

June 14, 2020
Feast of St. Barnabas

*Welcome to our service of Holy Eucharist. On this day, we celebrate 126 years of St. Barnabas' loving service in the neighbourhood. All are welcome, we are glad that you are here. The people are invited to join in everything that is in **BOLD** type, while the priest will speak the plain type.*

The people stand.

Entrance Hymn ~ How Can I Keep From Singing

My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,
And hear their death-knell ringing,
When friends rejoice both far and near,
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Almighty God,
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.

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

**help us to follow the example
of your faithful servant Barnabas,
who, seeking not his own renown
but the well-being of your Church,
gave generously of his life and substance
for the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.**

The Proclamation of the Word

The people sit.

First Reading: A Reading from Isaiah 42:5-12

Thus says God, the LORD,

who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;

my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹See, the former things have come to pass,

and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

¹⁰Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise from the end of the earth!

Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the coastlands and their inhabitants.

¹¹Let the desert and its towns lift up their voice,

the villages that Kedar inhabits;
let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy,
let them shout from the tops of the mountains.

¹² Let them give glory to the LORD,
and declare his praise in the coastlands.

Psalm 84 *The reader will read the light print, while the people will read the **bold**.*

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O God of hosts!*
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts
of the Most High.
- 2 **The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest
where she may lay her young;*
by the side of your altars, O God of hosts,
my Sovereign and my God.**
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house!*
they will always be praising you.
- 4 **Happy are the people whose strength is in you!***
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,*
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 **They will climb from height to height,*
and the God of gods will be revealed in Zion.**
- 7 God of hosts, hear my prayer;*
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 **Behold our defender, O God;*
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,*
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 **For God is both sun and shield;*
the Most High will give grace and glory.**
- 11 No good thing will God withhold*
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 **O God of hosts,*
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

Glory to God our Creator, to God's most Holy Word,
and to the Spirit, indwelling:*
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading: A Reading from Acts 11.19-30; 13:1-3

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to You of Christ.

Matthew 10:7-16

⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶ "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

How Can We Keep From Singing?

Beloved friends, we gather, near and far, on this day, to give thanks, to bring our burdens to God, to connect, even through these wires and words, with one another.

A few weeks ago, on May 5, it was the 20th anniversary of the death of an Italian cyclist, Gino Bartali. Bartali was an ordinary man. He was a husband, a father, a son, brother and friend. He was an ordinary man – except he wasn't. He won the Giro de Italia, the biggest cycling race in Italy three times, and twice he won the Tour de France – two of Europe's most important competitions. An amazing thing about him is that he won both the Giro and the Tour before the Second World War, and then again afterwards (the races were suspended during the war.)

But that isn't what made him a hero, an example to us all, a true Christian. Gino, it turns out, because he never ever talked about it, and no one really knew until after he died, was an Anti-Fascist, a collaborator with the Assisi underground. (Who knew there was such a thing!) During the war, Franciscan brothers and sisters, with the assistance of other Christians in the Italian town of Assisi began a campaign to save Italian Jews who were being rounded up and sent to their death in the camps of horror. Where Gino comes into the story is this: in Assisi, false documents were being printed. Gino was the delivery boy. He pretended to be on training rides, and wearing the jersey that identified him as a national cycling champion, he road about from city to city in northern Italy, then occupied by German Nazis. Rolled up and hidden in his handlebars, and in his seat post, were forged documents that saved around 800 lives. In 2013, 13 years after he died, Gino was recognized as a "righteous among the nations".

I have been thinking about Gino these days, as I reflect on how we all can play a part in confronting evil. Where in our circumstances, in these days, do we see actions that hurt and harm God's good creation, and God's

beloved people? Where are we being called to confront systems of hatred and hurting? Big questions, with no easy answers.

Good old Mr. Rogers, I know I've mentioned him before, another good Christian, once said, I think it was after the terrible events of September 11, 2001, "When there is trouble in the land, look to the helpers." We can get spiritual help these days from those who are out there helping: doctors, nurses, grocery workers, bus drivers, farm workers, cleaners -- all those who are keeping us going. And also out there are those who are acting, the young people and others, who are bravely challenging systems of racism, colonialism, ways of evil that harm, and kill. Now is the time, these are the days, to dig down to the roots of violence, of racism, and to throw them out.

The prophet Isaiah states:

See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Like Gino, like thousands of others we don't know about, every day, we are invited to act for love of our neighbour, love of the most vulnerable.

Once there was another helper and his name was Barnabas. Our saint. His name means: Son of Encouragement, or Son of Consolation.

Today we are marking and remembering the his Feast day, our beloved patron Saint, Saint Barnabas. Who was this man, what did he do, why did the early church remember him, what does he mean to us today?

St. Barnabas appears in the New Testament in the Acts of the Apostles, and also in some of the writings of St. Paul. He was a Jewish man, from the island of Cyprus, who heard the story of Jesus Christ early on, and sold his land, to bring support to the poor community in Jerusalem. His love, his faith was so great that he carried that into every part of how he lived his life. He lived (and some say he was martyred and died) for his faith. His encouragement, his consolation, was to bring hope and life to the most vulnerable. To those who had been forgotten or abandoned or told they were not even human.

Gino was a righteous man, a son of consolation. Barnabas showed us the way to right living. In these days of trial and trouble let us hold fast to these bearers of truth.

An Affirmation of the Resurrection

The people stand.

Let us affirm the faith of our baptism.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.

Prayers of the People

Gracious and loving God, today as we remember the saint after whom our church is named, let us raise our voices and hearts to you, being ever encouraged by St. Barnabas whose name means son of encouragement, saying

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Encourage us as we pray that through our love and action our church continues to be your heart and breath during these challenging times. Although we cannot meet as we once did, guide us in our mission to bring your word and blessings to all in our parish. We pray for steadfast encouragement for our Bishop Melissa as she leads our diocese, and our priest Emilie as she works to keep our beloved church, St. Barnabas, a beacon in our lives.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Encourage us as we pray for all those in positions of authority who are faced with many unique and unprecedented challenges at this time. May they all strive to create a world where the very institutions they uphold cease to favor one group over another, or exclude some to the benefit of others. May they establish a truly equitable world where all may experience your love and fellowship, and live in peace and harmony.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Encourage us as we pray for equality and peace throughout the world. Many are suffering around the globe from racism, poverty, injustice and illness. These things can be eliminated if we, as your people, seek to eliminate them. Let us all be the instruments of your will, bringing about a different world where all are equal.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Encourage us as we pray for all who are lonely, sick or suffering in our community. May they find comfort and peace. Let us be the instruments of that healing and peace, whenever and however that can happen.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Encourage us as we pray that, during these times of pandemic, all those in need find shelter, nourishment, health and companionship. Today we pray especially for our grieving sisters Donna and Irena. May they experience your healing love through us. We pray also for our sister Chantel. Please take a moment now to bring all those in your heart to God for support.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Encourage us as we pray remembering all who have departed from us, especially those who we recently mourn, Jason, Leif and Vladim. May they now rejoice as they dwell eternally beside you in heaven.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, giver of all beautiful things, let us be encouraged by all our blessings and all the beauty and bounty you have given us. Let us never cease in our mission to be the hands and hearts of your love, remembering the encouragement of St. Barnabas and carrying his faith and love forward in our own times. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn ~ God Calls You Good Beloved Child

Prayer over the Gifts

Faithful God,
accept all we offer you this day.
Kindle in us the flame of love
by which your apostle Barnabas
bore witness to the gospel.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you gracious God . . .
. . .to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and Might
Heaven and Earth are Full of Your Glory,
Hosanna in the Highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the Highest.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God . . .
. . .Therefore, Creator, according to his command

We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory . . .

And we offer our sacrifice...
...now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour 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 for ever. **Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The Communion

The Table is ready and all are welcome

The Prayer After Communion

Let us pray

God of justice,
**may we who have heard your word
and received new life at your table,
bear witness to your truth in the world,
so that all may come to share in your kingdom.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.**

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,

in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Community Announcements

Priest's Blessing

Sending Hymn ~ Bambela

Sending Out

Go forth in peace and love, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit!
Thanks be to God.