

Zoom Worship for Sunday, October 1, 2023

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Words of Welcome

Pet Blessings

The Priest blesses individual animals and their owners, saying,

_____, I bless you in the name of the One who creates, the One who befriends, and the One who comforts and encourages.

May God bless and keep you, and _____ who love you, all the days of the life you share. Amen.

Closing Prayer at the conclusion of the Pet Blessings

Officiant

Holy God: No sparrow falls without your attention; nothing dies that is lost to you; nothing comes into being without your love. Give us just and compassionate hearts, that we may serve the earth and all its creatures, holding fast to the vision of your peaceable reign in which all will live with you eternally; through the Risen One, Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Hymn: "There's a wideness"

Hymn #470

Words: Frederick W. Faber, Oratory Hymns 1854. Music: "Beecher," John Zundel, 1815-1882.

**1. There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.**

**2. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.**

**3. For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.**

Opening Verse, Confession & Absolution

Officiant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors. I invite you to bow your head, or take some other posture of humility before God.

People

God of all mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves,
and in the world you have created.**

We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have

**done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us,
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will.
Amen.**

Officiant May God forgive us; may we forgive one another and ourselves, and be at peace.
For Christ brings reconciliation to all the human race, and the whole of creation.
Amen.

(Adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book - Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)

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.**

Officiant Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; come let us adore God.

Song of Faith: A Canticle of God's Grandeur

Gerard Manley Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil.

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil crushed.

Why do men then now not reckon his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell:

the soil is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent World broods

with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;

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

The First Reading: From *Morals on the Book of Job*, St. Gregory the Great (540-604)

Reader A reading from the work of Saint Gregory the Great.

If a dead man is raised to life, everyone jumps up in astonishment. Yet every day someone is born, and nobody is seized with wonder, though it is plain to everybody that it's a greater thing for something to be created out of nothing than for something that already existed to be restored. Because the dry rod of Aaron budded, everyone was astonished; yet every day a tree grows from the dry earth, and the virtue residing in dust is turned into wood, and no one wonders at it. Because five thousand men were filled with five loaves, all were in astonishment that the food should have multiplied in their teeth; yet every day the grains of seed that are sown are multiplied in a fullness of ears, and no one wonders at it. All were amazed to see water once turned into wine. But every day the earth's moisture is being drawn into the root of the vine, and turned by the grape into

wine, and no one wonders at it. Full of wonder, then, are all the things which we never think to wonder at, because we are so used to them that we never think about them.

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him." Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Homily

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.

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 the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always. In the beginning,
God was.

Here and now,
God is.
In the future,
God will be.

Officiant

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Pause. The people may name individuals or groups that work for the good of the planet.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Pause. The people may name aspects of our local habitat: plants, animals, water systems, etc.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and bless the places and people, creatures and ecosystems who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

Pause. The people may name particular people, places, and living things suffering due to environmental harm and climate change.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, give us wonder and appreciation for all creatures and living things, including those whose place in your creation we do not understand, and awaken us daily to our dependence upon the web of life that surrounds us.

Pause. The people may name particular creatures and living things.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Divine Physician, heal our communities and our world, especially where neglect, injustice or violence inflict suffering; and give our leaders compassion and courage.

Pause. The people may name particular needs and particular leaders, local and global.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help, especially....

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

Pause. The people may name those in any need or trouble.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died, especially... , and those whom you may name now.

Pause. The people may name their beloved dead.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant

God, maker of marvels, you weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship; your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone, and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who topples the dividing walls by the power of your Holy Spirit, and who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Sharing of Blessings

Officiant Does anyone have any blessings or celebrations to share with the assembly today, or birthdays or anniversaries to share?

The Passing of the Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you!

People **And also with you!**

Announcements

The Blessing & Dismissal

Celebrant Holy God, your mercy is over all your works,
and in the web of life each creature has its role and place.
We praise you for ocelot and owl, cactus and kelp, tide and topsoil.
Give us humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones,
And share the bounty of creation with all our neighbors.
And the blessing of the Holy and Undivided Trinity be upon us, now and always.
Amen.

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**