

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist, Rite III

10 am, September 13, 2020

Live video by Zoom from Trinity Church, Swarthmore,
Sanctuary, in the spirit of the Iona community, Scotland

ZOOM LINK

Zoom call-in information is available
on the Trinity website: www.trinity-swarthmore.org.



Music for Gathering

"Come Thou Fount"

Nate Hill

Welcome and Opening Acclamation

Presider Thanks be to you, O God, that we have risen this day,
People **to the rising of this life itself.**
Presider Be the purpose of God between us and each purpose,
People **the hand of God between us and each hand,**
Presider The pain of Christ between us and each pain,
People **the love of Christ between us and each love.**
Presider O God, who brought us to the bright light of this new day,
People **bring us to the guiding light of eternity.**

Song of Praise

"Joyful, joyful we adore thee"

1982 hymnal 376

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before
thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and
sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround
thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around
thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and
mountain,
blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing
fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our
Brother:
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Call to Confession

Presider We gather in God's name;

People **We remember the promise of Christ's presence.**

Presider My friends, not in dread or fear but because God is faithful to forgive, let us rid ourselves of what we need carry no longer.

Prayer of Confession and Restoration

Presider Eternal God, maker of skies, lowly Christ, born onto earth, Spirit-wind overflowing waters: you make yourself known to us through earth, and sky and sea. O Hidden Mystery, you draw us near to you, and we give you thanks.

All **But we have ignored you in trampling creation, rejected you in not receiving one another in your Spirit, failed you by not serving those in need. Let us now speak to you honestly. Hear and heal our hearts.**

[A brief silence follows.]

Presider Holy God, Holy and Mighty,

All **Holy and Immortal,
Have mercy on us.**

Presider Hear the words of Jesus for all who seek God with honesty and openness: "Your sins are forgiven." "Go in peace." "Come and follow me."

People **Lead us, O God, to honor you by living as people freed in spirit, forgiven and forgiving, until heaven and earth rejoice and the whole earth cries, "Glory!" "Amen!"**

From the Scriptures

Reader Let us prepare to receive the living Word of God through the Scriptures.

People **We open ourselves to God in heart and mind.**

Reader A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

After the reading there is a period of silence, then the reader says

Reader Thanks be to God,

People **Who speaks that we might hear.**

Psalm 103:8-13

Benedic, anima mea

8) The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9) He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

- 10) He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11) For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12) As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13) As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Hymn

"Come and fill our hearts"

Taizé

**Come and fill our hearts with your love;
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your love. Alleluia!**

Proclamation of the Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily

Affirmation of Faith

Presider We believe in God above us,
People **Maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon,
of water and earth, of male and female.**
**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman,
servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
and his kingdom will come on earth.**
**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life. AMEN.**

Prayers and Thanksgivings

The Prayer Leader offers prayers and thanksgivings on behalf of the congregation, guiding responses and making time for personal prayers and thanks.

The Presider continues

We lift to you all our prayers and thanks; spoken aloud or known to you alone, carried by the words you have taught us:

All **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 in the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN.**

The Lord's Table: Holy Communion

A note on what we are doing: Central to the sacrament of Holy Eucharist is the notion of sharing from bread and wine consecrated to God in the communal, Eucharistic feast. Given the shutdown due to Covid-19, we cannot do that now; and "cyber-consecration" is not authorized. Nevertheless, it has seemed a consolation and blessing in our community to continue on Sundays in the pattern of Holy Eucharist, with people participating from home as possible. In doing so, we take comfort in knowing that God, "by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

Invitation

Presider The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor and marginalized of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come, let us gather as we are able. It is Christ who invites us to meet him.

A Trinity Church prayer

People **Jesus, we cannot gather in community round your altar as we desire.
Yet, you are with God; you are of God.
Give us grace so to be in communion with you and one another,
that we may know your presence in and among us. Amen.**

The table is then prepared while people sing

Hymn

"All who hunger gather gladly"

WLP 761

- 1) **All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us in our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**
- 2) **All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**
- 3) **All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

The Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts,

People **we lift them up to God.**

Presider Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to give both thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with archangel Michael and the host of heaven, with all the saints before and beside us [...] with brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness.

All join in singing the Sanctus (sung to tune: *Land of Rest*)

WLP 858

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory;
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

The Story of the Last Supper

The Presider continues

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread. On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, This is my body, given to you. In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming Kingdom of God.

Prayer of Consecration

Presider Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine.
People **May we become bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.**
Presider Look, the Body of Christ is broken for the life of the world.

Musical Voluntary

It is Well

Nate and Natalee Hill

Offering the Peace of Christ

Presider Many grains were gathered together to make the bread we have received, many grapes were mixed to make the wine. So we who are many, and come from many places, are one in Christ.

Presider May the peace of Christ be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us greet one another with the sign of God's peace.

The congregation greets one another in households and online as they are able.

Prayer after Communion

Presider As we have received,

People **may we give.**

Presider As we have heard,

People **may we proclaim.**

Presider As we have been freed,

People **may we seek to free others.**

Presider And the blessing which we have received from Creator, Son, and Spirit go with us.

People **AMEN.**

A blessing may be offered, followed by any announcements.



1) This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Every where I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
 Every where I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2) Every where I go, I'm gonna let it shine,

3) Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,
 Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,
 Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Presider Let us live in the world rejoicing in the Spirit of the living Christ.
All **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*All are invited to greet one another by Zoom immediately following the service
 and then join in conversation in one of the Break-Out Rooms, as provided.*

The image at the top is released into the public domain in its country of origin and all other countries by the copyright holder. Depiction of the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant. Photograph of stained-glass window at Scots' Church, Melbourne. Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Unmerciful.jpg>

Assisting this morning:

Pastor Sabrina LaBelle
 Fr. "Ted" Thompson
 Nate and Natalee Hill
 Jim Smith
 Chris, Oliver and Cecilia LaBelle
 John McCurry

Preacher
 Presider
 Guitar and vocal
 Piano/organ
 Reader/Intercessor
 Zoom host



Trinity Church, Swarthmore

301 N. Chester Rd. ☞ Swarthmore PA 19081

610-544-2297

www.trinityswarthmore.org