

Pentecost 18, October 4, 2020

Prelude

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the one holy and living God
Glory to God, forever and ever

A Song of Praise (together) Most High, all powerful, good Lord, Yours are the praises, the glory and the honour, and all the blessing. To You alone, most High, do they belong, and no human is worthy to mention Your name. Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, Who is the day and through whom you give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; and bears a likeness of You, Most High One. Praise be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through every kind of weather, through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures. Praise be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste. Praise be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong. Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs,

Collect of the Day (together)

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Lesson: Jeremiah 22:13–16

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages: who says, "I will build myself a spacious house with large upper rooms", and who cuts out windows for it, panelling it with cedar, and painting it with vermilion. Are you a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? says the Lord.

Psalm 148: 7-14

- 7 Praise God from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and winged birds;
- 11 Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, *
leaders and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.

- 13 Let them praise your Name, O God, *
for your Name only is exalted;
your splendor is over earth and heaven.
- 14 You have raised up strength for your people and praise
for all your loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near you. Alleluia!

Second Lesson: Galatians 6:14–18

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule-- peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Third Lesson: from *Saint Francis* by Nikos Kazantzakis

Turning to the birds, Francis leaned over them and began to preach, his arms spread wide. “Sister birds, God the Father of birds and humans loves you greatly, and you are aware of this. This is why when you drink water you lift your tiny heads to heaven after each sip and give thanks to him; why in the morning when the sun strikes your little breasts you fill yourselves with song and fly from branch to branch glorifying his name, the name of the Lord who sends the sun, and the green trees, and song. And you fly high up into the sky so that you can come close to him and hear can hear you. And when your nests are filled with eggs and you are mothers sitting on them to hatch them, God becomes a male bird, sits himself down on the branch opposite, and sings to ease your labors. Sister Sparrows, Sister Doves, consider what gifts God has bestowed upon you; he gave you wings so that you might travel through the air, and down to keep you warm in the wintertime. He scattered many kinds of nourishment over the ground and in the trees so that you would not go hungry. He filled your throats and breasts with song. “welcome to our sisters the swallows, who carry spring to us each year on slender wings....On the day of judgement you, my dear swallows, you before all other winged things, before even the angels with their trumpets, will fly to the cemeteries and begin to chirp above the tombstones, singing out the news of resurrection.

The Gospel: Matthew 11:25–30

Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Sermon & the blessing of the animals

The Rev. Beth Sherman

The Nicene Creed (*The people stand as they are able.*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and became human. For our sake he

was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People (*The people stand as they are able.*)

Reader: Let us be filled with the Holy Spirit and pray for the common good of the whole human family. *In the pause after each bidding, add your own prayers either silently or aloud.*

We pray for the Church, the Body of Christ, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop and Nicholas, our Bishop; for the people of God, gathered from every nation under heaven; may we proclaim in every language, the dawning of a new age. In the **Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the Anglican Church of Tanzania. In the **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the people and clergy of St. Francis', Coventry.

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For the world: For the United Nations and for all dedicated to world peace; may the Spirit's call put an end to division and gather us as one. In this time of COVID, and in a world where racial inequality abounds, bring healing and give us courage to seek justice for all people. We remember especially.....

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For creation: that each person may have a reverence for the earth, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and share the abundance of this earth with generosity and integrity. We remember especially_____

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For those oppressed, afflicted or in need: that we may seek out those who feel unloved or neglected, the prisoner and the stranger, with welcome and care. We remember also those in need of prayer and healing, especially__

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For the needs of the local community: for those whose labor is difficult, for those whose hearts are hurting, for those who are bereaved and for those who have lost their way. For those who serve this community in a wide variety of ministries especially..... May the spirit inspire all of us to place the gifts we have received at the service of the common good.

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For those who have died: that they continue to rest in your love, and discover the joys of eternal life, remembering today

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the blessings of this life, including those celebrating birthdays: Benjamin Brown, Ella Marilyn Krause, Martha Sly and the anniversaries of Michele & Mark Krupkowski and Doug & Mary Cobb.

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

All: O God, who created all people in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever widening circles of fellowship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace *The people stand as they are able*

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Eucharist

At the fraction: *Celebrant:* We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Response: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; in Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.