

**Church of the Messiah
Woods Hole, Massachusetts**

A Liturgy of Morning Prayer

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2020**



Prelude

“Sicilienne”
(Mary Scholkovitz, flute)

by Philippe Gaubert

Welcome

Opening Hymn 680 “O God, our help in ages past”

St. Anne

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;

1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pen - ing day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Opening Sentences

Love one another,
for love is of God,
and whoever loves is born of God and knows God.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 37

A Song of Creation

II *The Earth and its Creatures*

Let the earth glorify the Lord,
praise God and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,
and all that grows upon the earth, *
praise God and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams,
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord,
praise God and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild,
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord,
praise God and highly exalt him for ever.

- adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer* (1979) p. 89

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 5b

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 16 Then he called for a famine in the land *
and destroyed the supply of bread.
- 17 He sent a man before them, *
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

- 18 They bruised his feet in fetters; *
his neck they put in an iron collar.
- 19 Until his prediction came to pass, *
the word of the LORD tested him.
- 20 The king sent and released him; *
the ruler of the peoples set him free.
- 21 He set him as a master over his household,
as a ruler over all his possessions,
- 22 To instruct his princes according to his will
and to teach his elders wisdom.
- 45 Hallelujah!

First Reading

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Second Reading**“No Such Thing as a Totally Hopeless Case”****Desmond Tutu**

Dear Child of God, I write these words because we all experience sadness, we all come at times to despair, and we all lose hope that the suffering in our lives and in our world will never end. I want to share with you my faith and my understanding that this suffering can be transformed and redeemed. There is no such thing as a totally hopeless case. Our God is an expert at dealing with chaos, with brokenness, with all the worst that we can imagine. God created order out of disorder, cosmos out of chaos, and God can do so always, can do so now — in our personal lives and in our lives as nations, globally. The most unlikely person, the most improbable situation — these are all 'transfigurable' — they can be turned into their glorious opposites. Indeed, God is transforming the world now — through us — because God loves us.

This is not wishful thinking or groundless belief. It is a deep conviction, based on my reading of the Bible and of history. It is borne out not only in my experience in South Africa but also by many other visits to countries suffering oppression or in conflict. Our world is in the grips of a transformation that continues forward and backward in ways that lead to despair at times but ultimately redemption. While I write as a Christian, this transformation can be recognized and experienced by anyone, regardless of your faith and religion, and even if you practice no religion at all."

- *Desmond Tutu, God Has A Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time. Written with Douglas Abram. NY: Doubleday. 2004.*

Third Reading**Matthew 14:22-33**

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Silence

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer *(said by all – with microphones muted)*

Collect for the Day

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Morning

God,
you are our beginning and you will be our end;
we are made in your image and likeness.
We praise and thank you for this day.
'This is the day on which you created light
and saw that it was good.
'This is the day in whose early morning light
we discovered the tomb was empty,
and encountered Christ, the world's true light.
'This is the day you have made;
we shall rejoice and be glad in it. *Amen.*

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 106

Prayer for the Absent

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We pray that you graciously behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) p. 830

For those who are sick

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. *Amen.*

- *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) p. 461

Prayer of Intercession

Let us be at peace within ourselves.

Silence

Let us accept that we are profoundly loved
and need never be afraid.

Silence

Let us be aware of the source of being
that is common to us all
and to all living creatures.

Silence

Let us be filled with the presence of the great compassion
towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

Silence

Realizing that we are all nourished
from the same source of life,
may we so live that others be not deprived
of air, food, water, shelter, or the chance to live.

Silence

Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be
a cause of suffering to one another.

Silence

With humility let us pray for the establishment
of peace in our hearts and on earth.

Silence

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 163

Concluding Collect

God of peace,
let us your people know,
that at the heart of turbulence
there is an inner calm that comes
from faith in you.
Keep us from being content with things as they are,
that from this central peace
there may come a creative compassion,
a thirst for justice,
and a willingness to give of ourselves
in the spirit of Christ.
Amen.

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 464

A Prayer for this Day

Eternal Creator,
through the resurrection of your Son,
help us to face the future
with courage and assurance,
knowing that nothing in death or life
can ever separate us from your love.
This we ask through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- adapted from *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 595

Concluding Sentences

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia

Sermon

The Rev. Deborah Warner

Offertory Sentences

Offertory Music

“How can I keep from singing?”
(Sarah Bach, solo)

arr. by Alan Bullard

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all blessings,
source of all life,
giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life:
for the breath
that sustains life,
for the food of this earth
that nurtures life,
for the love of family and friends
without which there would be no life.

We thank you for the mystery of creation:
for the beauty
that the eye can see,
for the joy
that the ear may hear,
for the unknown
that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder,
for the expanse of space
that draws us beyond the definitions of our selves.

We thank you for setting us in communities:
for families
who nurture our becoming,
for friends
who love us by choice,
for companions at work,
who share our burdens and daily tasks,
for strangers
who welcome us into their midst,
for people from other lands
who call us to grow in understanding,
for children
who lighten our moments with delight,
for the unborn,
who offer us hope for the future.

We thank you for this day:
for life
and one more day to love,
for opportunity
and one more day to work for justice and peace,
for neighbors
and one more person to love
and by whom be loved,
for your grace
and one more experience of your presence,
for your promise:
to be with us,
to be our God,
and to give salvation.

For these, and all blessings,
we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

- *Vienna Cobb Anderson from the website:
[www. belief.net](http://www.belief.net)*

Closing Prayer of Offering

Almighty God;
you give seed for us to sow,
and bread for us to eat;
make us thankful for what we have received;
make us rich to do those generous things
which supply your people's needs;
so all the world may give you thanks and glory.

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1988) p. 141

A Prayer for Our Future

O God, Giver of all good gifts, we thank You for the grace of serving You by serving our neighbors. May our hearts be kind and generous. May our ministry be rooted in love and bold in imagination. Having transformed the Parish and Community Center, may our lives and the lives of all who join us, continue to be renewed by Your love and the power of the Spirit. *Amen.*

Benediction

Greeting

Hymn 559

“Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us”

Dulce Carmen


1 Lead us, heaven - ly Fa - ther, lead us o'er the world's tem -
 2 Sa - vior, breathe for - give - ness o'er us; all our weak - ness
 3 Spi - rit of our God, de - scend - ing, fill our hearts with



pes - tuous sea; guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
 thou dost know; thou didst tread this earth be - fore us;
 heaven - ly joy; love with ev - ery pas - sion blend - ing,



for we have no help but thee, yet pos - ses - sing
 thou didst feel its keen - est woe; yet un - fear - ing,
 plea - sure that can nev - er cloy; thus pro - vid - ed,



ev - ery bless - ing, if our God our Fa - ther be.
 per - se - ver - ing, to thy pas - sion thou didst go.
 par - doned, guid - ed, noth - ing can our peace des - troy.

Postlude

“Allegro moderato”

by Flor Peeters

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Liturgical Leaders

Officiant and Preacher

The Rev. Deborah Warner

Organist

Brittany Lord

Soloist

Sarah Bach, soprano

Flute soloist

Mary Sholkovitz

Musicians and Readers

Dicky Allison, Helen Gordon

Technology

Dicky Allison, Helen Gordon

Altar Guild

Tammy Amon

Flowers

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