

Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost

August 23, 2020



"Who do you say that I am?" - Anna Muelling

Territorial Acknowledgement

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

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



"Into the Night" - Linda Gould

Hymn - Lift High the Cross - # 602 (ref. Gospel)

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!

1. Come, Christian people, sing your praises, shout!
If we are silent, even stones cry out.

Refrain

2. Jesus, you wept to see our human strife:
teach us compassion for each human life.

Refrain

3. Peace was your plea, and peace your loving theme:
let peace be our passport, peace a living dream.

Refrain

4. Great is the cost of walking on this road,
to follow and suffer with the Son of God.

Refrain

5. Worlds to be born and children yet to be,
come, take up this song into eternity.

Refrain

Confession and Absolution

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 might delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name.

Amen.

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.



"I am who you say I am" -Charla Maarschalk

Lord, open our lips,

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

Alleluia!

The Lord is our refuge and our strength:

O come, let us worship.



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.



"Cool Waters" - Beth Williams

Psalm 124

“If God had not been at our side,”

now let Israel say:

“If God had not been at our side
when mortals rose up against us,

then they would have swallowed us alive
when their fury was roused against us.

Then the flood would have swept us away,
and the torrent would have covered us.

Then the raging waters
would have gone right over our heads.

Refrain

But praised be God:
who has not given us as a pray to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird
from the hunter's snare,
The snare is broken and we are free.

Refrain

Refrain 1

Arlo D. Duba 1980

Our help comes from God the mak-er of heav-en and earth.

A reading from the book of Genesis,

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the

people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I

The Song of Moses (Exodus 15.1-3, 6, 11, 13, 17-18)

I will sing to the Lord for his glorious triumph;
the horse and rider he has hurled into the sea.
The Lord has become my strength and refuge;
the Lord himself has become my saviour.

He is my God and I will praise him;
my father's God and I will exalt him.
The Lord himself is a mighty warrior;
the Lord, the Lord is his name.

Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power;
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.
Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods,
holy, awesome, worker of wonders?

In steadfast love you led your people,
you guided your redeemed with your great strength.
You brought them in safety to your holy place,
and planted them firm on your own mountain.
You brought them into your own house.
The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.



"Mother and Child by the Sea" - Johan Christian Dahl

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans,

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Hymn - Through All the Changing Scenes - # 613 (ref. Psalm)

1. Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.

2. O magnify the Lord with me,
exalt the sacred name;
when in distress to heaven I called,
God to my rescue came.

3. The guardian hosts encamp around
the dwellings of the just;
deliverance they provide to all
who in God's shelter trust.

4. O make but trial of God's love;
experience will decide
how blest and favoured are they all
who in this love confide.

5. Fear God, you saints, and you will then
have nothing else to fear;
let service be your life's delight;
your wants shall be God's care.

6. To Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
the God whom we adore
be glory, as it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew,

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Sermon

Who changes the course of history?

When the king of Egypt grew worried about the exploding numbers of Hebrew slaves, he summoned two midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, and instructed them to murder all Hebrew male newborns.



"Puah and Shiphrah Defy Pharaoh" by Sallie Clinton Poet

An Affirmation of Faith

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 Pontious 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.



"Elder portrait: Saint Peter" - Peter Paul Rubens

The Prayers of the People



"Heaven's Door" - Tim Stewart

The Collects

Almighty God,
we are taught by your word
that all our doings without love are worth nothing.
Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtue;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



"The Leigh Russell Memorial Panel" - Lucy d'Souza

The Lord's 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 them 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.



Shiphrah and Puah

Hymn - Onward Christian Soldiers - #499 (ref. Gospel)

1. Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, royal master, leads against the foe;
forward into battle, see, his banners go.

Refrain

Onward, Christian soldiers,
marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus going on before.

2. At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee:
on, then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
brother's, lift your voices; loud your anthems raise.

Refrain

3. Crowns and thrones may perish,
kingdoms rise and wane,
but the church of Jesus constant will remain:
gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail;
we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.

Refrain

4. Onward, then, ye people, join our happy throng,
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song:
glory, laud, and honour unto Christ the King,
this through countless ages men and angels sing.

Refrain

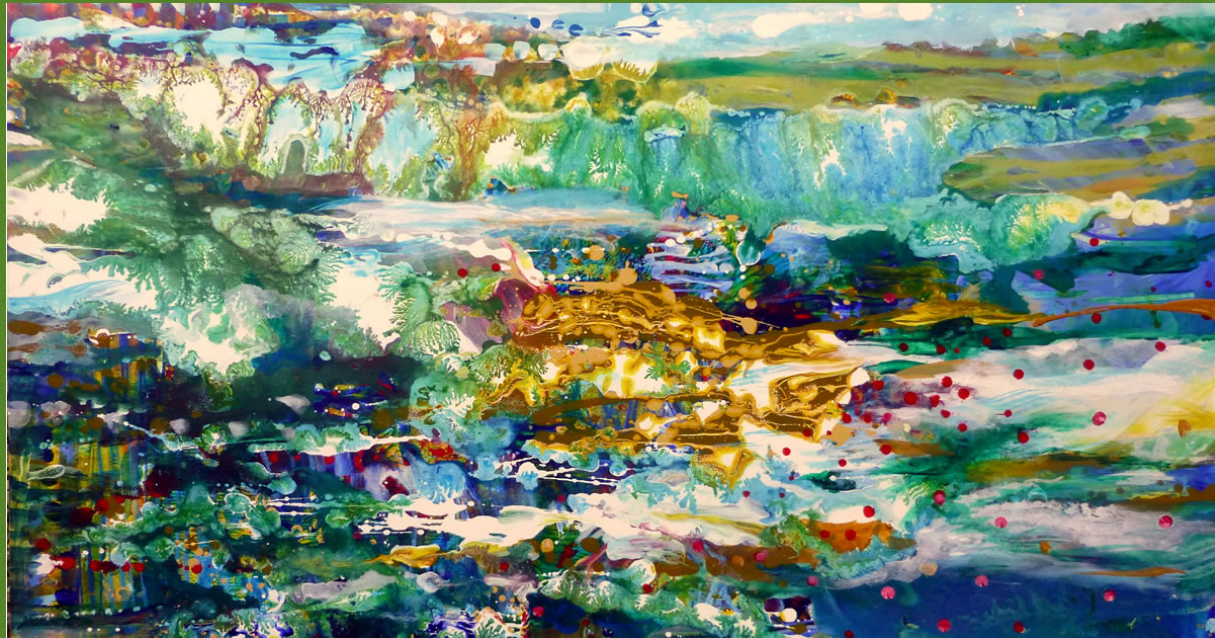
The Blessing and Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the love of God,
and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
And the blessing of God almighty:
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you,
and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



"A Land Flowing With Milk and Honey" - Yoram Raanan