



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Celtic Evensong St. George's Episcopal Church

June 21, 2020 -

The Third Sunday After Pentecost

5:30 pm - Online Worship

You are welcome at
St. George's Church:
Regardless of race,
nationality,
sexual orientation,
gender expression,
or tradition.

The Third Sunday

After Pentecost

June 21, 2020

Welcome to our online service! During the prelude, we invite you to prepare for worship by observing silence or taking time for private prayer. We are glad you are here!

Welcome

Prelude

Silence

Opening Reading: Prayer by Howard Thurman

Lord, open unto me
Open unto me – light for my darkness.
Open unto me – courage for my fear.
Open unto me – hope for my despair.
Open unto me – peace for my turmoil.
Open unto me – joy for my sorrow.
Open unto me strength for my weakness.
Open unto me – wisdom for my confusion
Open unto me – forgiveness for my sins.
Open unto me – love for my hates.
Open unto me – thy Self for my self.
Lord, Lord, open unto me!

Prayer for the Evening

Officiant: In Luke's gospel, Jesus called together the disciples and a great multitude to a level place. There he touched, healed, and taught. There he spoke, "Blessed are..." There he named the blessed—the saints of the faith.

All: O God, call us together as you did those so long ago to discover your blessed people. This evening, Christ gather us.

Officiant: Let us remember, confess, celebrate, and embody the blessed saints of God. Christ, come among us.

Hymn 636: "How firm a foundation"

Foundation

**1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**3 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**5 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."**

The Reading

Matthew 10:24 - 39

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. "For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and

a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

All: Thanks be to God.

Silence is observed after the reading

Meditation

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr.

Silence is observed after the meditation

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Leader 1: God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to you in faith with thanksgiving.

We pray for one another, for our families and friends, through whom we learn to love and to be loved. Thank you for all who care for us. Give us grace to serve Christ by serving our neighbors and our community, loving others as he loves us.

Leader 2: We thank you for the unfailing love you hold out to everyone. Comfort and heal those in sorrow, need, sickness or any other trouble. We pray especially for those affected by COVID-19. Give them courage and hope in their distress, and bless those who minister to them.

Leader 1: We remember with gratitude your many gifts to us in creation and the rich heritage of this land. Help us and people everywhere to share with justice and peace the resources of the earth. Give wisdom to those in authority among us and to all leaders of the nations.

Leader 2: We pray for your Church throughout the world, thanking you for all who serve Christ and Christ's kingdom. By your Spirit strengthen your people for their work and witness in the world. Unite us in your truth and love, that we who confess your name may also reflect your glory.

Leader 1: We remember those who have died and those who mourn: (*particular intercessions/thanksgiving may be offered*) We commend those who have died into your loving embrace, and pray for your comfort and healing presence for those who mourn.

Leader 2: Lord, you have called us to serve you.
Grant that we may walk in your presence:
your love in our hearts,
your truth in our minds,
your strength in our wills;
until, at the end of our journey,
we know the joy of our homecoming
and the welcome of your embrace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Additional Prayers of Intercession + Thanksgiving + Healing

During the instrumental music and hymn, and at any time hereafter, you are welcome to share a prayer request by submitting via the comment or chat function.

Music for Meditation

Hymn: "It is good to trust
**It is good to trust in the Lord, our God,
Trust and hope in the Lord, our God.**

Taize

Please rise or rise in spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray:

All: Eternal Spirit Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

The Grace (please stand)

Officiant: Now my friends, all that is true, all that is noble, all that is just and pure, all that is lovable and gracious, whatever is excellent and admirable; with these let us fill our hearts, and the God of heaven: Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier will be with us always. **Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant: Christ the Good Shepherd is risen from the dead and binds us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

All now exchange a sign of peace.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. We invite you to share your gifts in support of our ministry within and beyond our congregation, especially during this time when we cannot receive those offerings in person. Make your offering online (<http://bit.ly/stggive>) or by mail to the church.

Announcements

For the latest updates and messages of encouragement, check our website (StGeorgesEpiscopal.net) and subscribe to our email newsletter (<http://bit.ly/stgenews>)

Officiant: Let us now join in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Third Sunday After Pentecost

BCP 230

Officiant: O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect For Social Justice

Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayer for Fathers' Day

Gracious God, you made us in your image and gave us power to help create life. In human fatherhood we see a reflection of your divine blessing and care. Make us thankful for our life and for all fathers and father figures whose work has blessed us. Comfort those for whom this is a day of sorrow or struggle. Help us continue to pray with all the holy mothers and fathers in the communion of saints, praising you in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Hymn 24: "The day thou gavest"

St. Clement

1 The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

2 We thank thee that thy church unsleeping
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.

3 As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

4 So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away:
thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

Blessing offered by the priest

May you be held together by the love of God, clothed with the nature of Jesus our Companion, reinforced by the strength of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God, the one Holy and Undivided Trinity be with you now and always.
Amen.

The Dismissal offered by the priest

Go into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thank you for joining us.

Postlude

Acknowledgments

The Opening Prayer, by Howard Thurman; A Prayer for the Evening by Sidney D. Fowler in *The Blessed Ones: A Celebration for All Saints Day*, on the website of the United Church of Christ; Prayers and Blessings adapted from the following sources: *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, Harper Collins, 1977; New Hampshire Episcopal Church; St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA; The Northumbria Community; the Iona Community.

In this time of uncertainty and dynamic change, please know that although we cannot physically gather, God is ever-present. We are here too. If you would like someone to chat and pray with you, please submit a request online (bit.ly/stgprayer) and if it is an emergency (for e.g. sudden illness, death), please contact the pastoral emergency phone (540.361.8573) where you will reach a clergy person on call. Know that we are holding you in our prayers and look forward to a time when we will be able to gather again. God's peace be with you.

St. George's Episcopal Church

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