

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Independence Day—July 4, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word of God

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Officiant Blessed be the One Holy and Living God.
People **Glory to God forever and ever.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Lift Every Voice
Saint Mary's Choir

Words: James Weldon Johnson
Music: J. Rosamond Johnson

OPENING COLLECT

Officiant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Creator God you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

FIRST MESSAGE

Officiant Let us prepare ourselves to hear the Word Of God as it comes to us from the *Declaration of Independence*.

People **Our hearts and minds are open.**

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

This Is My Song
Saint Mary's Choir

Text: Lloyd Stone
Music: Jean Sibelius

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BASED DISCIPLESHIP

Break out groups discuss the portion of the *Declaration of Independence* from First Message.

- What have you learned about "liberty and justice" for all?
- What is the Holy Spirit calling you to do?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Officiant Let us affirm our faith.

People **We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

**We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity,
a feasting God.**

**We affirm a faith, that takes us beyond a safe place into action,
into vulnerability, into the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, to take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of Hope. Amen.**

Officiant And now we join together with members of the worldwide Anglican/Episcopal Communion in translating the beliefs in our hearts into action in our lives, in these baptismal questions.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Officiant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Officiant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Officiant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Officiant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM IV

Officiant Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Officiant Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Officiant Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Officiant Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Officiant Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Officiant We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

People **Hear our prayer.**

SAINT MARY'S COMMUNITY PRAYERS: CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Everyone is invited to offer concerns and thanksgivings, either out loud or in the chat.

COLLECT

Officiant O Christ for whom we search, our help when help has failed, give us courage to expose our need and ask to be made whole; that, being touched by you, we may be raised to new life in the power of your name.

People **Amen.**

PEACE

Officiant Peace be with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

People God be in my head and in my thinking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my loving.
God be in my hands and in my giving. Amen.

<Short time of silence>

LORD'S PRAYER

People Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your Name.
your kingdom com, 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 your, now and for ever. Amen

CLOSING PRAYER

Officiant Holy and ever living God, by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed;
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live
each day in love to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

BLESSING

Officiant May the grace of Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be
with us all.

People Amen.

CLOSING SONG

O Beautiful For Spacious Skies

#719, Hymnal 1982

Saint Mary's Choir

Words: Katherine Lee Bates

Music: *Materna*, Samuel Augustus Ward

DISMISSAL

Deacon <Deacon says the words of dismissal.>

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

VIRTUAL COFFEE TIME: SOCIALIZE

SOURCES

The Opening Collect and Prayers of the People from *Book of Common Prayer*.

The Gospel is from the New Revised Standard Version.

Affirmation of Faith is from *Iona Abbey Worship Book* by The Iona Community.

The Closing Prayer is from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.