

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 28th, 2019 at 9.30 am

PRELUDE

Elegiac Prelude (Gerald Bales)

OPENING HYMN 2

When Morning Gilds the Skies

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Dear friends, we gather this morning on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Nation, and we recognize the continuing presence of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in this region.

May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

Gracious Spirit, encouraging, yet not coercing –
**thread through time and engender love and compassion in us,
and through us.**

Challenging Spirit, enlightening, yet not constraining –
**thread through time and enlarge knowledge and understanding in us,
and through us.**

Passionate Spirit, empowering, yet not controlling –
**thread through time and enable freedom and justice in us,
and through us.**

Paradoxical Spirit, engaging with us, yet not graspable by us –
**weave together our time and God's time, that we may know God
at work in us, and through us.**

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

Lord of gifts, share with us a hunger for the bread of your kingdom and give to us a yearning impatience with injustice; through Jesus Christ, our Jubilee. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 18:20-33

Then the Lord said, 'How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.'

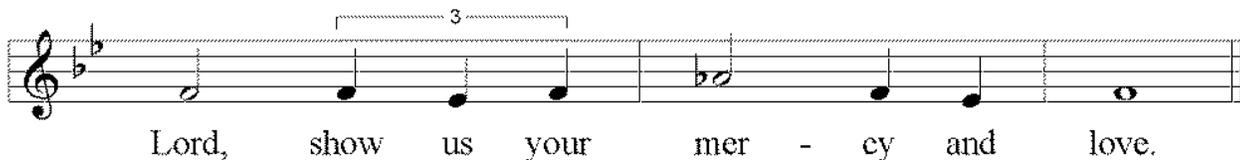
So the men turned from there, and went towards Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?' And the Lord said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.' Abraham answered, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?' And he said, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.' Again he spoke to him, 'Suppose forty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of forty I will not do it.' Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.' He answered, 'I will not do it, if I find thirty there.' He said, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.' Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.'

And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85



You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.
You have withdrawn all your fury
and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.

Restore us then, O God our Saviour; let your anger depart from us.
Will you be displeased with us for ever?
Will you prolong your anger from age to age?
Will you not give us life again, that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

THE SECOND READING

Colossians 2:6–15

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 606

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

THE GOSPEL

Luke 11:1–13

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

HYMN 44

I Believe in God Almighty

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION

Triune God your Spirit brings us many different gifts –
forgive us when we have coveted only the spectacular ones ...

Your Spirit speaks to us through many different voices –
forgive us when we have cut off the disconcerting ones ...

Your Spirit offers us many different insights –
forgive us when we have considered only the comfortable ones ...

Your Spirit invites us into many different moments of possibility –
forgive us when we have closed down the costly ones ...

Spirit of the living God, beyond time, and yet here with us now –
give us the wisdom to receive and treasure all your gifts, the discernment to hear and respond to your voice,

**the understanding to see and follow your patterns,
and the courage to recognise and seize your moments.**

Silence is kept.

Hear and believe these words of Jesus: Your sins are forgiven. ✠ So may you grow in knowledge of Christ's Kingdom, deepen in dependence on its grace, and love in accordance with its measures. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

May you know the peace which the Spirit brings: a peace rooted in love, patience and self-control, shaped by kindness, generosity and faithfulness, marked by gentleness, and crowned with joy.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN 500

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of grace, accept all we offer you this day, as we look toward the glory you have promised. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God our Maker.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God has prepared a room for us: fire to warm our hearts, water to wash our weary feet, the table set and waiting. And now, from beyond time, the breath of the Spirit comes whispering through the fabric of time to call us in.

So come, whether your time is just beginning or many years in the marking; whether your hours are filled and fruitful or wanting and withered; whether you have invested wisely or buried your coins in the ground. For here at this table, through the power of the Spirit, God's time and our time come together in bread and wine, a place of timeless and timely grace.

And we as inheritors in this time of both the challenge and the comfort, join now with all who have made this journey in other places and at other times, raising our voices in the timeless song of praise:

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Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might, heav-en and earth are
 full of your glo-ry. Ho- san - na in the high-est. Bless ed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high-est, ho- san - na in the high - est.

In the beginning, the Spirit brooded time into being so that God could give form to the world. At the Incarnation, the Spirit breathed God's time into being so that the world could receive the Word. Through Pentecost, the Spirit brought transformed time into being so that the Word could be everywhere encountered. Entering these gifts of bread and wine, the Spirit blesses this time so that encounter can comfort, challenge and transform us.

And so, through the remembrance gifted to us by the Spirit, we recall how Jesus, drawing near to the end of his time on earth, ate a last meal with his friends. He took bread, and when he had blessed it, he broke it and said, 'This is my body. It is given for you. Do this to remember me.'

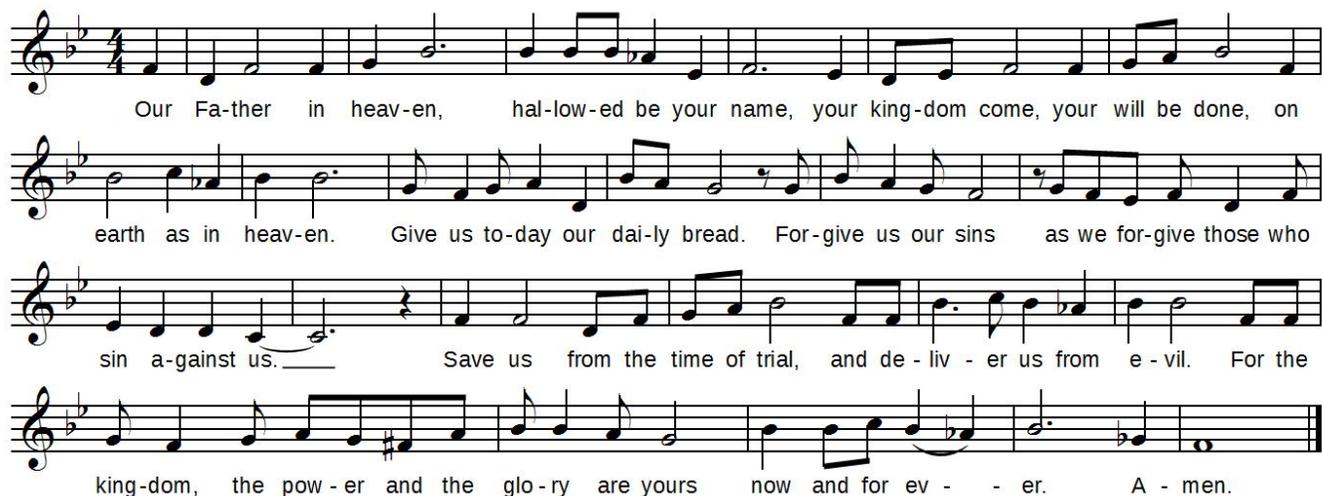
Jesus took a cup of wine, and when he had blessed it, he said, 'This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink it, all of you, to remember me. I shall not share this with you again until I do so in God's coming kingdom.'

We remember how his words and actions disconcerted and dismayed them; but also, how Jesus offered them comfort and encouragement for the time to come – breaking open a loaf of bread, and pouring out a cup of wine to share with them as a sign of his Kingdom, and promising them the companionship of the Spirit as they followed its Way.

And as we share these gifts of grace, may the Holy Spirit take and transform them ✠ that we may know both their comfort and their challenge and so find ourselves and our time in turn transformed. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Jesus taught us, we pray:



Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your name, your king-dom come, your will be done, on
earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we for-give those who
sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of trial, and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the
king-dom, the pow-er and the glo-ry are yours now and for ev-er. A-men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Silence is kept.

Here is bread and wine –

touched and transformed by the Spirit.

Come, eat and drink and be healed and strengthened for this time being
and for time to come.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

Please request a gluten-free wafer if required or a blessing if desired.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

God of grace, we have received the memorial of the death and resurrection of your
Son. May your love, poured into us, bring us to your promises.

We ask this in the name of our Redeemer Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

May the Spirit who mothered creation and enabled Incarnation
continue to form and nurture us as we stumble towards maturity;

The Spirit who led Jesus into the wilderness
stir us out of ease and safety as we follow the way of Christ;

The Spirit who transformed the disciples
grace and gift us for the task of building God's Kingdom;

The Spirit whom Jesus bequeathed
**continue to comfort and discomfort us until justice prevails,
peace reigns and love directs all. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

And now, may God fill you with all joy and peace in believing, and bless you, ✠ so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN 602

Lift High the Cross

DISMISSAL

Go forth in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Sortie brève (Gerald Bales)

Presider & Preacher
Organist

The Reverend Canon Dr Gary Hauch
Dr Gordon Johnston

Liturgy: *For This Time Being: A Pentecost Communion Liturgy*, Pat Bennett, Wild Goose Publications, Iona ©2014. Collect: *Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.* Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV) Anglicized Edition*, © 1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Psalm: ©2001 Gordon Johnston.

To find out what is happening in the parish, please see This Week at St John's (TWSJ) on our website (www.stjohnsottawa.ca) or pick up a hard copy on the table at the Elgin Street entrance.

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