Worship in the Home

Sunday after Pentecost





"Come...Be a Part of Peace!"

2600 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach FL 32034 904.261.6306 www.poplcweb.org

July 5, 2020

In this time of world-wide crisis, we are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Use this resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship.



Set out and light a candle and you may wish to have a bowl of water as a reminder of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Service of the Word

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel, sit or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
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.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

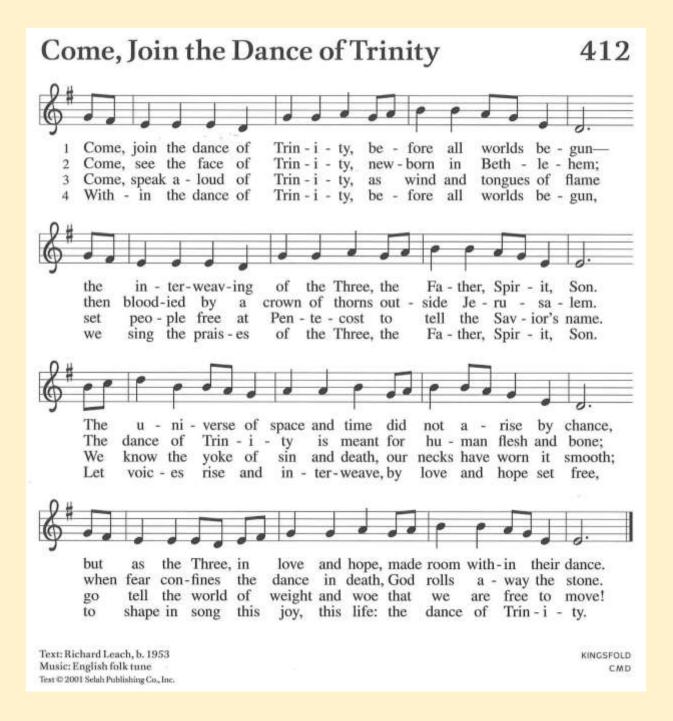
Amen.

Devotional Music

You might now sing or read "Come, Join the Dance of Trinity"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation -

https://youtu.be/MiBJTcTFThY



Kyrie



Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy: Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.

The Prayer of the Day may be prayed.



You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



Then the first reading for this Sunday may be read, as follows.

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:8-14 May be sung or read in response to the First Reading.



⁸The LORD is gracious and full [|] of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in [|] steadfast love.

⁹LORD, you are | good to all, and your compassion is over | all your works.

¹⁰All your works shall praise | you, O LORD, and your faithful | ones shall bless you.

¹¹They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom and speak | of your power,

¹²that all people may know | of your power and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through- out all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all [|] those who fall and lifts up those who [|] are bowed down.

Then the second reading for this Sunday may be read, as follows.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Then the gospel reading may be read, as follows.

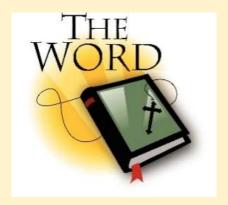
Gospel: 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] 16"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; 19the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." ²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**





Sermon--Pastor Ida Iverson

"LET US LEAVE OUR BURDENS WITH JESUS"

Friends in Christ, grace, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

There is a lot going on in the gospel lesson this week, maybe even more than meets the eye at first. My first thought was that Jesus could himself be a bit weary. This seems to be a place he has been before where he has done deeds of healing and driving out of demons, but they don't seem to be able to recognize him for that or even what John the Baptist had been doing. No, instead they say because of John's unusual dietary habits and where he chose to stay...he had a demon. As for Jesus himself, they looked at him as a glutton and drunkard because of what and where he chose to eat and drink, and they really did not like the company he kept. Tax collectors and sinners, totally unacceptable. Well you almost have to feel sorry for tax collectors since they still get a bum rap today...nobody likes a tax collector. No, Jesus is saying there is just no pleasing the people...they cannot share in your joy or your mourning.

Yet, as I read through these verses, I thought could Jesus just be a bit weary himself? We know that many times after he had preached, done healings or driven out demons he would go off by his self to pray. Here he prays to his Father because even though the understanding of his ministry was hidden from the intelligent, but the infants...those who would have had no standing in the community, understood who he was or they were willing to ask questions so that could understand. How many times after told a story/parable to a group of people that the disciples would ask him later, "What did that mean?"

Then my next thought went to burdens and what burdens you and I would want to be rid of today. If it were normal times I would have had two post-it notes placed on each of the bulletins and invite you to write down what makes you weary and what burdens you would want to get rid of. Then, as you as you went back to you place after communion or at the end of the service, you could place them on the wall that had poster board with a heading of "WEARY" or "BURDENS". But we are not in normal times. I thought about what makes me weary and burdens that I would like to give up. So, I will let you know what would be on my lists: news would be top of my list right next to masks. The other things on my list would be family (no details there), uncertainty of finances, health, world affairs, racial issues, what to fix for dinner or would I rather just like to grab a bag of chips and a pint, no a quart or maybe a half gallon of ice cream and call it a night.

Anybody willing to call out what is making you weary or a burden you would like to be rid of? Even if you are just reading this at home, it might be helpful to write them down or speak them out loud. When we admit what it is that is bothering us, it can actually be beneficial to our attitude. It can be freeing.

Those of you that have heard me preach or read some of the things that I have written know that the verses 26-30 are some of my favorites, right behind "With God nothing is impossible". Jesus is inviting us to be yoked with him, inviting us to be in relationship with him which means he will share our burdens and lighten our loads, which in turn will take away our weariness. We will be able to see different possibilities available to us, new avenues that we can take. It will not mean that we will never have challenges or frustrations, but we will find that there is help and hope available for us.

That is what happens when there is love in a relationship. There is caring and a willingness to lighten the burdens that we are carrying. Yet, we are a people of determination. From the time we are little, we start saying, "No, me do it myself!" and we continue doing that into adulthood. Even when people offer to help us, we will turn them down. Could that be the cause of our weariness and the heavy burdens that we keep dragging along with us?

The past few months have been difficult for everyone. I do not know a person who has not become weary from it and have had extra burdens placed upon themselves. Plans had to be changed, vacations canceled, questioning whether it is even safe to go to the grocery store. We were told if we just all stayed at home, washed our hands, wore a mask, do not wear a mask, yes you have to wear a mask, wipe down every surface you touch, do not touch your face, social distance when you encounter another person. Last week that was changed such that we can no longer say social; it is not politically correct and we need to say keep physical distance now. The experts told us if we did all of that we would flatten the curve and life as we knew it would return.

The experts were wrong. It has not seemed to work, so is it time for us to say; "Jesus, I cannot do this alone anymore. I need your help. I know that this is not going to go away quickly, but let me place my weariness and burdens with you to find rest for my soul. Let me humble myself before you and say, I need your help to lighten this load and together you will give me all that I need and even more, than as I wail with those who mourn and can dance to the flute because in you we have life and hope." Amen.



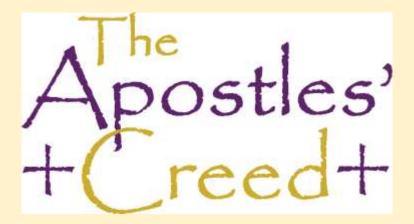
Hymn of The Day

You might now sing or read "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation -

https://youtu.be/IHR1PQ5YwLo





Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Then read the prayers of intersession, as follows.

Prayers of Intercession

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our nation. Guide our leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Free us from divisions that hinder relationship-building. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick or oppressed. Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. We ask you to especially guard and keep these we name before you either silently or aloud: Clay Chaffee, Lucy Creel, Tammy Nicholson, those who serve in the military, Donna and Orv Lind, Katherine Holmberg, Nick Ivanovic, Francine Newman, Bill Mungo Sr., Jo Kruer, Lloyd Cotner, Lill Ekwall, Greg Olive, Baby William, Angie Hayward, Dalton Thrift, Lynn & Joe Aresse, the Family of Wendy Andree at her death, those dealing with the Covid-19 virus whether they are healing from it or have a fear contacting it.

We give thanks for all the prayers you have answered by the power of the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this congregation. Bless pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders. Energize children's ministry volunteers, church administrators, and those who maintain our building. Shine in this place that we might notice the ways your love transforms our lives.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of joy, be with Ted Richardson, Victoria Kilcawley on their birthdays this week along with Deborah (Meitin) & Michael Watson their anniversary.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those who have died in faith. Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Let us pray as Jesus taught us,



Lords Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Then speak the Blessing:

The blessing of the living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen.**

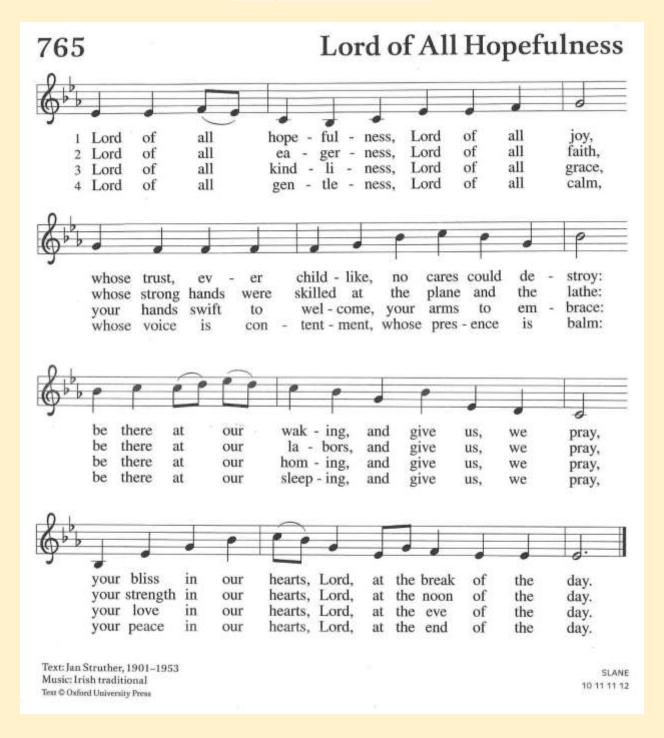


Sending Hymn

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

Click the following link for audio presentation that includes the verses to sing

https://youtu.be/IHR1PQ5YwLo



Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; Go in peace to love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

Readings of the Week:

Sunday after Pentecost Zechariah 9:9-12, Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday after Pentecost Isaiah 55:10-13, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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IN NEED OF PRAYER

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Osprey Village

Lloyd & Jane Cotner - Room 3106 Katherine Holmberg- Room 101

Savannah Grand

Jo Kruer - Room 332 Mary Jordan- Memory Care Unit



At Home

Emmy Lou Sorum / Billy Foster / Gertie Schreffler / Michele Pester / Clay Chaffee / Dorothy Schwager/ Ted Wessel / Lloyd Cotner/ Orv Lind / Donna Lind / Nick Ivanovic / Bill Mungo Sr./ Lloyd Cotner / Jo Kruer / Lill Ekwall / Lucy Creel

Yvonne Bowman & Family at death of husband Harry Bowman The Family of Wendy Andree at her death



Lt. Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, Valdez, AK (son of Glen & Norma Beyer)

Lt. J.G. Eric Strommel, Kings Bay, Subbase, GA

Lt. Col. Laura Laskowski, Air Force Intelligence, stationed in Boston, Massachusetts (daughter of Sue Whitman)

Andy Shook, US Army, (son of Ricky Shook)

Corporal, James Ryan Kruer, Beaufort Marine Corp. Air Station, Beaufort, S.C.

(grandson of Jo Kruer)

Sgt. Rob Kinnard (Afghanistan)

Components of an Effective Prayer

"A" ADORATION Worship of God, First for who He is, Second for all His benefits

"C" CONFESSION If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from unrighteousness

"T" THANKSGIVING Gratitude to GOD for His blessings

"S" SUPPLICATION Expressing our petitions to GOD for individual and specific needs and desires

Keeping Our Prayer List Up to Date ...

Call our Church Office to add friends and family to our prayer list.

We often can all use as many prayers as we can get.