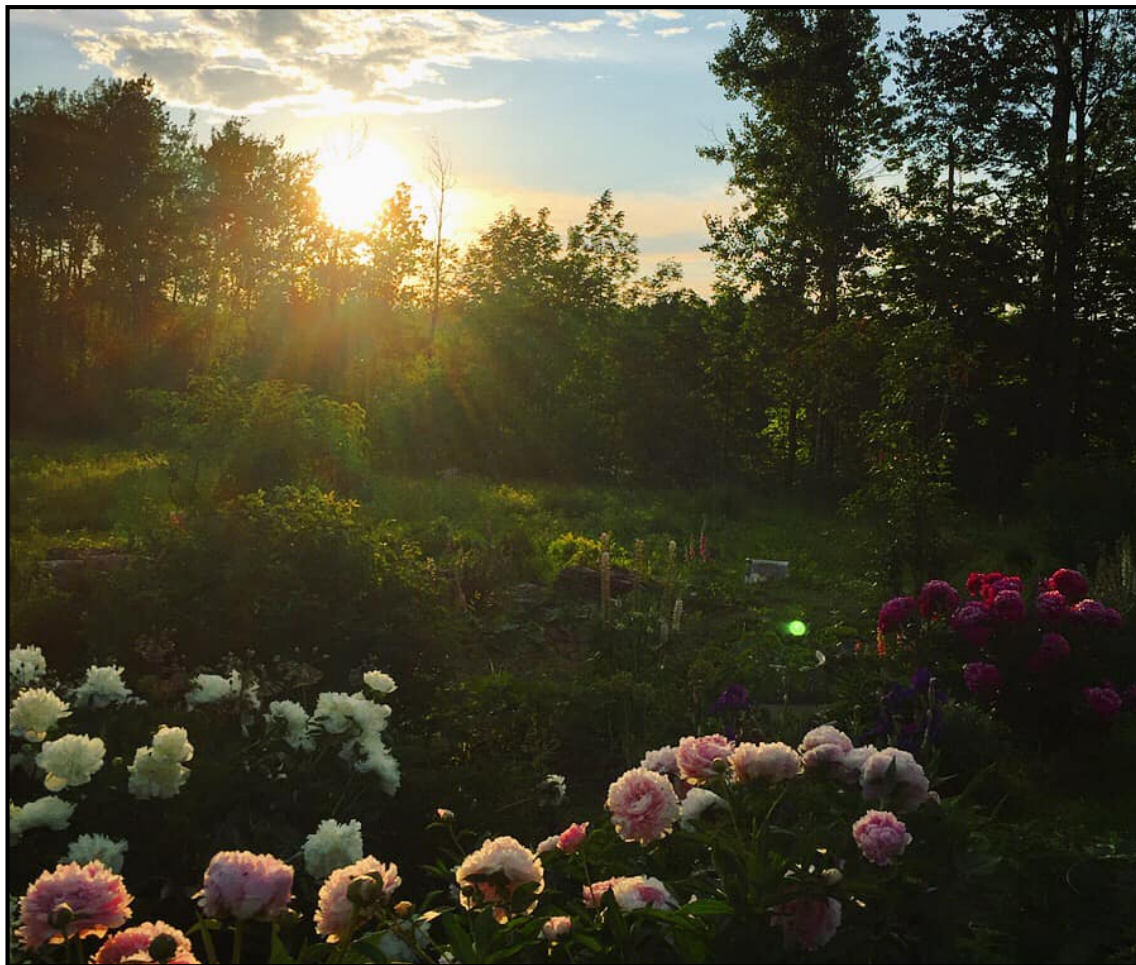


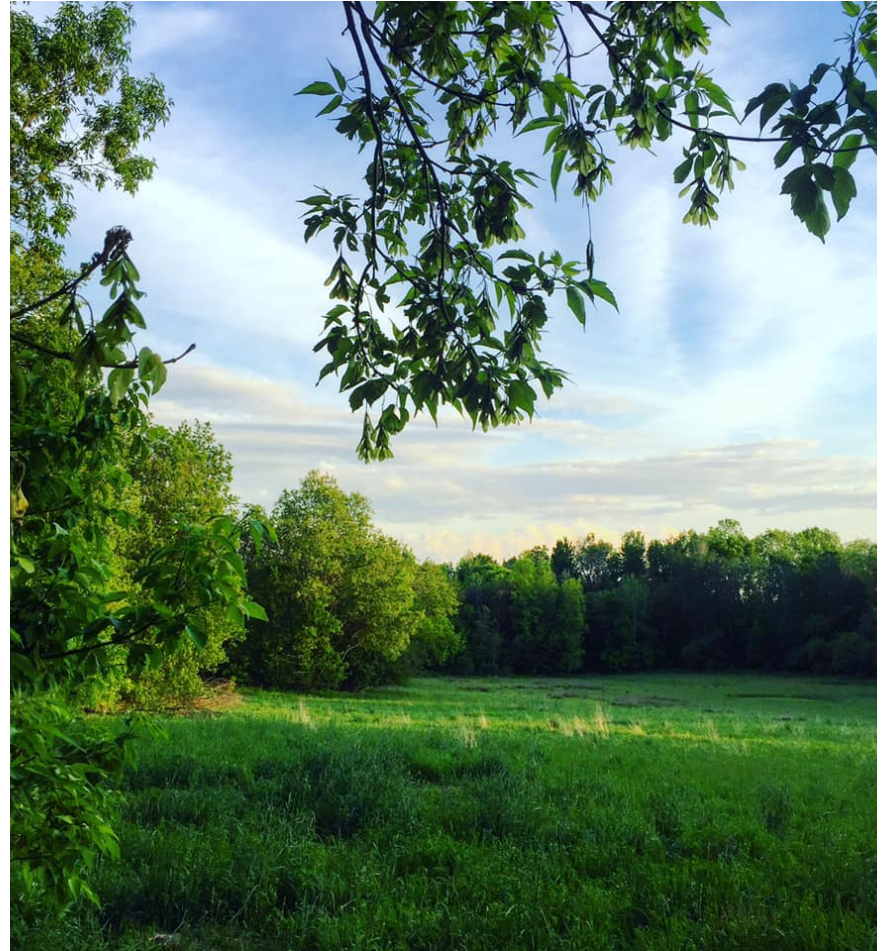
A Digital Project of the Regional Ministries of Brome-Missisquoi & Châteauguay



A Service of Morning Prayer for
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (5 July)

A Prayer for Community

Once again, we enter into a virtual gathering place. We worship together in spirit and in truth, though not in person. We pray, sing, and listen to God's Word despite all the fear and darkness that pervades our world. God is with us. The Holy Spirit is among us, blowing with a wind of hope and renewal. Christ is present in our midst.



How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

How sweet the name of Jesus
sounds in a believer's ear!

It soothes our sorrows,
heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary, rest.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.

How weak the effort of my heart,
How cold my warmest thought;
But when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought.

Till then I would your love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of your name
Refresh my soul in death.

Territorial Acknowledgment

In this holy time and place, we acknowledge with respect that we gather on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Abanaki and Mohawk first peoples.

May the living Christ lead us all on pathways of reconciliation and peace.



Confession & Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy:

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 neighbours 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.

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Opening Responses

Lord, open our lips
**And our mouth shall
proclaim your praise.**

Glory to God, Source of all being,
eternal Word, and Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

The earth is the Lord's, for he
made it:
O, come let us worship.



The Venite

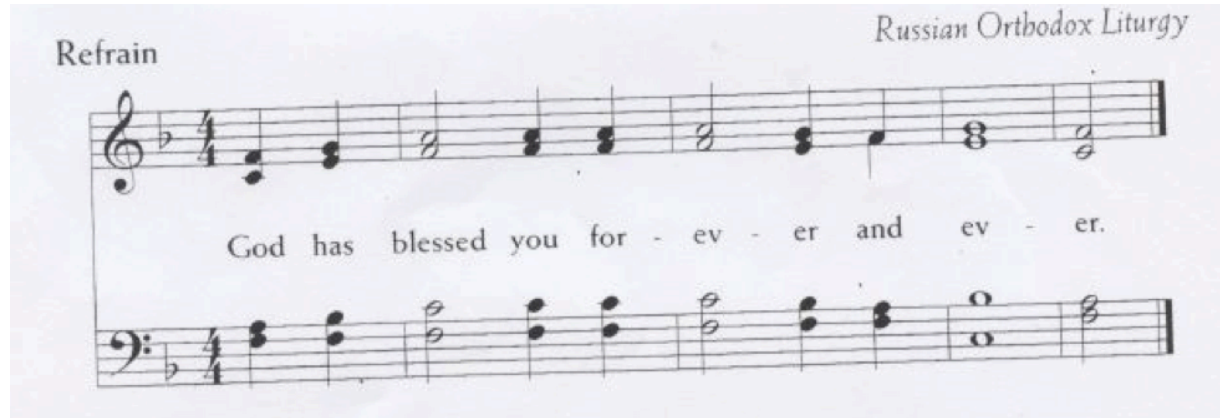
Come, let us sing to God on high,
The Rock of our salvation praise;
Come with thanksgiving
to God's courts
And joyful psalms before Him raise.

For God is Lord above all gods,
The heights and depths are
in His hand;
God made the sea and it is His,
God's hands have molded
the dry land.

Let us bow down and worship God
Who is our maker and our Lord;
We are God's people and His sheep;
Today, then, hearken to God's Word.



Psalm 45



Refrain: God has blessed you forever and ever.

My heart overflows with a noble theme;
I utter the song I have made for the king,
My tongue like the pen of a ready scribe.

**You are the fairest, the most handsome,
God endows your speech with grace.
God has blessed you forever.**

Refrain.

Gird your sword on your thigh, Oh hero,
In splendour and majesty.

**In your majesty ride on to conquer
In the cause of truth and justice.**

Let your right hand teach by awesome deeds,
Arrows sharp in the heart of royal enemies.

**The nations shall fall at your feet.
Your divine throne endures forever.**

Your royal sceptre is righteousness,
You love right and hate what is wrong.

**Your God has anointed you
With more oil of gladness than all
your peers.**

All your garments are fragrant
With myrrh, aloes, and cassia.

**Out of the ivory palaces
Stringed music makes you glad.**

Refrain.

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The servant said to Laban, “I am Abraham’s servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’

“I came today to the spring, and said, ‘O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, ‘Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,’ and who will say to me, ‘Drink, and I will draw for your camels also’ —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’

“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.” Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

A Canticle of Zachariah

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them
free. You have raised up for us a mighty
Saviour, born of the house of your servant
David. Through your holy prophets, you
promised of old to save us from our
enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant. This
was the oath you swore to our father
Abraham: to set us free from the hands of
our enemies, free to worship you without
fear, holy and righteous before you, all the
days of our life. And you, child, shall be
called the prophet of the Most High, for you
will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender
compassion of our God the dawn from on
high shall break upon us, to shine on those
who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death, and to guide our feet into the way of
peace. "



Romans 7:15-25

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but 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. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!



Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit,
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus said to the crowd, “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the 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.” At 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; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All 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. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”



The Sermon

The Rev. Tim Smart



Confession of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God, *singing*...

We believe in God the Father, God Almighty by whose plan, earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began. We believe in Christ the Saviour, Son of God in human frame, virgin-born, the child of Mary, upon whom the Spirit came.

Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led, suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead. We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign, to the Father's side ascended 'till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit; in one Church, below, above: Saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love. So by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Saviour, Lord, and friend, we shall rise with him in glory to the life that knows no end.

Prayers of the People

Led by Ron Frizzle (Brome Parish)

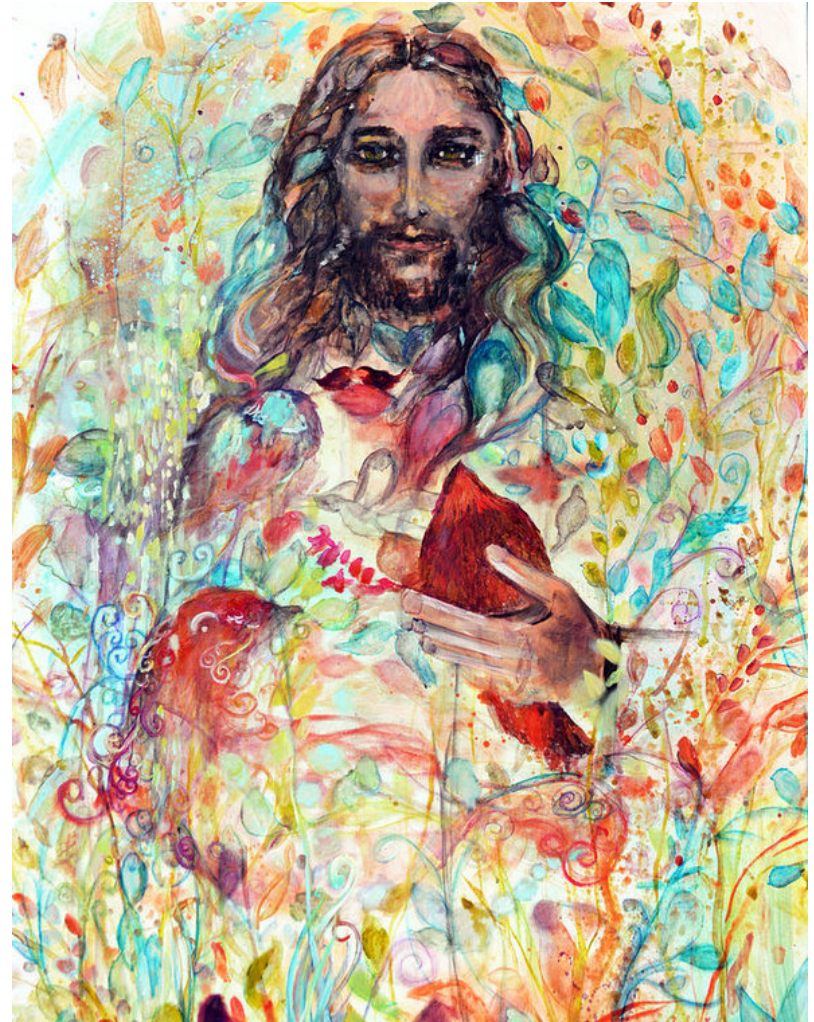
Response: Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.



The Collect of the Day

Lord of heaven and earth,
whose Son came eating and
drinking, exposing the rivalry that
tears the world apart: may we
share his feast and friendship, and
lay our burdens in his liberating
arms; through Jesus Christ,
Wisdom's child.

Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux, que ton nom soit sanctifié, que ton règne vienne, que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel. Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour. Pardonne-nous nos offenses, comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés. Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation mais délivre-nous du mal. Car c'est à Toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire, pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.

The Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning when
the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I
danced on the earth:
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen,
for James and John;
They came with me
and the dance went on:

I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame:
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me on high,
And they left me there on a cross to die:

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all,
wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Blessing and Dismissal

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

