

# Zoom Worship for Sunday, October 15, 2023

## The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: "Sing to the Lord of harvest"

*Video prepared by Rachel Behrens in 2021*

Opening Verse, Confession & Absolution

*Officiant* Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, that God may come and rain righteousness upon us. Amen.  
(Hosea 10:12)

I invite you to bow your head, or take some other posture of humility before God.

*A brief silence for reflection follows.*

*Officiant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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: Psalm 106:1-3, 19-23, 45

Alleluia! Give thanks, for the Holy One is good;\*

**God's mercy endures for ever.**

Who can declare the mighty acts of God \*  
**or show forth rightful praise?**

Happy are they who act with justice \*  
**and always do what is right!**

Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb \*  
**and worshiped a molten image;**

And so they exchanged their Glory \*  
**for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.**

They forgot you, their Savior, \*  
**who had done great things in Egypt,**

Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, \*  
**and fearful things at the Red Sea.**

So you would have destroyed them,  
had not Moses your chosen stood before you in the breach, \*  
**to turn away your wrath from consuming them.**

You remembered your covenant with them \*  
**and relented in accordance with your great mercy.**

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

The First Lesson: Philippians 4:1-9

*Reader* A reading from the letter of Paul to the church in Philippi.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

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

Canticle: A Song of God the Creator (Psalm 104, selected verses)

**Bless the Holy One, O my soul!**

**You send the springs into the valleys;  
they flow between the mountains.**

**All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them,  
and the wild donkeys quench their thirst.**

**Beside them the birds of the air make their nests  
and sing among the branches.**

**All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.  
Bless the Holy One, O my soul. Hallelujah!**

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

*Reader* A reading from the gospel according to Matthew.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen." Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

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

The Sermon

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 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*

Let us pray. Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Creation Season Collect for October 15*

Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things, for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Sharing of Blessings

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

## The Passing of the Peace

*Officiant* You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 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 may 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!**