

**Morning Worship with Iris Gertschar
12th September 2021
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost /
The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**



Personal preparation before the service begins.

Please take time to remember where you are,
and why you are here.
Give thanks and become still
in the presence of God

Prelude: SOF 399 My peace

1. My peace I give unto you,
it's a peace that the world cannot give,
it's a peace that the world cannot understand.
Peace to know, peace to live.
My peace I give unto you.

2. My joy I give unto you,
it's a joy that the world cannot give,
it's a joy that the world cannot understand.
Joy to know, joy to live.
My joy I give unto you.

3. My love I give unto you,
it's a love that the world cannot give,
it's a love that the world cannot understand.
Love to know, love to live.
My love I give unto you.

Invocation

We gather in the name of the Triune God,
 Creator, Redeemer,
 and Sustainer of the Earth
 and all its creatures!

Praise be to the Holy Trinity!
 God is sound and life,
 Creator of the Universe,
 Source of all life,
 whom the angels sing;
 wondrous Light of all mysteries
 known or unknown to humankind,
 and life that lives in all.

(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)

Let us pray with words from the Canticle that is taken from the Wisdom of Solomon 7:26-8:1

Refrain **Send Wisdom forth from your holy heavens;
 from the throne of your glory
 send what is pleasing to you.**

For wisdom is a reflection of eternal light,
 a spotless mirror of the working of God,
 and an image of his goodness.

**Although she is but one, she can do all things,
 and while remaining in herself, she renews all
 things;
 in every generation she passes into holy souls
 and makes them friends of God, and prophets;
 for God loves nothing so much as the person who
 lives with wisdom.**

She is more beautiful than the sun,
 and excels every constellation of the stars.
 Compared with the light she is found to be superior,
 for it is succeeded by the night,
 but against wisdom evil does not prevail.

**She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to
the other,
and she orders all things well.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
**As it was in the beginning,
is now and shall be for ever.**

Refrain **Send Wisdom forth from your holy heavens;
from the throne of your glory
send what is pleasing to you.**

Song: SOF 208 If I were a butterfly

1. If I were a butterfly,
I'd thank You, Lord, for giving me wings.
And if I were a robin in a tree,
I'd thank You, Lord, that I could sing.
And if I were a fish in the sea,
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee;
but I just thank You, Father, for making me me.
For You gave me a heart and You gave me a smile,
You gave me Jesus and You made me Your child,
and I just thank You, Father, for making me me.

2. If I were an elephant,
I'd thank You, Lord, by raising my trunk.
And if I were a kangaroo,
You know I'd hop right up to You.
And if I were an octopus,
I'd thank You, Lord, for my fine looks;
but I just thank You, Father, for making me me.
For You gave me a heart and You gave me a smile,
You gave me Jesus and You made me Your child,
and I just thank You, Father, for making me me.

3. If I were a wiggly worm,
I'd thank You, Lord, that I could squirm.
And if I were a billy goat,
I'd thank You, Lord, for my strong throat.
And if I were a fuzzy, wuzzy bear,

I'd thank You, Lord, for my fuzzy, wuzzy hair;
 but I just thank You, Father, for making me me.
 For You gave me a heart and You gave me a smile,
 You gave me Jesus and You made me Your child,
 and I just thank You, Father, for making me me.

CCLI Song # 35445
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The Collect for today, the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
 upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
 grant that your people may be fervent
 in the fellowship of the gospel
 that, always abiding in you,
 they may be found steadfast in faith and active in
 service;
 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.

The reading is taken from Proverbs 1:20-33

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God
Our hearts and our minds are open

Wisdom cries out in the street;
 in the squares she raises her voice.

At the busiest corner she cries out;
 at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
 and fools hate knowledge?

Give heed to my reproof;

I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,

I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,

when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.

Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the Lord,

would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,

therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.

For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;

but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**The reading is taken from
the Epistle of James 3:1-12**

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God
Our hearts and our minds are open

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Homily

When we talked about the services during the holidays and Creationtide, I said I would take today's service and make Creationtide the main topic in the service. I considered this to be a good idea until I read today's readings. Yeah, well, wisdom and Creationtide go hand in hand, don't they?

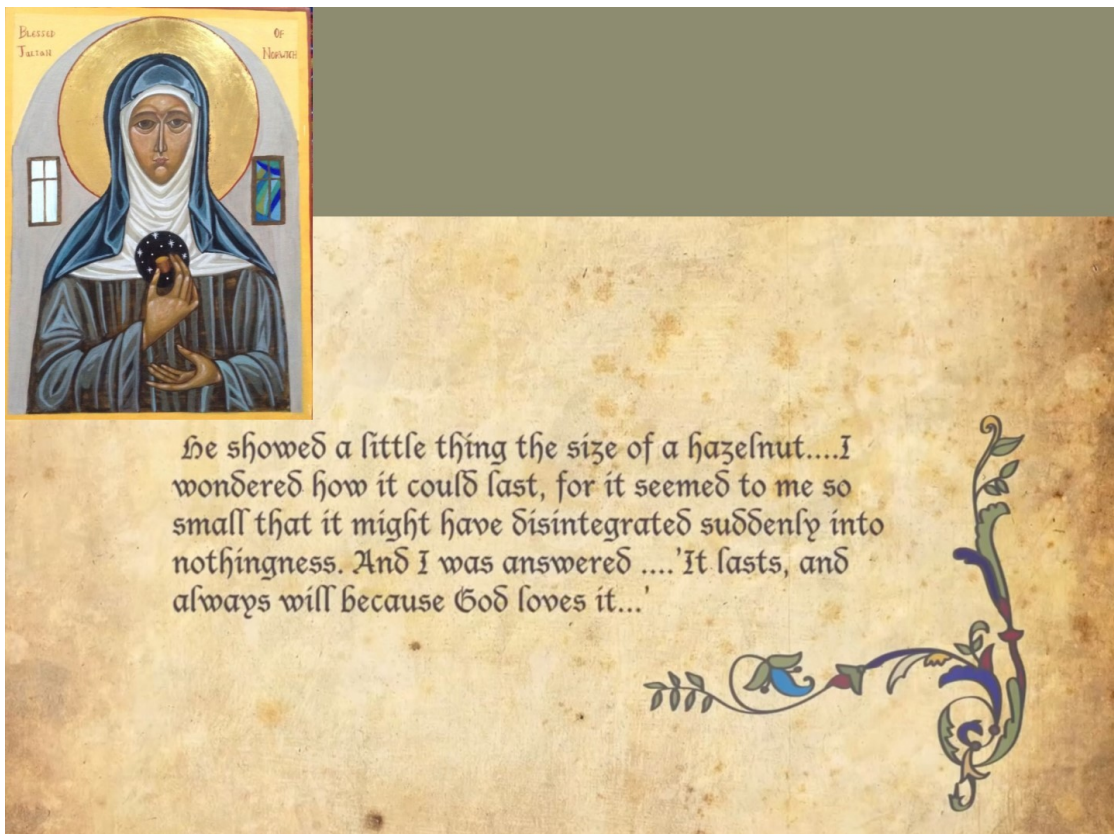
I remembered my teacher for exegesis, that is, for explaining the Scriptures. A popular play on words we had during these lessons was that we were supposed to prepare an exegesis and not an I-see-ge-sis. After a bit of brooding, I decided to turn the normal order around. I will not ask: What is this text's central message and where is it relevant today? My knowledge of wisdom literature isn't sufficient to do this adequately anyway. I will ask: What do these texts inspire in me when I contemplate them in the context of Creationtide? And how can this be relevant for us here today?

In the text from Proverbs we see an important distinction: There is knowledge and there is wisdom.

Let me symbolise this with two pictures:



My "knowledge picture" is called "Pillars of Creation". It is a photograph taken by the Hubble Space Telescope of elephant trunks of interstellar gas and dust some 6,500–7,000 light-years from Earth. The leftmost pillar is about four light-years in length.*¹ I always look at it when I need perspective: It reminds me that I am smaller than an ant living on an ant-sized planet. On the other hand, I find it incredibly fascinating: What people find when they take the effort to look for it. How much science, technical expertise and how many nights of work have led to this photo of breathtaking dimensions and beauty? What does this say about the abilities we *ants* have at our command?



As a "wisdom picture", I chose a vision that Julian of Norwich describes in her book "Revelations of Divine Love" *2:

“And in this he showed me a little thing, the quantity of a hazel nut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed. And it was as round as any ball. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought, ‘What may

this be?' And it was answered generally thus, 'It is all that is made.' I marvelled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God. In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second, that God loves it. And the third, that God keeps it."

The whole of the huge universe packed into a hazelnut that comes from God's love and goes there, too. Faith takes God into the equation, our knowledge does not stand on its own any longer but knows about the frame that surrounds our world. This is what is said some chapters after our first reading, in the classic words: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." (NIV Proverbs 9:10)

Wisdom relates our whole being to God.

Our mind and body, the people around us, the animals and plants, mountains and oceans and planets and stars are no longer just what they appear to be but are also God's wonderful, beloved creation. And God's very first assignment to mankind is "to work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15).

So how do we do this wisely – meaning: within our relationship with God?

Our text describes wisdom in a quite unexpected way: Not a hermit with a long white beard who sits in his remote cave contemplating the meaning of life. It's a woman at the busiest corner in the midst of the city who cries out loudly, rebuking all those who have refused to listen to her call, ignored her extended hand and thus "hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord".

One thing we can do is listen: to God's whisper and his shouts, and find out what he is calling us to do: each

and every one of us discovering his or her vocation and working with his or her personal, God-given talents.

The Book of Proverbs belongs to the Hebrew Bible's wisdom literature. It contains poetic and sophisticated texts like today's reading but over long passages it is rather hands-on. I have always been very fond of it because it feels comfortably down-to-earth. Right next to poetry we find prosaic remarks like:

Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened ox with hatred. (CSB Proverbs 15:16-18)

or

Better for a person to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his foolishness. (CSB Proverbs 17:12)

And I think this is the other side of wisdom. Please bear with me saying this in a fairly old-fashioned way:

Leading a decent life and faithfully carrying out our daily routine and work in relation to God. If we live wisely, we do the things we do, knowing that we are called to partake in the creation of God's kingdom and making use of our respective talents.

Here I would like to fly the banner for some aspects of the Protestant work ethic. The reformers did not only pave the way for capitalism. Martin Luther dignified "normal" people's work in a special way.

Dan Doriani summarises Luther's attitude towards work as follows:

"that the farmer shovelling manure and the maid milking her cow please God as much as the minister preaching or praying.

Further, as we work in our God-given station in life, we become agents of his providential care: "God is milking the cows through the vocation of the milkmaid."

Through our hands God answers the prayers of his children. We pray for daily bread at night, and bakers rise in the morning to bake it. The same holds for clothing: God "gives the wool, but not without our labour. If it is on the sheep, it makes no garment."

Humans must shear, card, and spin.

Through our work the naked are clothed, the hungry fed, the sick healed. Through our work we please our Maker and love our neighbour."³
Through our work we take care of God's creation.

I want to end with a very concrete example that Helen Rose kindly provided me with:

One of many, many aspects of protecting God's creation is to consume energy as sparingly as possible. Thermally insulating windows can help with that. And it takes a lot of people working successfully together to get these:

It takes people who understand and develop equations like this to provide the theoretical background for these windows:

For double glazing:

$$\tau(\lambda) = \frac{\tau_1(\lambda)\tau_2(\lambda)}{1 - \rho_1'(\lambda)\rho_2(\lambda)} \quad (2)$$

where

$\tau_1(\lambda)$ is the spectral transmittance of the first (outer) pane;

$\tau_2(\lambda)$ is the spectral transmittance of the second pane;

$\rho_1'(\lambda)$ is the spectral reflectance of the first (outer) pane, measured in the direction opposite to the incident radiation;

$\rho_2(\lambda)$ is the spectral reflectance of the second pane, measured in the direction of the incident radiation.

The above is illustrated in Figure 1.

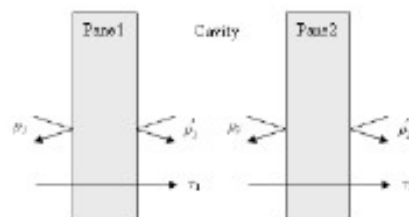


Figure 1 — Transmittance and reflectance in a double glazing insulating glass unit

They would have worked themselves through many years of school and university. Maybe there was one point in time when a dedicated teacher managed to light the first spark of enthusiasm for physics.

Then we need engineers who know their materials and how to work with them.

There are also the well-trained machine operators who fabricate the windows and the people who plan their work and provide the necessary administration.

The vendors and suppliers.

The architects and carpenters in the actual house where the windows are installed.

And finally the house-owner who goes through the effort to thoroughly inform him- or herself in order to build a creation-friendly house.

Everyone at their place doing their share.

Maybe some of them leave their houses in the morning saying to themselves:

Today I serve God!

Sources:

*1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pillars_of_Creation

*2 <https://youtu.be/7sbfVBB4AuY?t=1534>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sbfVBB4AuY&t=3451s>

<https://hfkparish.com/media/1/24/20180605CareofCreationHandout.pdf>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/156980.Julian_of_Norwich

*3 <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-power-and-danger-in-luthers-concept-of-work/>

Song: SOF 393 Praise and Thanksgiving

1. Praise and thanksgiving,
 Father, we offer,
 for all things living
 you have made good;
 harvest of sown fields,
 fruits of the orchard,
 hay from the mown fields,
 blossom and wood.

2. Lord, bless the labour
 we bring to serve You,
 that with our neighbour
 we may be fed.
 Sowing or tilling,
 we would work with You;

The peace of our Creator
be with you in all things.

You are invited to care
and share a sign of peace with your neighbor
here in the church, and then
speak a word of peace to the land
where you are,
and all the creatures who share this common home.

Song: SOF 425 O Lord my God (how great thou art)

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed:
*then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
how great Thou art! How great Thou art!*
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
how great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;
*then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
how great Thou art! How great Thou art!*
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
how great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home - what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!
*then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
how great Thou art! How great Thou art!*
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
how great Thou art! How great Thou art!*



The Blessing

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To reflect God's glory in creation.

Amen.

The Conclusion

Go in strong and growing faith.
Trust in the tenderness of Christ
to heal a bruised and broken world.

Thanks be to God.

Go in eager and refreshing hope.
Work with Christ risen from the dead,
to fulfil the promise of a new creation.

Thanks be to God.

Let us go in peace,
to treasure and to tend the world God made and loves.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Announcements

Let's meet outside after the Postlude and ask for God's blessing for the new school year.

(and see below)

Postlude: Postlude SOF 640 You shall go out with joy

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,
and the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.

There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands.
And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and you'll go out with joy.

CCLI Song # 20546
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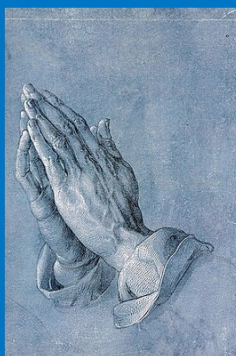
Sources of the liturgy:

- https://prezi.com/view/XNH4jO6gswZLKc7wBGJ2/?fbclid=IwAR1kfo6-afcK13byT5RCJOikjaDFHE7HMyoqbz1As_gh-vgKz_Q2FPaltRU
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/4-a-service-of-the-word-urban.pdf>
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer/canticles-daily-79>
- https://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Pentecost/BProp19_RCL.html

Look forward to our next
Communion Service

with Revd. Peter Widdess

19th September 2021
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
11:30 hrs, Zoom link see website
and in person in the church 😊



**Evening Prayer on
Wednesdays**

15th September 2021
9pm (for 20-30min)

(Please use the usual
Sunday service link.)

JOINT EVENING SERVICE

with the Old Catholic congregation
Sunday, 26th September

We are pleased to announce that the
ACF and our friends at the Old Catholic
congregation are planning a joint service!

It will most probably be held in the
evening, replacing our morning worship
that day.

Save the date!

More information is to follow.



ECUMENICAL STUDY DAY

9th October 2021, 2pm – 5:30pm
The Association of Christian Churches, Freiburg
“The Gospel of Creation”

- > Introduction by Prof. Dr. Hans Ulrich Steymans on the encyclical “Laudato Si”
- > Discussion groups
- > The afternoon will be rounded off with an ecumenical service.

All those interested are welcome to attend!

The event will be held in German and take place at Kreuzgemeinde, Fehrenbachallee
50 / Freiburg-Stühlinger. Should an in-person gathering not be possible, the study day
will be held online.

Please register by email to ack-freiburg@gmx.de
by 26th September 2021.

ACF CALENDAR 2022

Work on the ACF Calendar 2022 has
begun! If you are part of the ACF and
would like to contribute your drawings
and paintings, please get in touch by the
end of September.

Thank you to all the ACF artists that make
our calendar what it is!

