

I will exalt you, my God and King,
and praise your name forever and ever.

I will praise you every day;
yes, I will praise you forever.

Great is the Lord!

He is most worthy of praise!
No one can measure his greatness

PSALM 145:1-3

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Pre-service Music - SoF 215 I heard the voice of Jesus say

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn, and sad;
I found him in a resting place,
And he has made me glad.

Take my yoke upon you
And learn of me
For my yoke is easy
And my burdens are light.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one,
Stoop down and drink and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank

Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me; your morn shall rise,
And all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till traveling days are done.

Said quietly in Church as a mediation once you are ready.

Almighty God,

we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worship you in this house of prayer: and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a living temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Preparation:

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All Amen.

Opening Song: Opening: ACF 19 Come as you are

Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never end.
Don't run away, shamed, and disheartened.
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise
Why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
All will be well, just come as you are.

Silence

Forgiveness is offered

Readings:

(Zechariah 9.9-12; Psalm 145.8-15; Romans
7.15-25a; Matthew 11.16-19,25-30)

The reading is taken from Psalm 145:8-15

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God

Our hearts and our minds are open

The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.



They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all
generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.
The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper
time.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The reading is taken from Matthew
11:16-19.25-30

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

“To what can I compare this generation? They
are like children sitting in the marketplaces and
calling out to others:

“‘We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
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, ‘Here

is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

...

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, 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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Today the reading from the gospel shows us how important it is to be in unity. Great disagreement existed in Jesus’ time, as in our own. If we see John and Jesus represented in the children playing music, John plays the funeral music, and Jesus plays a wedding song. The music they play is to get peoples attention to what God has planned. Yet nobody listens. Instead there is pointing of fingers and blaming John and Jesus for being full of sin. Not the response that God was looking for.



Later in the reading, Jesus talks about a yoke, and that his yoke is a light burden. (Notice that our burden doesn't magically disappear with Jesus, but it does become less burdensome.) It is difficult to imagine being yoked together. Some of you may be familiar with the Law of God being the thing that binds God and his people together. Jesus changes that and says that binding ourselves to Jesus is the way we learn and model, what a right relationship with God looks like.

At summer picnics and fairs we might have seen three legged races, or who groups of people bound together walking on two planks, as if all wearing the same two shoes. A certain amount of coordination is needed to move around. One partner cannot charge ahead without both falling flat on their faces. Stepping in time, synchronized, helps get the group to the finish line.



If we march to our own tune, we won't get to where God intends us to be. If we keep changing pace, or forgetting that we are bound together in a Church structure, we will not be farther ahead. Instead we end up well behind.

As the Church looks for a way forward, there are many who express a desire for a certain 'tune' to be played. Fingers will point to different ways and paths, which makes it difficult for church leadership to find a way forward. Finding ways to be with the Lord and to march in step with the Way of Jesus will be the only way to make sense of the weeks and months ahead. A tough burden, but one that is make all the more light, and purposeful when bound, yoked, to Christ. A weary task for our Wardens and council, but as Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, 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." Amen.

Intercessions

Collect:

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

In the language of our hearts, let us pray as our Saviour taught us...

A sign of Peace:

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

(We share a gesture of peace)

The Blessing:

The Lord God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the holy and undivided Trinity,
guard you, save you,
and bring you to that heavenly city,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional Song: ACF 47 God to enfold you

God to enfold you, Christ to uphold you,
Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight;
So may God grace you, heal and embrace you,
Lead you through darkness into the light.

Activities

All Ages Worship

Time: Jul 5, 2020 11:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78266463605?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78266463605?pwd=YmxZYndFLzJiMHFZdkg5MDNKM09RQT09)

[pwd=YmxZYndFLzJiMHFZdkg5MDNKM09RQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78266463605?pwd=YmxZYndFLzJiMHFZdkg5MDNKM09RQT09)

Meeting ID: 782 6646 3605

Password: Church

