, near and far, that in committing ourselves to the welfare of the other we may discover that the love that binds us is greater than anything that might separate us. *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy.*

The Celebrant continues

O God, from whom good things flow, we thank you and bless you. Answer our prayers and bring us hope through Jesus Christ your Son, who lives with you in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you
People And also with you

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Stewardship Minute

The Holy Communion

The Offertory *People get ready* C. Mayfield *Perf. By Karen Custis Boutin.*

Celebrant: Loving God, in the service of your Kingdom, grant us the peace we may have, show us the peace we should seek.

People: And give us the strength to do without, especially the peace we must forego for Jesus' sake.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God.

People: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Author of all that is good and holy. For by water and the Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your love and reconciliation in all the world. Therefore, with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

Celebrant and People

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.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of the children of Abraham to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is God's new Covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we acclaim you, O Christ,

Celebrant and People:

This is the death we celebrate This is the new life we proclaim
This is the vision we live

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. AMEN.

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

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We are one people; one body in Christ, for we eat of
one loaf and drink from one cup.

*People: Thank you, gracious God, for the food that makes us one with
you, and one with each other*

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. *Celebrant and People*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church,
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you
praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your
resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you
today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come
spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord
Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in
me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen

Benediction

Closing Hymn *Jerusalem, my happy home*

*Our weekly **stewardship message** is printed on the next page... (So keep
reading!!)*

November 8, 2020

The gifts of faith

BY THE REV. MATTHEW WOODWARD



The parable of the wise and foolish virgins brings back so many rector wedding memories. I have to say, virgins trimming wicks are few and far between in early 21st century Bay Area weddings; you are more likely to find mason jars liberally strewn around the barn venue and handwritten chalkboards offering tri-tip, which you can eat perched on a bale of hay. But the frenetic last-minute energy of things needing to be fixed is just the same today as in scripture.

If you get stuck in the anxiety, keeping company with the wedding planner and their staff, you are going to miss the point of the event.

Weddings confer the blessing of companionship. We can get stuck in the mechanics of delivery and all of the anxiety it generates. Or we can acknowledge that love is a great gift, and we should be grateful for it.

I once oversaw a wedding in which the couple forgot to get a license. I took a deep breath, made sure they had a wonderful day, and secretly remarried them a month or two later. Their love for each other was a gift. We found a way to fix the paperwork.

Faith is a gift, Christian community is a gift; worship, children's choirs and that moment when teenagers suddenly make a profound connection with their faith: These are all gifts. We could get caught up in the anxiety of paying for it all, or we could just say thank you and write the pledge that shows how grateful we are for all we have received.

The Rev. Matthew Woodward is an Englishman on the West Coast of America and the Rector of Transfiguration Episcopal Church in San Mateo California. He is a recent puppy parent, and loves comics. He has also found stewardship ministry to be a real joy, rather than the other thing, in recent years.

FAITH FILLED

GENEROSITY

For reflection

- Do you get stuck in the anxiety of stewardship and just how much it takes to run a church?
- What if you started thinking about giving by looking at a finger painting of Mary and Joseph your preschooler, face beaming, just brought you (still wet) from Sunday School?

All Saints Staff

The Rev. Ken Phelps, Jr., Rector
The Rev. Lisa Siciliano, Regional Deacon
The Rev. Jennifer Wilder, Pastor, Broadview Church
Tamara Timmermann, Parish Administrator
Deborah Watson, Music Director

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301-467-1467

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Living Our Values Commission

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