

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 2020

Meeting ID 715 310 766

Password 014954



**Prelude** *In God alone*

**Opening Hymn** *Immortal invisible God only wise*

**Celebrant** Blessed by God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier

*People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

## 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

#### 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 of your kin; 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.

*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.*

### Canticle A Gaelic Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.

Deep peace of Christ,

Of Christ the light of the world to you.

Deep peace of Christ to you.

## A Reading from the Epistles of the Early Church

### 1 Thessalonians 2: 1 - 8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

*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**      *Rejoice ye pure in heart*

## 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 (22: 34 - 46)

*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.

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

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

**The Sermon** Dr. Sherrill Munn

**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 St James', Westernport; St Peter's, Lonaconing; and, St John's, Frostburg; and, for Matthew R. Hanisian, Grey S. Maggiano and Robert J. Boulter     *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**

#### **Stewardship Minute**

### **The Holy Communion**

The Offertory *Where there is love Perf. By PFC*

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**    *A mighty fortress is our God*

**Dismissal**

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

October 25, 2020

# Freely giving our all to God

BY ROB TOWNES



There's a saying that the chicken who lays an egg makes a contribution, but the chicken who makes a sandwich offers a sacrifice. One could say that Jesus was alluding to the latter when he responded to the question as to which was the greatest commandment, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all of who you are.*" He was asking for more than a contribution; he was asking for the sacrifice of our all.

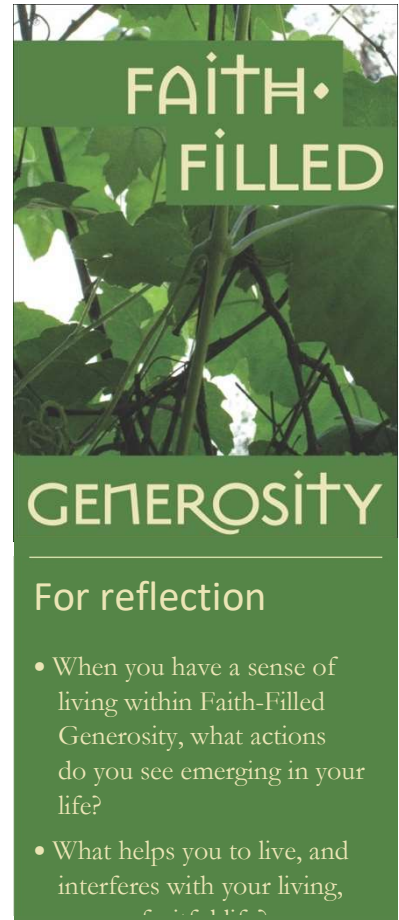
As the Latin root of the word suggests, a sacrifice — a *sacrum facere* — makes one holy. Giving generously of that of which you are a steward — your heart, soul, mind and all your possessions — is life giving. And it is countercultural. As the bumper sticker declares, "S/He who dies with the most toys wins." That's a powerfully seductive statement. Only with God's help can we avoid being allured into thinking that it is in acquiring possessions that our life gains meaning. May we grow in the wisdom that a rich life results in trusting that it is in God we live and move and have our being.

This reflection is written while visiting Green Bough House of Prayer in Scott, Georgia. Here the three residents, with the company of 77 associates, have dedicated their lives, their all, to God and have taken on a Rule of Life to embrace silence, prayer, simplicity and living in the present moment, and accept all as coming from God. Do all for God. Offer all to God. This to me is a beautiful example of Faith-Filled Generosity.

Very few members of the Church dedicate themselves to full-time contemplative living, but all of us are invited to learn to live Jesus' greatest commandment, trusting that in so doing, Faith-Filled Generosity will flourish in our lives.

As we move back into our church buildings, remembering only too well the COVID-19-caused absence of normalcy, may we re-enter with a renewed commitment to freely giving our all to God and faithfully loving our neighbors as ourselves.

*Rob Townes received his Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology and has spent his professional career as a nonprofit and church fundraising consultant.*



### **All Saints Staff**

The Rev. Ken Phelps, Jr., Rector  
The Rev. Lisa Siciliano, Regional Deacon  
The Rev. Jennifer Wilder, Pastor, Broadview Church  
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