**ANTE-COMMUNION SERVICE JULY 26, 2020**

*(Pastor Pam to start)*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. *John 6.68*

**HYMN** **CP 354 Come, thou Fount of every blessing**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious measure,
sung by flaming tongues above;
O the vast, the boundless treasure
of my God's unchanging love.

Here I make faith's affirmation:
thus far by thy help I've come,
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

*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**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,

without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy,

increase and multiply upon us your mercy,

that with you as our ruler and guide,

we may so pass through things temporal,

that we lose not the things eternal;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

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

**A READING FROM PSALM 105** (read by Leonora Benjamin)

The Lord has always been mindful of his covenant.

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, and speak of all his marvellous works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Search for the Lord and his strength; continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, O children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the Lord our God; his judgements prevail in all the world.

He has always been mindful of his covenant, the promise he made for a thousand generations:

The covenant he made with Abraham, the oath that he swore to Isaac,

Which he established as a statute for Jacob, an everlasting covenant for Israel,

Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan to be your allotted inheritance." Praise the Lord!

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 105:1-11, 45b

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS** (read by Dushy Manickam)

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:31b-39

HYMN **CP 628 – O Love How Deep! How Broad!**

O love, how deep! How broad! How high!

It fills the heart with ecstasy,

That God, the Son of God, should take

Our mortal form for mortals’ sake.

He sent no angel to our race

Of higher or of lower place,

But wore the robe of human frame

Himself, and to this lost world came.

For us he prayed, for us he taught,

For us his daily works he wrought,

By words and signs, and actions, thus

Still seeking not himself but us.

*(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.**

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

*Reader* The Gospel of Christ.

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

**SERMON: Pastor Pam Trondson**

**SOLO CP 458 Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God (feat. Monica Francis, Bill Wilkins, and Leonora Benjamin)**

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

And God’s righteousness,

And all these things shall be added unto you.

Alleluia, alleluia.

*Refrain*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

Alleluia, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you;

Seek and ye shall find;

Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.

Alleluia, alleluia.

*Refrain*

**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 Hyacinth Harvey)

Just as the Spirit intercedes with deep sighs, let us turn our hearts to the will of God and offer prayers for all God's people, saying: Holy God, *Hear our prayer.*

For the Church: especially for Linda our Primate, Andrew and Kevin, our bishops, Pam and Roy our priests, Jacquie our deacon and all who serve in our parish, that in all our ministries we may have the courage to risk everything in seeking the reign of God. Holy God, ***Hear our prayer.***

For this parish family, that we may be conformed more perfectly to the image of Christ. Holy God, especially as we confront the challengers of preparing to return to our places of worship. Holy God, ***Hear our prayer.***

For all who are working to defeat the coronavirus, that God will give strength to all healthcare workers, insight to those seeking treatments and cures, and patience to all who face daily challenges because of the disease. Holy God, ***Hear our prayer.***

For all who are working for justice, that God will help them to remind society of the truth about human dignity and inspire their words to unlock hearts and move people to action. Holy God, ***Hear our prayer.***

For all who are traveling, that God will watch over them on their journey and bring them safely to their destination. Holy God, ***Hear our prayer.***

For all throughout the world who face hardship, distress, persecution, famine, and violence, and for those in need of our prayers (SILENCE), that nothing will separate them from the love of God in Christ. Holy God, ***Hear our prayer.***

For all the departed, remembering especially who have died from COVID-19 and the victim of violence and unrest, that having been justified, they may rejoice forever in the joy of God's love.

Holy God, ***Hear our prayer.***

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary, the God-bearer, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. God of infinite wisdom, who searches the heart of every one, hear our prayers and grant that we who have found great treasure in your Son may grow into the fullness of your Kingdom, where you live in loving union in the eternal Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. ***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** 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**

**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 388 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken v 1 2 4**

Glorious things of thee are spoken,

Zion, city of our God;

He whose word cannot be broken

Formed thee for his own abode.

On the rock of ages founded,

What can shake thy sure repose?

With salvation’s walls surrounded,

Thou mayest smile at all thy foes.

See! The streams of living waters,

Springing from eternal love,

Well supply thy sons and daughters

And all fear of want remove.

Who can faint, when such a river

Ever flows their thirst to assuage?

Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,

Never fails from age to age.

Saviour, if of Zion’s city

I through grace a member am,

Let the world deride or pity,

I will glory in thy name.

Fading is the world’s best pleasure,

All its boasted pomp and show;

Solid joys and lasting treasure

None but Zion’s children know.

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