

**Agape Meal on Zoom**  
**Church of the Redeemer, Midlothian**  
September 27, 2020 | 6:00pm

**Call to the Feast**

**Deacon:** Out of darkness came light

**Reader 1:** And the power of God was revealed

**Reader 2:** in the running wave and the flowing air,

**Reader 3:** in the quiet earth and the shining stars.

**Deacon:** Out of the dust came life;

**Reader 1:** And the image of God was revealed

**Reader 2:** in the human face and the gentle heart,

**Reader 3:** in the warmth of flesh and the depth of soul

**Deacon:** Out of justice came freedom;

**Reader 1:** And the wisdom of God was revealed

**Reader 2:** in the need to grow and the will to love,

**Reader 3:** in the chance to know and the power to choose.

**Deacon:** And God looked at the creation,

**Reader 1:** And Behold, it was very good.

**Psalm 25:1-8** (led by Reader 3)

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

my God, I put my trust in you; \*

let me not be humiliated,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*

and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*

for you are the God of my salvation;

in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*

for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*

remember me according to your love

and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*

therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right \*

and teaches his way to the lowly.

**PRAYER OF ADORATION**

**Reader 1:** I will keep on thanking God with constant words of prayer. I will glory in the living God: The humble will hear and be glad.

**Deacon:** Let us pray.

Living God, our loving parent; you cherish your creation and We praise you. With earth, air, water, fire: in our element as your children, We praise you. With our lips, with our lives, in all our diversity,

each one made in your image, We praise you. Because, in Jesus, you came to share our human lives, our sorrow and joy, We praise you. Because your Spirit is at work today: encouraging, enabling, surprising us, We praise you. Poor as we are, you give us hope: Salt of the earth, you give us meaning and purpose and We praise you. **Amen.**

**Philippians 2:1-13** (read by Reader 1)

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death--  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Here ends the reading.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Reader 2:** Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it?

**Deacon:** Giving God, you blessed us with saltiness,

**Reader 2:** But we became bland.

**Deacon:** You trusted us with your Word,

**Reader 2:** but we did not keep it.

**Deacon:** You lit a flame in our midst,

**Reader 2:** but we hid it under formality, smothered it with our fears.

**Deacon:** God, in your mercy:

**Reader 2:** Forgive us.

(silence)

**Deacon:** Forgiving God, we believe that you have called us

**Reader 2:** to be salt and light;

**Deacon:** that you offer us time and space and strength

**Reader 2:** to begin again.

(silence)

**Deacon:** Giving and forgiving God,

**Reader 2:** We thank you.

**Deacon:** Have salt in yourself, and be at peace with one another.

### **Matthew 21:23-32** (Read by Deacon)

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Here ends the reading.

## **Sharing the Feast**

**Reader 3:** We are all invited to the common table to share in an Agape Feast. At this table we come as brothers and sisters in the Holy Family of God. Taste and see that God is good.

**Celebrant:** As we share this bread, we thank you, God, for our daily bread for the food which delights and nourishes us and for the companionship that sustains us.

We thank you, too, for drink to quench our thirst and for the Living Water with which you surprise and enrich and transform our lives.

We give thanks for this feast at which all can share, a foretaste of the Holy Realm. **Amen.**

Let us say together the Lord's Prayer:

**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 Blessing**

**Deacon:** God bless each of us as we travel on. In our times of need may we find a table spread in the wilderness and companions on the road. **Amen.**