



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Celtic Evensong St. George's Episcopal Church

August 2, 2020 -

The Ninth 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 Ninth Sunday

After Pentecost

August 2, 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: "For Equilibrium"

John O'Donohue

Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore,
May the relief of laughter rinse through your soul.
As the wind loves to call things to dance,
May your gravity be lightened by grace.
Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth,
May your thoughts incline with reverence and respect.
As water takes whatever shape it is in,
So free may you be about who you become.
As silence smiles on the other side of what's said,
May your sense of irony bring perspective.
As time remains free of all that it frames,
May your mind stay clear of all its names.
May your prayer of listening deepen enough
To hear in the depths the laughter of God.

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 455: "O love of God, how strong and true"

Dunedin

1 O love of God, how strong and true,
eternal and yet ever new;
uncomprehended and unbought,
beyond all knowledge and all thought.

2 O wide-embracing, wondrous Love,
we read thee in the sky above;
we read thee in the earth below,
in seas that swell and streams that flow.

3 We read thee best in him who came
to bear for us the cross of shame,
sent by the Father from on high,
our life to live, our death to die.

4 We read thy power to bless and save
e'en in the darkness of the grave;
still more in resurrection light
we read the fullness of thy might.

The Reading

Matthew 14:13 - 21

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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. Robert M. Miller

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"

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.

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 Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

BCP 232

Officiant: Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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 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.**

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 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

Acknowledgments

The Opening Prayer, "For Equilibrium" from *Benedictus* by John O'Donohue; 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

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr., Rector
The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan,
Associate Rector

905 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540.373.4133 (telephone)
540.374.0923 (fax)
stgeorgesepiscopal.net

For Pastoral Emergencies: 540.361.8573
general inquiries:
office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net
