

Compline: A Night Service for Healing
St. John's by the Campus Episcopal Church – Ames, IA
July 14, 2021 – The Righteous Gentiles

*During World War II thousands of Christians and persons of faith made valiant sacrifices, often at the risk of their own lives, to save Jews from the Holocaust. These “Righteous Gentiles” are honored for courageous action in the face of Hitler’s reign of terror. These faithful servants, together with more than 23,000 others verified to date, are honored at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial overlooking Jerusalem. They are celebrated there as “the righteous among the nations” with a planting of trees and plants along a walkway outside. There is also a complex of memorials that celebrate the cities that sheltered Jews during the war. These “Righteous Gentiles” came from all faiths and many countries in the world including **Raoul Wallenberg**, a Lutheran and Swedish diplomat: he issued Swedish passports to fleeing Jews, and housed many of them in Budapest. **Hiram Bingham IV**, American diplomat and Episcopalian, who arranged escape routes and provided safe haven in his own home, as well as after the war working in Argentina to track the movements of Nazi war criminals. **Carl Lutz**, an evangelical and Swiss diplomat in Budapest negotiated safe passage from Hungary to Palestine for more than 10,000 Jews. **Chiune Sugihara**, an Orthodox Christian, served as Japanese counsel in Lithuania, and provided travel credentials to Jews, violating diplomatic policy. He was removed from Japanese foreign service and lived the rest of his life in disgrace. **Andre and Magda Trocme**, of the Reformed tradition, were French Christians in France during Nazi occupation. They created safe haven for many refugees.*

(A Great Cloud of Witnesses – July 16)

Righteousness comes in many shapes and sizes. How have you recognized our common humanity with others? Look for righteousness in yourself and in others during this coming week. Give thanks.

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 5: 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 6: 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 15

Reader 7: Lord, who may be a guest in your house:

Reader 8: or who may dwell on your holy mountain?

One who leads a blameless life:

who does what is right, and speaks truthfully from the heart.

Whose tongue is free from malice, who never wrongs a friend:

and utters no reproach against a neighbor.

Who does not honor the unworthy:
but makes much of those who fear the Lord.

Such a one stands by a promise given:
though it be at personal disadvantage.

And will not take interest on a loan:
nor accept a bribe to testify against the innocent.

Whoever does all this:
shall never be overthrown.

Psalm 34

Reader 9: I will give thanks to the Lord at all times:

Reader 10: God's praise will always be on my lips.

My soul will glory in the Lord:
the humble will hear and be glad.

O praise the Lord with me:
let us exalt God's name together.

I sought your help O Lord and you answered me:
and freed me from all my fears.

Look towards the Most High, and be radiant with light:
and your faces will not be ashamed.

In my affliction I cried out, and the Lord heard me:
and saved me from all my troubles.

Your angel O Lord keeps guard around those who fear you:
to rescue them in time of danger.

Taste and see how gracious the Lord is:
happy are those who find refuge in the Most High.

Fear the Lord, you that are God's holy people:
for those who fear the Lord are in want of nothing.

Strong lions suffer want and go hungry:
but those who seek the Lord shall lack nothing that is good.

Psalm 111

Reader 1: Praise the Lord! I will thank you O Lord with all my heart:

Reader 2: in the company of the upright in their assembly.

Great are your works O Lord:
and to be studied by all who delight in them.

Your deeds are full of majesty and splendor:
and your righteousness endures for ever.

You have caused your marvelous acts to be remembered:
you Lord are gracious and full of compassion.

You give food to those who fear you:
you keep your covenant always in mind.

You have shown your people your power in action:
by giving them the lands of other nations.

The works of your hands are faithful and just:
and all your precepts are trustworthy.

They stand fast for ever and ever:
they are grounded in truth and justice.

You sent redemption to your people, you decreed your eternal covenant:
holy and awesome is your name.

The fear of you O Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
 those who revere you have good understanding:
your praise shall endure for ever.

The Holy Scripture

Isaiah 55:10 – 56:1

Reader 11:

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and spout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth: it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that for which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and so what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

(silence for reflection)

Matthew 7:24-27

Reader 12:

Jesus said: "Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his

house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell – and great was its fall."

(silence for reflection)

Reader 13:

Let us pray:

Lord of the Exodus, who delivers your people with a strong hand and a mighty arm: Strengthen your Church with examples of the Righteous Gentiles of World War II to defy oppression for the rescue of the innocent; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Prayers

Reader 3: 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 3: Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,

Reader 4: **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 4: 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: 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 4: 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 7: 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 1: 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 2: Hear our prayer.

Reader 2: 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 3: Hear our prayer.

Reader 3: 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.

God of grace and mercy:

Reader 4: Hear our prayer.

Reader 4: 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 5: Hear our prayer.

Reader 5:

We pray for the candidates for the next Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa: Jennifer+, Betsey+ and Elizabeth+. Guide and protect each one of them in the coming days. Give us all discerning minds as we meet these three, and may your Spirit guide all those who will cast electing ballots. We give thanks for the 18 years of Spirit-led service by Bishop Alan and

Donna. And we ask for your blessing on our Rector Amma Kim, assisting priest Mary Jane+, our postulant for the diaconate, Greta; and our ministry intern, Chad.

God of grace and mercy:

Reader 6: Hear our prayer.

Reader 6: We pray for the people of eSwatini caught in the frightening grips of civil unrest as pleas for greater democracy are ignored and denied. We pray for the people and clergy of our companion Diocese of Swaziland whose lives, livelihoods and worship are currently threatened. We pray for the many places of unrest in our world: Haiti, South Africa, Afghanistan, among others.

God of grace and mercy,

Reader 7: Hear our prayer.

Reader 7: Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, we commend to your loving care, all on our parish prayer list. Relieve their pain, guard them from all danger, and restore them through Your healing grace. We give thanks for birthdays this week in our parish of Victoria Schwartz (7/17) and Jeffrey Peterson (7/19). Look graciously on your servants, dear God, and shower your blessings on their coming days.

God of grace and mercy.

ALL: Hear our prayer

Reader 8:

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 9: 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 10: 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!

