

Service of Ante-Communion 13 September 2020- Pentecost 15A Proper 24

The Season of Creation: Protecting the Commons

Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving for the Land

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we live and worship upon. We give thanks to the first people of this land: the Anishinaabe, the Attawandaron, the Haudenosaunee, the Metis and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. We ask for courage as we partner with them to end the racism and injustice they endure and work for reconciliation. Amen.

The Gathering of the Community

Karine+: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Response: And also with you.

The Collect for Purity

Karine+: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory to God

Karine+: Glory to God in the highest,

All: and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect for the Season of Creation:

Source of all life, we give thanks to you for your wondrous creation made manifest in the environment that surrounds us; strengthen us in the mission of stewardship and care towards nature, the work of your hands, encouraging us to preserve life in all its precious forms. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

Exodus 14.19-31 read by Kim Ramsden

A reading from the Book of Exodus,

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

The Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 114 led by The Rev. Deacon Nina Page

Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech, Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel God's dominion. The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went back. The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like young sheep. What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back? You mountains, that you skipped like rams? You little hills like young sheep. Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob. Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Let us pray, source of all life, you have brought us to new being through the waters of baptism. May your love shown in our lives become a wonder and a beacon of hope to the whole human family. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Romans 14.1-12 read by Kim Ramsden

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans,

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling 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 judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed

them. Who are you to pass judgement 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 honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour 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 judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement 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.

The Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

Matthew 18.21-35 proclaimed by The Rev. Deacon Nina Page

The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,

R: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Peter came and said to him, '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 should 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 should 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.'

The Gospel of Christ.

R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection by The Rev. Karine Snowdon

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions & Thanksgivings led by Shirley Kitchen

Dear Lord, in this time of celebrating Creation help us to be mindful of ways we can honour what you have created and in doing so honour the Creator. Forgive us for wastefulness and anything that harms the gift you have given us. Lord we delight in the beauty of this land and give you thanks for blessing us with the bounty of this place. Help us to take note during our busy days of the wonder that surrounds us and in doing so come to know you better.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, thank you for the Church and those who serve.

In the world-wide Anglican Communion: We pray for the Anglican Church of South America The Most Revd Gregory James Venables - Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Church of South America & Bishop of Argentina

In the Niagara Diocese: We pray for St. Paul, Shelburne, The Reverend Canon Stephanie Pellow, Priest-in-Charge and the people of that parish.

In our Parish Cycle of prayer: We pray for Howard and Terri Willson; Isabel Wong; Joe and Zina Yaworski; Josephine and Mofe Abedgulugbe and our family Van Kim, Hoih, Ester, Ruth and Samuel and the Mission of San Pedro, Jobabo, Cuba.

We pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed and especially, In loving memory of their son Simon, remembered by John & Deacon Nina Page and family. Also, in loving memory of Susan Elizabeth Barker beloved daughter of Betty & Bill Charlton, (Loves Last Gift, Remembrance).

+ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

We pray for the Sick and those in Need

We pray for all who are ill with Covid-19, their care givers, and for health care workers and researchers working to limit the spread of the virus. With so much confusion surrounding us regarding this virus we ask that you would help us to discern truth and act in ways that show our care for others.

Reveal the light of your presence to the sick, Remembering Ruth Blackwell, Randy D, Ron D., Margaret Elliott, Joey, Tim, Frank Ley, Norma K., Mary Reynolds, Malcolm Leslie, John Shakespeare, Rosemary, Angel, James, (Front Line Workers Mark, Kristy, Trish, Melanie, Amy, Frances, Becky) Ivan S, Mike S, John F., Chuba and Kamsi, all teachers and students for a successful, safe start to the 2020/2021 school year, Rosie, Jeremy, Linda P., Lindsay, Jeremy, Sandy M, Mike M, Sandy H, Patricia, Robert A., June, Lizzie, Art, Alanna R, Debra W., Peter C, Gloria Williams, Jahlain, Kordell, Ann M, Lynn J, Mark G, Dana and others known to us, whom we might name in the silence of our hearts.... And we remember the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our Bishops and Ministers

Dear Lord, we ask for your guidance in our mission ministry praying especially for our Bishops who lead us. We pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Linda our Primate, Mark our Indigenous Archbishop, Anne our Metropolitan and Susan, Bishop of Niagara. We pray for all Ministers in this parish both Ordained and Laity, for all your Church in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love and reveal your glory to the world. We pray that the Church of God may always proclaim the Easter Gospel in all places.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We lift up our Educational Institutions Giving thanks for the start of a new school year. God Bless and protect our children and their teachers especially during these difficult times.

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities especially all the schools in Milton and those our children are attending, that they may be lively centres for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all Industry and Commerce

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ dignified our labour by sharing our toil. Be with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and to all of us, give pride in what we do and a just return for our labour; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our Christian Witness

Father God, thank you for forgiving us our many sins. We ask your help that we might walk in forgiveness to all those who sin against us. Forgive us for any grudges that we have held, especially those that have a hold on us. Give us grace we need to forgive.

Help us to clothe ourselves with the armour of light as we put on the Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may be faithful witnesses in this world as we proclaim the gospel message and live out our faith. **We pray**

for the Mission of the Church, remembering our outreach work in this parish. **We pray for** peace in our troubled world and **we pray for** the unity of the Church.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

And now as our Saviour Christ has taught us, let us pray,

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.

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites them to this gathering of the body of Christ. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Karine+: Most merciful God,

R: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Karine+: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Karine+: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

R: And also with you.

Unmute yourselves to share the Peace with one another.

The Blessing by The Rev. Karine Snowdon

May God who established the dance of creation, who marvelled 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. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be with you and those you love and pray for, this day and forevermore. Amen.

The Dismissal by The Rev. Deacon Nina Page

The Hymn: All Things Bright and Beautiful CP 415/6

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,

All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

1. Each radiant flower that opens, each vibrant bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours, God made their lively wings.

Refrain

2. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruit in the garden, God made them every one.

Refrain

3. The rocky mountain splendour, the loon's wild, haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies, the forest in the Fall.

Refrain

4. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is the Creator, who has made all things well.

Refrain

Liturgical Leaders

Officiant: The Rev. Karine Snowdon

Psalmist and Gospeller: The Rev. Deacon Nina Page

Reader: Kim Ramsden

Intercessor: Shirley Kitchen

Musician: Sandy Pietila