**ANTE-COMMUNION SERVICE AUGUST 9, 2020**

*(Pastor Pam to start)*

I wait for the Lord; in his word is my hope. *Psalm 130.4*

**HYMN** Spirit, spirit of gentleness.

Blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness. Stir me from placidness.
Wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, You called to the deep,
Then You coaxed up the mountains. From the valley of sleep,
And over the eons You called to each thing,
"A wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." (Refrain)

You sang in a stable, You cried from a hill,
Then You whispered in silence When the whole world was still,
And down in the city You called once again
When You blew through Your people On the rush of the wind. (Refrain)

You call from tomorrow, You break ancient schemes,
From the bondage of sorrow The captives dream dreams;

Our women see visions, Our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions Your people arise. (Refrain)

**James K. Manley, copyright 1978**

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

be with you all.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God,

*All* **to you all hearts are open, all desires known,**

**and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**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* Glory to God in the highest,

*All* **and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High,**

**Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray:

**Collect**

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit

to be the life and light of your Church.

Open our hearts to the riches of your grace,

that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit

in love, joy, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

**A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF KINGS** (read by Brian Carr)

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ He answered, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.’

He said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ He answered, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.’

1 KINGS 19:9-18

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

**HYMN CP 455 Dear God, compassionate and kind**

Dear God, compassionate and kind,

Forgive our foolish ways.

Reclothe us in our rightful minds,

In purer lives thy service find,

In deeper reverence, praise,

In deeper reverence, praise.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,

O calm of hills above,

Where Jesus knelt to share with thee

The silence of eternity

Interpreted by love,

Interpreted by love

Breathe through the heats of our desire

Thy coolness and thy balm;

Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;

Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,

O still small voice of calm,

O still small voice of calm.

**A READING FROM PSALM 85** (read by Audrey Shepherd)

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.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, AMEN.

PSALM 85:8-13

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS** (read by Philip Isaacson)

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" ROMANS 10:5-15

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

**HYMN** **CP 565 Guide me O Thou great Jehovah**

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,

Pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty;

Hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,

Feed me till I want no more,

Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain

Whence the healing stream doth flow;

Let the fiery cloudy pillar

Lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,

Be thou still my strength and shield.

Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,

Bid my anxious fears subside;

Death of death, and hell’s destruction,

Land me safe on Canaan’s side:

Songs of praises, songs of praises

I will ever give to thee.

I will ever give to thee.

*(Deacon Jacquie)*

*Reader* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Reader* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

MATTHEW 14:22-33

*Reader* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**SERMON: Deacon Jacquie Bouthéon**

**PIANO SOLO: CP 402** **Confitemini Domino**

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

Confitemini Domino, quoniam bonus.

Confitemini Domino, alleluia!

**The Apostles’ Creed**

*Celebrant* Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

*All* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

 **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**The Prayers of the People**  (led by Beverly Baird)

Loving God you nurture and nourish us, hear our prayers and fill us with the abundance of your grace, that all people may know and feel the goodness of your presence. As we join in prayer today in these uncertain times, to the petition, ***Lord in your mercy, let the response be, hear our prayer.***

We pray for our church, our Bishops, Linda, Andrew and Kevin, and our clergy, Pam, Roy and Jacquie. Give courage and wisdom to all leaders in your church that they may provide the pastoral care needed by so many in our community in this time of pandemic. ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

As we battle Covid 19, enlighten those who are flippant or careless, those who believe “it can’t happen to me”. Help us all to think beyond our own convenience, our own risks, our plans and our fears and reach out to others who are vulnerable in ways we cannot comprehend***. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

These days there are so many hungry people. Bless every food bank such as our own, community gardens, meal programs, and aid organizations that feed the hungry. Help us to endow poor communities with skills and resources to feed themselves and be a blessing to many others***. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

Give courage, patience and ingenuity to everyone whose job or business is endangered by the quarantine and uncertainty. Help us support one another by patronizing local small businesses in our community. ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

We pray for the dedicated scientists who seek to understand the infection’s nature, to slow or prevent its spread and to mitigate the suffering it causes. Bless all the doctors, nurses, technologists and emergency room personnel, who daily risk their lives for the sake of us all. ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

We pray for the victims of the terrible destruction in the city of Beirut, those who have died, their families and the many who have been seriously injured in the disaster. ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

We pray for the families and friends of those who are sick or have died and those needing our prayers whom we name in this moment of silence –-----------. Let your healing spirit ease their suffering and give them strength to face the days ahead. ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.***

Most gracious Father, we praise and glorify you because your love endures forever. In your great mercy, draw near and make good your purpose for us. Keep us steadfast in faith, bold in witness, generous in sharing, cheerful in helping, gentle in exhorting, frequent in forgiving, and constant in thankfulness to you. **AMEN**

*Father Roy*

**Confession and Absolution**

*Celebrant* Dear friends in Christ,

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;

he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.

Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Most merciful God,

*All* **we confess that we have sinned against you**

**in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,**

**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us,**

**that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy upon you,

pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*All* **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

**Closing prayer** Father, receive all we offer you this day,

and grant that in this act of worship

we may be enriched by the gifts of the Spirit.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

**Doxology**

*Celebrant* Glory to God,

*All* **whose power, working in us,**

**can do infinitely more**

**than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation,**

**in the Church and in Christ Jesus,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING:** The peace of God, which passes all understanding,

Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God

And of his son Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and those you love, now and always.

**AMEN**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HYMN CP 371 To God be the Glory**

To God be the glory, who great things has done!

God so loved the world, freely sending the Son,

Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Refrain*

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear God’s voice.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

And give God the glory, who great things has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

To every believer the promise of God:

That when the offender, repenting, believes,

Through Jesus’ atonement, God’s pardon receives. *Refrain*

Great things God has taught us, great things God has done,

And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

But purer and higher and greater will be

Our wonder, our gladness, when Jesus we see! *Refrain*