

Compline: A Night Service for Healing

St. John's by the Campus Episcopal Church
Ames, IA September 1, 2021

Bl. David Pendleton Oakerhater, Deacon and Missionary +1931 (September 1)

"God's warrior" is an epithet by which David Pendleton Oakerhater is known among the Cheyenne Indians of Oklahoma. He was originally a soldier who fought against the United States government in the disputes over Indian land rights. By the late 1860's Oakerhater had distinguished himself for bravery and leadership as an officer in an elite corps of Cheyenne fighters. In 1875 he and 27 other warrior leaders were taken prisoner by the U. S. Army, charged with inciting rebellion and sent to a disused military prison in Florida. Under the influence of a concerned army captain, who sought to educate the prisoners, they learned English, and gave art and archery lessons to the area's many visitors, and had their first encounter with the Christian faith. The captain's example, and that of other concerned Christians from as far away as New York, had their effect on Oakerhater. He was moved to answer the call to transform his leadership in war into a lifelong ministry of peace. With sponsorship from the Diocese of Central New York and financial help from Mrs. Pendleton of Cincinnati, he and three other prisoners went north to study for the ministry. At his baptism in Syracuse in 1878 he took the name David Pendleton Oakerhater, in honor of his benefactress. He was ordained in 1881 and returned to Oklahoma where he was instrumental in founding and operating schools and missions, though through great personal sacrifice and often in the face of apathy from the Church hierarchy and resistance from the government. He continued this ministry among his people until his death on August 31, 1931. Half a century before, the young deacon told his people: "You all know me. You remember when I led you out to war I went first, and what I told you was true. Now I have been away to the East and I have learned about another captain, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he is my leader. He goes first, and all he tells me is true. I come back to my people to tell you to go with me now in this new road, a war that makes all for peace." (Holy Women, Holy Men)

God works through those who embody the way of Jesus Christ wherever they are planted. Give thanks for those who call us to lives of peace and witness to the goodness around us. Give thanks this week for those people who support your own journey with Christ in today's world.

The Approach

Reader 1: The angels of God guard us through the night,
Reader 2: *and quieten the powers of darkness.*

The Spirit of God be our guide
to lead us to peace and to glory.

It is but lost labor that we haste to rise up early,
and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.
For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep.

Silence

My brothers and sisters, our help is in the name of the eternal God.
who is making the heavens and the earth.

Dear God, thank you for all that is good,
 for our creation and for our humanity,
 for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,
 for the gifts of life and of one another,
 for your love which is unbounded and eternal.

O thou, most holy and beloved,
 my Companion, my Guide upon the way, my bright evening star.

Reader 3: We repent the wrongs we have done:

Silence

We have wounded your love

Reader 4: O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.

Light of the world transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.

Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God,
 in whom we live and move and have our being,
 all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,
 to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to trouble us.

Living flame burn into us,
 cleansing wind, blow through us,
 fountain of water, well up within us,
 that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

The Invocation

Reader 1: Like the first disciples before the coming of God's power at Pentecost,
 We wait in faith, and pray.

Silence

Be with us, Holy Spirit;

Reader 2: nothing can separate us from your love.

Be with us as of old, fill us with your power,

direct all our thoughts to your goodness.

Be present, Holy Spirit;

Bring faith and healing and peace.

Silence

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

The Psalmody
Psalm 96

Reader 5: O sing to the Lord a new song:

Reader 6: sing to the Lord all the earth.

Sing, and give praise to God's name:

tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

Proclaim God's glory to the nations:

God's marvelous deeds to all the peoples.

For you O Lord are great and highly to be praised:

more to be feared than all the gods.

The gods of the nations are no more than idols:

but you O Lord are the one who made the heavens.

Glory and majesty attend you:

strength and beauty are in your sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the nations:

ascribe to the Lord honor and might.

Ascribe due honor to God's holy name:

bring offerings, and enter the courts of the Lord.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

let the whole earth stand in awe.

Proclaim to the nations, 'The Lord is king:

**the Lord has made the world so firm it cannot be moved,
and will judge the peoples with justice.'**

Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad:

let the sea roar and all the creatures in it.

Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them:

**then all the trees of the forest
will shout with joy before the Lord.**

For you O Lord are coming to judge the earth:

**with righteousness you will judge the world,
and the peoples with your truth.**

Psalm 67

Reader 7: Be gracious to us O God and bless us:

Reader 8: and make the light of your face to shine upon us,

That your ways may be known upon the earth:
your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you O God:
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad, and sing for joy:
**for you judge the peoples righteously,
 and guide the nations on earth.**

Let the peoples praise you O God:
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its harvest:
and you our God will bless us.

Your blessing O God be upon us:
and let all the ends of the world revere you.

Psalm 100

Reader 9: Cry out with joy to the Lord all the earth:

Reader 10: **worship with gladness,
 and enter the Lord's presence with songs of joy.**

Know that the lord is God, our maker, whose people we are:
the flock which the Lord our God shepherds.

Enter the gates of the temple with thanksgiving,
 and go into its courts with praise:
give thanks, and bless God's holy name.

For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting:
and whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

The Holy Scripture

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reader 11:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem: for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

(silence for reflection)

Luke 10:1-9

Reader 12:

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on our way. See, I am sending you out like lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ and if anyone is there who share in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

(silence for reflection)

Reader 13: Let us pray:

O God of unsearchable wisdom and infinite mercy, you chose a captive warrior, David Oakerhater, to be your servant, and sent him to be a missionary to his own people, and to exercise the office of a deacon among them: Liberate us, who commemorate him today, from bondage to self, and empower us for service to you and to the neighbors you have given us; through Jesus Christ, the captain of our salvation; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Prayers

Reader 1: God, you are working still, breaking down and building up;
open our eyes to discern your hands
so that we make take our place as laborers together with you.

(p. 614, NZ Book of Common Prayer)

Reader 1: Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,

Reader 2: **For you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.**

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;
Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)

Reader 3: Preserve us, O God, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,
That awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in your peace.

Reader 4: Praise be to God, I have lived to see this day.
God's promise is fulfilled, and my duty done.
At last you have given me peace, for I have seen with my own eyes
the salvation you have prepared for all nations –
a light to the world in its darkness, and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory be to God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Reader 3: Preserve us, O God, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,
That awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in your peace.

Reader 5: Eternal Spirit,
 Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
 Source of all that is and that shall be,
 Father and Mother of us all,
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
 now and forever. Amen.

The Prayers of the People
We pray this night for the healing of our nation and our world.

Reader 6: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed we may live in justice and peace.

God of grace and mercy:

Reader 7: Hear our prayer.

Reader 7: O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect.

God of grace and mercy:

Reader 8: Hear our prayer.

Reader 8: Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Tonight, we pray for the repose of the soul of our beloved parishioner, Joan Herwig. We pray for your healing presence and strength for Carole, and for all who mourn.

God of grace and mercy:

Reader 9: Hear our prayer.

Reader 9: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for

your love's sake.

God of grace and mercy:

Reader 10: Hear our prayer.

Reader 10:

We pray in thanksgiving for our Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of Iowa, Betsey Monnot. We also pray in thanksgiving for Bishop Alan and Donna as they "pass on the torch" and as we move into the plans that God has for us. We give thanks for our rector, Amma Kim; our assisting priest, Mary Jane; our postulant for the diaconate, Greta; and our ministry intern, Chad. We pray for your blessing on the birthdays of Helen Graham (9/1), Pat Kavanagh (9/1), Diane Rioux (9/2) and Diana Walsh (9/2); and the anniversaries of Deb and Jim Fisher (9/1), Diane and Rob Rioux (9/1), Diane and Ed Gillott (9/6) and Vicki and Scott Saienga (9/6).

God of grace and mercy:

Reader 6: Hear our prayer.

Reader 6:

We pray for the people and clergy of our companion Dioceses of Swaziland and Nzara in these troubled times. We also pray for our companions in Brechin, Scotland. We pray for the people suffering from natural disasters in California, Haiti, Louisiana, and Mississippi. And we pray for all refugees fleeing from all conflicts, remembering especially the people of Afghanistan; and all suffering in this pandemic from the lack of shelter, food and livelihood. We pray for peace and healing in our suffering world.

God of grace and mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

Reader 7:

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reader 8: God of the present moment,

God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart;

Bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty.

Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead.

Bring courage to endure what cannot be avoided,

for your will is health and wholeness;

You are God, and we need You. Amen. (p. 747, NZ Book of Common Prayer)

Reader 9: Lord, it is night.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;

what has not been done has not been done;

let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.
In your name we pray. Amen.

Reader 2: God be in my head, and in my understanding.

Reader 3: God be in my eyes, and in my looking;

Reader 4: God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

Reader 5: God be in my heart, and in my thinking.

Reader 6: God be at my end, and at my departing.

Reader 1: To God the Creator,
 who loved us first and gave this world to be our home,
To God the Redeemer,
 who loves us and by dying and rising pioneered the way of freedom.
To God the Sanctifier,
 who spreads the divine love in our hearts,
Be praise and glory for time and for eternity.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!