

Zoom Worship for Sunday, September 8, 2024

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome & Silence

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 **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. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. 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. Amen.**

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.**

**Glorify 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 84:1-6

How dear to me is your dwelling, O God of hosts! *

**My soul has a desire and longing for your courts;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, *
by the side of your altars, O God of hosts, my Ruler and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house; *
they will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you; *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,*
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height;*
the God of gods will be revealed in Zion.

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: 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-24, 27-30, 41-43

Reader A reading from the first book of Kings.

Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand... But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive. Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: A Song of Holy Wisdom (Wisdom of Solomon chapter 7)

**Wisdom is a breath of the power of God,
and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty.
She is a reflection of eternal light,
and an image of divine goodness.
In every generation she passes into holy souls
and makes them friends of God, and prophets;
for God loves nothing so much
as the person who lives with Wisdom.
She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other,
and she orders all things well.**

The Second Reading: James 2:1-10, 14-17

Reader A reading from the letter of James.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Miranda Hassett

See Solomon readings, end of this document.

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 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. In this election season, we pray especially for all candidates for public office, and for all those charged with the responsibility of casting a vote.

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. Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Officiant may read one of the following Collects as well:

A Collect for Peace

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. **Amen.**

A Collect for Joy in Creation

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to recognize your gracious hand in all your works, that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of the One through whom all things were made, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **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

O God, our Creator and Sustainer, in whom 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.**

Birthdays Blessings & Sharing of Blessings

Officiant Does anyone have a birthday or anniversary to share? ...

Does anyone have any other kind of blessing or thanksgiving they'd like to share with the assembly today?...

The Passing of the Peace

Celebrant 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!**

Celebrant Let us speak Christ's peace to one another. ...

Announcements

Closing Prayer & Dismissal

Officiant

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, lichen and whale; we honor you for whirlwind and lava, tide and topsoil, cliff and marsh.

Give us hearts and minds eager to care for your planet,
humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones,
justice to share the resources of the earth with all its inhabitants,
and love not limited by our ignorance.

This we pray in the name of Jesus, who unifies what is far off and what is near,
and in whom, by grace and the working of your Holy Spirit, all things hold together.

And may God the Holy and Undivided Trinity bless us and keep us, this day and forever more.

Amen.

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

ALL ABOUT KING SOLOMON....

Background: 2:1-3, 5a, 6

When David's time to die drew near, he charged his son Solomon, saying: 'I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, be courageous, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes... so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn....' *David then instructs Solomon on several people he needs to eliminate, including General Joab. By the end of chapter 2, Solomon successfully kills off all these people, as well as other potential threats to his throne, including his half-brother Adonijah.*

2:46: "So the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon."

Then comes what we heard last week: God gives Solomon the gift of wisdom.

3:12-13: God says, "Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you."

*Immediately the text offers us a demonstration of Solomon's wisdom: **the infamous Baby Splitting story**. Interestingly, this is the only story of Solomon's wisdom we get in 1 Kings...*

Coda to this episode: **1 Kings 3:28**

"All Israel heard of the judgement that the king had rendered; and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him, to execute justice."

READING 1: 1 Kings 4:1-2, 6-7; 20; 25-27.

King Solomon was king over all Israel, and these were his high officials: Azariah son of Zadok was the priest; [etc., etc.] ... and Adoniram son of Abda was in charge of the forced labour. Solomon had twelve officials over all Israel, who provided food for the king and his household; each one had to make provision for one month in the year... Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea; they ate and drank and were happy... During Solomon's lifetime Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, all of them under their vines and fig trees. Solomon also had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen. Those officials supplied provisions for King Solomon and for all who came to King Solomon's table, each one in his month; they let nothing be lacking.

Remember 1 Samuel 8, the prophet Samuel's warning to the people: Kings take!!

READING 2: 1 Kings 4:29, 32-34.

God gave Solomon very great wisdom, discernment, and breadth of understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east, and all the wisdom of Egypt... He composed three thousand proverbs, and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He would speak of trees, from the cedar that is in the Lebanon to the hyssop that grows in the wall; he would speak of animals, and birds, and reptiles, and fish. People came from all the nations to hear the wisdom of Solomon...

READING 3: 1 Kings 5:4-5; 13-18

Solomon said, 'Now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. So I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to my father David, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name."...' King Solomon conscripted forced labour out of all Israel; the levy numbered thirty thousand men. He sent them to the Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts; they would be a month in the Lebanon and two months at home... Solomon also had seventy thousand laborers and eighty thousand stonecutters in the hill country... At the king's command, they quarried out great, costly stones in order to lay the foundation of the house with dressed stones.

READING 4: 1 Kings 6:19-22

A sample of the lavish descriptions of the Temple Solomon had built for God...

The inner sanctuary [Solomon] prepared in the innermost part of the house, to set there the ark of the covenant of the Lord. The interior of the inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high; he overlaid it with pure gold. He also overlaid the altar with cedar. Solomon overlaid the inside of the house with pure gold, then he drew chains of gold across, in front of the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold. Next he overlaid the whole house with gold, in order that the whole house might be perfect...

READING 5: 1 Kings 7:6-7, 10

Having completed the Temple in seven years, Solomon started work on his own palace, which was larger and took thirteen years to build.

“He made the Hall of Pillars fifty cubits long and thirty cubits wide. There was a porch in front with pillars, and a canopy in front of them. He made the Hall of the Throne where he was to pronounce judgement, the Hall of Justice, covered with cedar from floor to floor... The foundation was of costly stones, huge stones, stones of eight and ten cubits. There were costly stones above, cut to measure, and cedar wood...”

Details follow of the elaborate metalwork prepared for the Temple.

That brings us to today's lesson, the dedication of the Temple.

READING 6: 1 Kings 9:3-8... After the Temple is dedicated, God appears to Solomon again:

‘I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you made before me; I have consecrated this house that you have built, and put my name there for ever; my eyes and my heart will be there for all time. As for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my ordinances, then I will establish your royal throne over Israel for ever, as I promised your father David... [BUT] If you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut Israel off from the land that I have given them; and the house that I have consecrated for my name I will cast out of my sight... This house will become a heap of ruins; everyone passing by it will be astonished, and will hiss; and they will say, “Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this house?”’
Hold that thought!!

Later in that same chapter we circle back to the forced labor that was used to accomplish all Solomon's great building projects - not just the Temple and the palace, but the walls of Jerusalem, several new cities, and more. The text explains that they took the people living in the land who were not Israelites and made them slaves; but they didn't enslave any Israelites, so that's fine. Instead they just had to work for the king, one month out of every three months; but they worked as soldiers, and overseers for the slave labor, so that wasn't so bad, right? ...

In chapter 10, the Queen of Sheba hears of Solomon's wealth and wisdom, and makes a state visit.

1 Kings 10:4-7

When the queen of Sheba had observed all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his valets, and his burnt-offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord, it took her breath away. So she said to the king, ‘The report was true that I heard in my own land of your accomplishments and of your wisdom, but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. Not even half had been told me; your wisdom and prosperity far surpass the report that I had heard.’

READING 7: 1 Kings 10:14-15, 18-21, 23-24

The weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold, besides that which came from the traders and from the business of the merchants, and from all the kings of Arabia and the governors of the land... The king also made a great ivory throne, and overlaid it with the finest gold. The throne had six steps. The top of the throne was rounded in the back, and on each side of the seat were arm rests and two lions standing beside the arm rests, while twelve lions were standing, one on each end of a step, on the six steps. Nothing like it was ever made in any kingdom. All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver—silver was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon.... Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. The whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind. Every one of them brought a present, objects of silver and gold, garments, weaponry, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year.

And then, a sudden pivot:

READING 8: 1 Kings 11:1-4, 9-10, 43

King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the Israelites, 'You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you; for they will surely incline your heart to follow their gods;' Solomon clung to these in love. Among his wives were seven hundred princesses and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. For when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David... Then the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this matter, that he should not follow other gods; but he did not observe what the Lord commanded...

Solomon slept with his ancestors and was buried in the city of his father David; and his son Rehoboam succeeded him.