

# The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 24, 2022

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: "Seek ye first"

Hymnal #711

**1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
And its righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you,  
Allelu, alleluia.**

**Chorus:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.**

**2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you,  
Seek and ye shall find;  
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you,  
Allelu, alleluia.**

**Chorus**

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.**

*Officiant* Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

### The Collect of the Day

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant* Let us pray. 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.**

### The First Reading

*Reader* A reading about prayer from the Irish peace activist Pádraig Ó Tuama.

Neither I nor the poets I love have found the keys to the kingdom of prayer and we cannot force God to stumble over us where we sit.

But I know that it's a good idea to sit anyway.

So every morning, I kneel, waiting, making friends with the habit of listening, hoping that I'm being listened to.

There, I greet God in my own disorder.

I say hello to my chaos, my unmade decisions, my unmade bed, my desire and my trouble.

I say hello to distraction and privilege, I greet the day and I greet my beloved and bewildering Jesus.

I recognise and greet my burdens, my luck, my controlled and uncontrollable story.

I greet my untold stories, my unfolding story, my unloved body, my own body.

I greet the things I think will happen and I say hello to everything I do not know about the day.

I greet my own small world and I hope that I can meet the bigger world that day.

I greet my story and hope that I can forget my story during the day, and hope that I can hear some stories, and greet some surprising stories during the long day ahead.

I greet God, and I greet the God who is more God than the God I greet.

Hello to you all, I say, as the sun rises above the chimneys of North Belfast.

Hello. *[pause]*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Introduction to the Psalm

Psalm 138, selected verses

*ICEL Psalter*

**I thank you with all I am.**

**I join Heaven's chorus.**

**I bow toward your holy temple,**

**To praise your name.**

**As soon as I call, you act,  
renewing my strength.**

**Though high up, you see the lowly;**

**Though far away, you keep an eye on the proud.**

**Lord, take up my cause.  
Your love lasts for ever.  
Do not abandon  
what your hands have made.  
Amen.**

### The Second Reading

*Reader* A reading about prayer from the author Anne Lamott.

Anything you say from your heart to God is a prayer.

Prayer means that we believe we're invited into a relationship with someone who hears us, when we speak in silence.

Prayer is talking to something or anything with which we seek union, even if we are bitter or insane or broken. (In fact, these are probably the best possible conditions under which to pray.)

Prayer is taking a chance that against all odds and past history, we are loved and chosen, and do not have to get it together before we show up.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### The Gospel Reading: Luke 11:1-13

*Celebrant* A reading from the gospel of Luke.

Jesus was praying in a certain place.

I wonder what that kind of place it was?

I wonder if there are certain places where you like to pray? ...

I wonder if there are any places where you *can't* pray? ...

After Jesus had finished praying, one of his followers said to him, "Lord, teach US how to pray!

John the Baptist taught HIS disciples how to pray..."

So Jesus said to them, "When you pray, pray like this:

Father, let your name be held sacred.

Let your kingdom come.

Give us each day our bread for the day ahead.

And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us into times of testing."

And then Jesus said, "Suppose you had a friend.

And you went to your friend's house at midnight.

And you knocked on the door and said,

"Friend! Friend! Lend me three loaves of bread!

I have a guest in my home and nothing to feed them!"

Your friend might say, "Don't bother me!

I've already locked the doors for the night;

My children are tucked into bed with me, and maybe the dog or cat too... we are all warm and cozy... I can't get up and give you anything!"

Well, said Jesus, maybe your friend won't get up and help you because of your friendship.

But if you JUST ... KEEP... KNOCKING...

He'll get up and help you because of your persistence.

Because you kept asking.

So, Jesus said, I say to you: Ask for what you need, and it will be given to you.

Search, and you'll find what you're looking for. Knock, and the door will open.

Listen - if a child you love asks you for a fish, will you give them a snake instead?  
Or if a child you love asks for an egg, will you give them a SCORPION instead?  
So if ordinary imperfect people like you know how to give good gifts to your children, then don't you think God knows how to give the gift of the Holy Spirit, and all good gifts to God's children, when you ask?...

*Celebrant* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## The Homily

The Rev. Miranda Hassett

## The Prayers

*Officiant* 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.

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant* 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](mailto: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.

*Officiant* 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.*

*Officiant* 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

*Officiant* Does anyone have any blessings or celebrations to share with the assembly today?

## The Peace

*Officiant* 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.*

## Announcements

## The General Thanksgiving

*Officiant* As we conclude our time together this morning, let us say the Prayer of General Thanksgiving. Our Voice of the People will lead us; you are invited to read along at home while muted.

*All:*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and lovingkindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,**

**and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

The Dismissal

*Officiant*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*          **Thanks be to God!**

The Lord's Prayer - Message Version

**Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are.  
Set the world right; do what's best— as above, so below.  
Keep us alive with three square meals.  
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.  
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.  
You're in charge! You can do anything you want!  
You're ablaze in beauty! Yes! Yes! Yes!**

*(The Message Bible, Matthew 6:9-13)*