

❖ Zoom Worship for Sunday, November 12, 2023 ❖

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

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.

Song of Faith: Psalm 78:1-8

Hear my teaching, O my people;*

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;*

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known, and what our forebears have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come your praiseworthy deeds and your power, O God, *
and the wonderful works you have done.

You gave your decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, *
which you commanded them to teach their children;

That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn, *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

So that they might put their trust in you, *
and not forget your deeds, but keep your commandments;

And not be like their forebears, a stubborn and rebellious generation, *
**a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
and whose spirit was not faithful to you.**

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: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Reader A reading from the Book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: A Song of God's Future (Isaiah 25:6-9)

**On this mountain our God will destroy
the shroud that is cast over all peoples and nations;
God will swallow up death forever.**

**Then the Holy One will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and will take away the disgrace of all peoples of the earth.**

**And on that day we will say, Lo! This is our God;
we have waited for you, O God, so that you might save us.
This is the Holy One for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation.**

The Second Lesson: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Sister Pamela Pranke, OP

The Prayers

Officiant We will continue in prayer. Let us hold a brief silence now, while we allow things to come into our minds and hearts that we want to hold in prayer with our community today, or blessings we would like to share.
A brief silence is kept.

Officiant You may wish to bow your head, open your hands, or prepare your body for prayer in some other way.

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 the communities where we live.
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, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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?

When all have been shared:

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 Blessing & Dismissal

Officiant 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. And 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.**

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**