



**St. George's**  
Episcopal  
Church

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# Celtic Evensong St. George's Episcopal Church

**July 12, 2020 -**

**The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**

**5:30 pm - Online Worship**

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

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The Sixth Sunday  
After Pentecost  
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**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: "Untitled"**

James Baldwin

Lord,

when you send the rain  
think about it, please,  
a little?

Do

not get carried away  
by the sound of falling water,  
the marvelous light  
on the falling water.

I

am beneath that water.  
It falls with great force  
and the light

Blinds

me to the light.

**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.

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**1 Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be;  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.**

**2 Like a mother you enfold me,  
hold my life within your own.  
Feed me with your very body,  
form me of your flesh and bone.**

**3 Like a father you protect me.  
Teach me the discerning eye.  
Hoist me up upon your shoulder,  
let me see the world from high.**

**4 Friend and lover in your closeness  
I am known and held and blest:  
in your promise is my comfort,  
in your presence I may rest.**

**5 Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be;  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.**

### **The Reading**

Matthew 13:1 - 9, 18 - 23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when

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trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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. Will Dickinson

*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.

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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"

Taize

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

*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.*

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*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](http://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 Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**

**BCP 231**

Officiant: O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 the Power of the Spirit Among the People of God**

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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**Hymn 42: "Now the Day is over"**

*Merrial*

**1** Now the day is over,  
night is drawing nigh,  
shadows of the evening  
steal across the sky.

**2** Jesus, give the weary  
calm and sweet repose;  
with Thy tenderest blessing  
may mine eyelids close.

**3** Grant to little children  
visions bright of thee;  
guard the sailors tossing  
on the deep, blue sea.

**4** Comfort every sufferer,  
watching late in pain;  
those who plan some evil  
from their sin restrain.

**5** Through the long night watches  
may thine angels spread  
their white wings above me,  
watching round my bed.

**6** When the morning wakens,  
then may I arise  
pure, and fresh, and sinless  
in thy holy eyes.

**Blessing** *offered by clergy*

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 clergy*

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**

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## Acknowledgments

The Opening Prayer, James Baldwin, "Untitled" from *Jimmy's Blues*. Copyright © 2014 by The James Baldwin Estate., HarperCollins Publishers Inc, 2001; 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](http://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.*

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