

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: "I want to walk as a child of the light"

Video prepared by Deanna Clement and Tom McAlpine in 2021

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 Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;

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

Psalm 128

Happy are they all who fear God, *

and who follow in God's ways!

You shall eat the fruit of your labor; *

happiness and prosperity shall be yours.

Your spouse shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, *
your children like olive shoots round about your table.

Those who fear God *
shall thus indeed be blest.

May God bless you from Zion, *
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

May you live to see your children's children; *
may peace be upon Israel.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

The First Lesson: Genesis 29:15-28

This lesson will be presented as an excerpt from last week's Drama Camp.

Morning Canticle: Psalm 57:6-11

Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, *
and your glory over all the earth.

My heart is firmly fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; *
I will sing and make melody.

Wake up, my spirit; awake, lute and harp; *
I myself will waken the dawn.

I will confess you among the peoples, O God; *
I will sing praise to you among the nations.

For your loving-kindness is greater than the heavens, *
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, *
and your glory over all the earth.

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:31-33

Reader A reading from the gospel of Matthew.

Jesus put before the crowds 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."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Miranda Hassett

Call to Prayer for Creation: Romans 8:19-26

Leader

Creation waits with eager longing

for the fulfillment of God's plans.

For creation was made subordinate to pointlessness,

Enslaved to futility.

But we live in hope that creation too will be liberated from decay,

into the freedom of the glory of God's children.

All creation is groaning and laboring together

in the birth pangs of God's future.

And the Spirit helps us in our weakness when we don't know how to pray,

Praying with us in sighs too deep for words.

Leader

We pray for all places, animals, plants and ecosystems that we love. *Pause.*

We pray for all places, animals, plants and ecosystems that are endangered by climate change. *Pause.*

We pray for all those working to minimize, mitigate, or adapt to climate change. *Pause.*

We pray for ourselves. Guide us to actions that protect and renew. *Pause.*

All creation is groaning and laboring together

in the birth pangs of God's future.

And the Spirit helps us in our weakness when we don't know how to pray,

Praying with us in sighs too deep for words.

The Prayers

Officiant We now continue in 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.

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.

The Collect of the Day

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 Officiant may read one of the following Collects as well:

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting One, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of Blessings

Officiant Does anyone have any particular joys, blessings or gratitudes 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.**

You may wish to trace the sign of the cross on your body during the blessing.

Officiant Go in peace. Love God. Keep the commandments. Give alms to the poor and in as much as within each of you lies, live at peace with all people. May the blessing of God, the Mystery we know as Christ, and the Holy Spirit rest and remain deep in your heart this day and always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**