The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 13, 2020

7:30 Morning Prayer (Zoom)
10:00 Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Nave)
5:15 Compline (Bishop's Garden)

Welcome to St. Luke's Cathedral! We are a community of faith with ancient worship and modern thought, catholic traditions and progressive theology, a Biblical perspective for thinking people, a respect for reason, science, and diversity of perspective, compassion and care for the wider community and one another, and a commitment to radical welcome and inclusion... all modeled on the Kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed. Whoever you are and wherever you may be in your journey through life, we welcome you! Our Education programs and child care services are on summer break. Today we celebrate a spiritual communion only due to Covid-19. We thank you for coming today and hope you will make the Cathedral your spiritual home.

A few notes about or worship during this time of Covid-19

1. We ask that everyone follow six foot distancing and wear masks. Please follow specific instructions in the restrooms in order to keep our spaces safe for everyone.
2. Please refrain from shaking hands or hugging. We suggest bowing or using a “Namaste” greeting at the peace.
3. Please say all responses and prayers to yourself, rather than aloud. Please meditate on the music or hum to the hymns instead of singing.
4. We will not pass the plate but ask that you please leave your offering in baskets at the Cathedral Entrances.
5. If you have a fever or aren’t feeling well, we ask that you stay home and watch our services online.

Our mission: As a “believe out loud congregation,” St. Luke’s welcomes all people to share in the Episcopal Church’s mission to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Jesus Christ. As a cathedral, St. Luke’s is the seat of the bishop and the chief mission church of the Diocese and people of Maine. With its first service held on Christmas Day in 1868, St. Luke’s continues 150 years of reaching out to the city and people of Portland. The Cathedral Church of St. Luke is proud to be part of the 2.5 million member Episcopal Church USA and the 75 million member world-wide Anglican Communion.
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Prelude

Liturgical Prelude No. 1
George Oldroyd

Hymn 690

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
2 O pen now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;

I am weak, but thou art mighty;
let the fire and cloud(y) pillar fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,

hold me with thy powerful hand;
lead me all my journey through;
land me safe on Canaan's side;

bread of heaven, feed me now and ever more.
strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
songs of praises, I will ever give to thee.
Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: God be with you. People: And also with you. Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Lesson Read by Susan McCuller Romans 14: 1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. People: Thanks be to God.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel Read by the Rev. Rebecca Grant Matthew 18: 21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.
“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”


The Sermon
The Very Rev. Benjamin A. Shambaugh, Dean

The Nicene Creed (from Enriching our Worship)
BCP p. 358

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly 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 Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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
Read by the Rev. Suzanne Roberts
Responses by the Rev. Rebecca Grant

An Episcopal Litany for Social Justice (by the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations)
Though written in 2004, these prayers have remarkable relevance for today.

Brothers and Sisters: God commands us through Jesus Christ to love one another. In baptism, we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves and to strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being. Let us now honor those vows and pray for our nation in this election season, for wise and just leaders, and for the needs of others throughout our country and the world.
We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and on everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world.

God of peace and gentleness,
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and address the needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the world; for the rural and urban poor; for the rebuilding of our communities; and for an end to the cycles of violence that threaten our future.

God of generosity and compassion,
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all nations, that they may live in unity, peace, and concord; and that all people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only God can give.

God of liberty and freedom,
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that the Holy Spirit may embrace the most vulnerable members of our society; we pray also for an end to the growing disparity between the rich and poor; and for the grace and courage to strive for economic justice.

God of all gifts and blessings,
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our country and the world; that we will respect all people as precious children of God; and that racism, sexism, and all other forms of discrimination will be forever banished from our hearts, our society, and our laws.

God of fellowship and equality,
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for a reverence of creation; that we will have the tools and the will to conserve it; that we will use its bountiful resources in the service of others; and that we will become better stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

God of nature and the universe,
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all immigrants, refugees, and pilgrims from around the world, that they may be welcomed in our midst and be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

God of outcasts and wanderers,
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, the aged and the infirm; for those with physical or mental disabilities; that all may have access to proper health care; and that God’s loving embrace may be felt by all who suffer.
God of comfort and healing,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all prisoners and captives; that a spirit of forgiveness may replace vengeance and retribution; and that we, with all the destitute, lonely, and oppressed, may be restored to the fullness of God's grace.

God of absolution and mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all children and families, and particularly for the orphaned, neglected, abused, and those who live in fear of violence or disease; that they may be relieved and protected. We pray for victims of the fires in Oregon, Washington, and California. We pray for victims of Covid 19, victims of violence, and racial discrimination and hatred, including Jacob Blake, Aaron Danielson, and those we now name. (pause) We remember those on our prayer list, including Lynn Dalhem, Leslie Massad (sister of Betsy Roadman), Jeffrey Reese, Jack Swanton, Bruce Deuel (brother of Susan Juhl), David Pallozzi (cousin of David Savage), Leslie Dallas Cooper (father of George Cooper), Cecilia Marchetti, Arthur (grandson of John and Georgia Bancroft). Please add your own petitions. (pause)

God of children and families,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the reconciliation of all people, and for the Church throughout the world, that it may be an instrument of your healing love. We pray for the leaders of our nation, our state and our city, for those on the front lines, for our police and firefighters, hospital workers, and all those working for justice.

God of outreach and restoration,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease or famine, especially those who died because of human blindness, neglect, or hardness of heart. We pray especially for Rhett Birdwell (friend of Susana Kise), Maryann Roberts (mother of Parker Roberts), Martha Currier (aunt of Lynne England), Georgianne Matthews (aunt of Ben Shambaugh).

God of eternal life and resurrecting love.

Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear what we ask in the name of your Son. Watch over our country now and in the days ahead, guide our leaders and all who will vote, guide them in all knowledge and truth and make your ways known among all people. In the passion of debate give them a quiet spirit; in the complexities of the issues give them courageous hearts. Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.
The Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

Almighty God, Source of all this is, Giver of every good gift:
You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us.
We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family.

We have desired to live in freedom,
while building walls between ourselves and others.
We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are,
while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or
the varieties of human experience.
We have tried to love our neighbors individually
while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.
Forgive us, Holy God.
Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people.
Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love.
Restore us in your image, to be beloved community,
united in our diversity,
even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit,
Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever.
Amen

Celebrant: May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: May the peace of Christ be always with you.
People: And also with you.

Announcements

Solo O Lord God

Words: The Collect for Sexagesima
Music: Percy Carter Buck

O Lord God, who seest that we put not our trust in anything that we do;
Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Cynthia Morris, cantor
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, in proclaiming your glory as we say:

Celebrant and People
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power of might,
Heaven and earth are full of glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God of all. Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. AMEN.
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us  
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

About communion today: A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. The consecrated bread and wine will be not be consumed but will be reverently disposed of on the holy ground of the Bishop's garden.

Celebrant: Please join in the following prayer:  

from St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer attributed to St Francis BCP p. 833

Celebrant: Let us pray.  
People: Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant: The Wisdom of God the Love of God  
and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ’s hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. Amen.
Hymn 347

Go forth for God, go to the world in peace

(The congregation is invited to follow verses 1, 3, and 4.)

1 Go forth for God; go to the world in peace;
   be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,
in God's good Spirit daily to increase,
till in his kingdom we behold his face.

2 Go forth for God; go to the world in love;
strength en the faint, give courage to the weak;
help the afflicted; richly from above
his love supplies the grace and power we seek.

3 Go forth for God; go to the world in strength;
hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;
render to no one evil; Christ at length
shall overcome all darkness with his light.

4 Go forth for God; go to the world in joy,
to serve God's people every day and hour,
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.

Deacon: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Chorale Improvisation on ‘Cwm Rhondda’

Paul Manz

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Sources: The Hymnal, The Book of Common Prayer, Enriching our Worship, The Holy Bible (NRSV)