

Virtual Worship: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

St John the Evangelist Anglican Church

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me. *John 10.27*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

Let us pray,

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Dear friends in Christ, as we turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God, let us confess our sins.

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.

Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Proclamation of the Word

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

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 forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come the praise-worthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works he has done.

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass through; he made the waters stand up like walls.

He led them with a cloud by day, and all the night through with a glow of fire.

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink as from the great deep.

He brought streams out of the cliff, and the waters gushed out like rivers.

God of pilgrims, strengthen our faith, we pray. Guide us through the uncertainties of our journey, and hold before us the vision of your eternal kingdom, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading (Exodus 17:1-7)

A reading from the Book of Exodus

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do

you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Second Reading (Philippians 2:1-13)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel (*Matthew 21:23-32*)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection/Discussion

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith as we say,

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

Amen.

Prayers (modified prayer - during times of COVID-19 by the Right Rev. Richard Bott)

In this time of COVID-19, we pray:

When we aren't sure, God,

help us be calm;

when information comes from all sides, correct and not,

help us to discern;

when fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,
slow us down, God;

help us to reach out with our hearts,

when we can't touch with our hands;

help us to be socially connected,

when we have to be socially distant;

help us to love as perfectly as we can,

knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

Heavenly Father we pray to you today for doctors, for nurses, for technicians
and the janitors, for aides and caregivers,

For the researchers trying to find a vaccine

For those who are sick, and those who are grieving,

For people who have to travel for medical treatments and appointments

We pray for the first responders, police officers, fire fighters and paramedics

For those who are hungry and those without a home

For those with addictions and the people who love them

We pray for those struggling financially

We pray for those who are seeking you

We pray for all Bishops and clergy.

Heavenly Father, you know the need of all and have heard each prayer: save us
in your merciful loving-kindness and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our
Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Doxology

Glory to God

whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

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