

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 4, 2021

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: "This is my song"

**This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine;
this is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine:
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine:
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**

Land Acknowledgment

Celebrant St. Dunstan's stands on the traditional land of the Ho-Chunk people. The forced removal of the Ho-Chunk is part of our national legacy of white supremacy and violence. I acknowledge with humility the historical and contemporary trauma faced by the Ho-Chunk and other Native peoples, and ask God to help make all who belong to this place healers, reconcilers, and repairers of the breach. May our prayers today strengthen us to become the Beloved Community.

Opening Verse, Confession & Absolution

Officiant Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us examine our lives in the presence of God, humbly confessing our sins and opening our hearts. I invite you to bow your head, or take some other posture of humility before God.

A brief silence for reflection follows.

Officiant Most merciful God, 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.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Officiant 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.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

The Priest pronounces absolution, saying,

Our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins. God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to abundance of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

Hymn #8, verse 1

**Morning has broken, like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

The Collect of the Day

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray. O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Reader A reading from the second book of the prophet Samuel.

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The Lord said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel." So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inwards. And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading: Mark 6:1-6

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

.Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Miranda Hassett

Readings

1. Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence, signed July 4, 1776.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

2. George Washington's letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, August 1790

"The Citizens of the United States of America have a right to applaud themselves for having given to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy: a policy worthy of imitation. All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support."

3. African-American leader Sojourner Truth's speech to the 1851 Women's Convention

"That little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him. If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be

able to turn it back , and get it right side up again! And now they are asking to do it, the men better let them.”

4. African-American leader Frederick Douglass, July 4th speech to the people of Rochester, New York, 1852

“This, for the purpose of this celebration, is the 4th of July. It is the birthday of your National Independence, and of your political freedom. This, to you, is what the Passover was to the emancipated people of God. It carries your minds back to the clay, and to the act of your great deliverance; and to the signs, and to the wonders, associated with that act that day. ... I am not included within the pale of this glorious anniversary! Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us. The blessings in which you, this day, rejoice, are not enjoyed in common. The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me. The sunlight that brought life and healing to you, has brought stripes and death to me. This fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn.”

5. Susan B. Anthony, Declaration of Rights of the Women of the United States, July 4, 1876

“From the beginning of the century, when Abigail Adams, the wife of one president and mother of another, said, "We will not hold ourselves bound to obey laws in which we have no voice or representation," until now, woman's discontent has been steadily increasing... It was the boast of the founders of the republic, that the rights for which they contended were the rights of human nature. If these rights are ignored in the case of one-half the people, the nation is surely preparing for its downfall. Governments try themselves. The recognition of a governing and a governed class is incompatible with the first principles of freedom... Now, at the close of a hundred years, as the hour-hand of the great clock that marks the centuries points to 1876, we declare our faith in the principles of self-government; our full equality with man in natural rights; that woman was made first for her own happiness, with the absolute right to herself - to all the opportunities and advantages life affords for her complete development; and we deny that dogma of the centuries, incorporated in the codes of all nations – that woman was made for man – her best interests, in all cases, to be sacrificed to his will. We ask of our rulers, at this hour, no special favors, no special privileges, no special legislation. We ask justice, we ask equality, we ask that all the civil and political rights that belong to citizens of the United States, be guaranteed to us and our daughters forever.”

6. Speech by Chief Joseph (of the Nez Perce tribe) in Washington D.C., 1879

“If the white man wants to live in peace with the Indian, he can live in peace. Treat all men alike. Give them all the same law. Give them all an even chance to live and grow. All men were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers. The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it. You might as well expect the rivers to run backward as that any man who was born free should be contented penned up and denied liberty to go where he pleases. We asked to be recognized as men. We ask that the same law shall work alike on all men. Let me be a free man—free to travel, free to stop, free to work, free to trade where I choose, free to choose my own teachers, free to follow the religion of my fathers, free to think and talk and act for myself—and I will obey every law, or submit to the penalty.”

7. The New Colossus, Emma Lazarus, Jewish American poet, 1883

This is the poem on the base of the Statue of Liberty.

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glowes world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

8. Martin Luther King, Jr., from his Letter from the Birmingham Jail, 1963

I have not said to my people: "Get rid of your discontent." Rather, I have tried to say that this normal and healthy discontent can be channeled into the creative outlet of nonviolent direct action. And now this approach is being termed extremist. But though I was initially disappointed at being categorized as an extremist, as I continued to think about the matter I gradually gained a measure of satisfaction from the label. Was not Jesus an extremist for love: "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Was not Amos an extremist for justice: "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream." Was not Paul an extremist for the Christian gospel: "I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." ... And Abraham Lincoln: "This nation cannot survive half slave and half free." And Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal . . ." So the question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or for love?

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Almighty God: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

The Prayers

Priest We now enter a time of prayer. You may wish to bow your head, open your hands, or prepare your body for prayer in some other way.

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Now, let us pray as God's beloved children, using the prayer Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Send prayer requests to to prayers@stdunstans.com.

Officiant Let us continue in prayer. We will hold up our needs and blessings to God. You can speak your prayers out loud, type them into the Chat area, or hold them in your heart. As you are able, please hold others' prayer requests before God in your heart as well.

Let us pray for all churches and their leaders, and for all God's people everywhere.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for all those in authority.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for all nations and peoples.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for the earth and the whole created order.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for our local communities.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for those in any need or trouble, especially those on our parish prayer list:

You are invited to name others in need of prayer, and to hold up your own struggles to the light of God's love.

The people may offer additional names.

Officiant Let us pray for all who have died, and for those who mourn.

The people may offer additional names.

Officiant Let us pray for our common life and work as God's people.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Priest Eternal God, creator and ruler of heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of Blessings

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you!**

We greet one another, wishing one another the peace of Christ.

The Blessing

Priest God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Sending Hymn: "O beautiful for spacious skies"

Hymn #719

**1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His* grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!**

* Or their

**2. O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine!**

**3. O Beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw;
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!**

*The final two lines are part of Katharine Lee Bates' original poem,
but are not included in the version in our Hymnal.*