

*June 28, 2020*  
*Fourth Sunday After Pentecost*

*Entrance Hymn ~ Open My Heart*

*Greeting*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

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.  
O God,  
our breath and our hope:  
visit your people and raise your church to new life,  
so that we may join with all generations  
in voicing our wonder and praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit,  
lives and reigns, one God,  
now and for ever. Amen.

## *The Proclamation of the Word*

*The people sit.*

First Reading: A Reading from **Genesis 21:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

<sup>15</sup> When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup> Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. <sup>17</sup> And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. <sup>18</sup> Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." <sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

<sup>20</sup> God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. <sup>21</sup> He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

### **PSALM 138**

- 1 I will give thanks to you, O God, with my whole heart;\*  
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- 2 **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name,\*  
because of your love and faithfulness.**
- 3 For you have glorified your Name\*  
and your word above all things.
- 4 **When I called, you answered me;\*  
you increased my strength within me.**
- 5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O God,\*  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 6 **They will sing of the ways of God,\*  
that great is the glory of the Most High.**
- 7 Though you are high, you care for the lowly;\*  
you perceive the haughty from afar.

- 8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;\*  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand shall save me.
- 9 You will make good your purpose for me;\*  
your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

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.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 10:24-39**

<sup>24</sup> "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup> "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

<sup>36</sup> and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

<sup>37</sup> Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

*The people sit.*

## *Sermon*

What a lot of drama! Today's stories both from the Hebrew Bible and from the Christian Testament, are filled with huge events: the casting out of a mother and child, strife between families. The story of Hagar and Ishmael is one that always deeply moves me: the heartbreak of a mother and the near death of her child by starvation. Big events that tell very human stories. It seems that from the very beginning we humans have had a deep capacity for cruelty.

Let's look a little deeper.

This story of Hagar and Ishmael comes from the book of Genesis, the first book of the bible. It is a book which holds many of the foundational myths of our tradition: myths -- not because they are 'fake stories', but myths in that they give us a deep framework for understanding who we are as humans. This foundational story tells us about human cruelty: Sarah and Hagar. Abraham and Hagar. To our modern eyes, we have to be careful, not to reject the story, thinking "we are better than they were. How cruel and strange people were way back when!"

Where today do we still see injustice and cruelty? Where are humans still acting out of hatred, jealousy, fear, lust for power and greed?

Everywhere.

I read a story this past week, from the New Yorker, by Elizabeth Alexander, called the Trayvon Generation. It is the story of being a black mother, trying to protect her sons. I don't want to quote it, or even talk about it, really. I could never do it justice. I will post a link so that you can read it -- or even listen to it, the link has an audio version too.

What I can say is that that article, the whole story of suffering that is happening these days, these past few weeks, in black bodies, by black mothers and children has landed in my heart. The suffering of Indigenous women, and children, and men -- the cousin of our dear friend, the priest the Reverend Vivian Seegers, Chief Allan Adams, of

the Chipewyan Nation in northern Alberta was assaulted by the RCMP last March.

These stories are true, historic, and they are stories that we have to hold all of us, in the church, in the centre of our lives together. These days I have been thinking and praying and trying to reach out to the members of our beloved community who are of African heritage. What a richness and what a blessing: we have folks from: Zimbabwe, Colombia, the Sudan, the islands of the Caribbean, Cameroon -- and from all over the world, the Philippines, India and Sri Lanka, Singapore, China, Ireland and Indigenous people of this land.

How in human history have we cast out those we do not value, do not cherish, do not love? How have those with power -- including those within the church -- used that power to dominate, abuse, control others. And how can we be part of a movement of people, once and for all, to stop it. How can we stand together -- here at St. Barnabas, how can we be a sign of God's hope, God's plan?

Stand together.

Stand against racism.

Stand against exclusion.

Stand for inclusion.

Stand for love.

The story of Hagar does not end with Ishmael dying under a bush. Lots of babies die under bushes, but that is not God's will. God has counted the hairs on every single one of our heads. And God, our Creator, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, God has called us Good. Every one of us. If we were born with power and privilege -- that wasn't our fault, but it is our Christian responsibility to act against the abuse of power. If you were born in a place without power, then it is your right, your God-given right, to stand up with dignity.

God has demanded of all of us to be agents of transformation. Wherever you find yourself, you are being invited, encouraged -- actually, it is being demanded of you -- to align yourself with this Heartstrong God, to shout from the rooftops, to proclaim your undying love -- for yourself, your family and all of creation.

Link to the New Yorker article, "The Trayvon Generation," by Elizabeth Alexander  
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/06/22/the-trayvon-generation>

*The people stand*  
*An Affirmation of Faith*

Let us affirm our faith.

**We believe and trust in God the Creator,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist.**

**We believe and trust in God the Word,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again.**

**We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world.**

**This is the faith we affirm.  
We believe and trust in one God,  
the holy and undivided Trinity.**

*Prayers of the People*  
*The people stand, sit or kneel.*

Gracious and loving God, as we think of all those who shouted from the rooftops the glory of their faith, risking everything, and all those who have appealed to you in their most desperate hour, we pray that you will continue to be our comfort and salvation, saying  
**God our foundation, protect and deliver us.**

Just as the disciples were challenged by the dangers they faced as they spread the good news of Jesus Christ, we too face great challenges for our church during this time of pandemic. We pray that our leaders, our Bishop Melissa and our Priest Emilie, will continue to guide and comfort us during these troubling times, and that our church, St. Barnabas, will persevere in its long service to our community saying,

**God our foundation, protect and deliver us.**

Just as the disciples faced daunting challenges, so too do our leaders as they endeavor to protect our health, our economy, our country and the world. We pray especially for our Prime Minister, our Premier, our Minister of Health and our Chief Medical Officer saying,

**God our foundation, protect and deliver us.**

Just as the world has witnessed turmoil before, we find ourselves now in extraordinary times, with no end visible on the horizon. Let us all be comforted, as were the disciples, that it is through our faith in the steadfast love of God through Jesus Christ that we will always find

sanctuary and peace, that our allegiance to God will bring us through the darkest of times saying,

**God our foundation, protect and deliver us.**

Just as Hagar suffered in the wilderness, terrified of what was to come, we pray for all those in our community who are thirsty, hungry, lonely or sick. May all those who work in recovery and food security programs, and indeed all who faithfully serve our community find strength and courage to carry on, knowing that, as it was for Hagar and the disciples, God is close at hand saying,

**God our foundation, protect and deliver us.**

Just as Hagar cried out to God in her most desperate time, we pray that all those in need will know that God hears their cries too. We pray especially for Donna and Irena in their grief, Peggy, Chantel and Vernon. Please take a moment now to name to God all those in need known to you.

**God our foundation, protect and deliver us.**

Just as the disciples were assured that their faith would upon their death bring them to the seat of God, we remember those amongst us who have recently departed, knowing that they now rest with God in God's peace, love and security. We miss and mourn for you Leif, Vladim and Jason.

**God our foundation, protect and deliver us.**

God, our protector and redeemer, give us the courage of the disciples and the strength of Hagar as we endeavor to be the witnesses of your love and support. May we remain always strong in spirit, generous in love and durable in our faith.

**Amen.**

*The people stand.*

*The Peace*

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Offertory Hymn ~ CP 82 Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

[Refrain:]

Hallelujah! We sing your praises,  
all our hearts are filled with gladness.

Hallelujah! We sing your praises,  
all our hearts are filled with gladness.

Christ the Lord to us said:

I am wine, I am bread;

I am wine, I am bread,

give to all who thirst and hunger. [Refrain]

## *Prayer over the Gifts*

Let us pray

Merciful God,  
your word inspires us to bring an offering of our love.  
May we always be ready to work according to your will.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord.  
Amen.

## *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.**

Eternal God, Source of all being ...  
...therefore we raise our voices with angels and archangels, forever praising you singing:

## *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.

Blessed are you, O Holy One . . .  
. . . carried them home.

**Restore us, O God, let your face shine!**

At the right time . . .  
. . .therefore we proclaim our hope.

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts  
that through them you may sustain us in our hunger for your peace.  
We hold before you all whose lives are marked by suffering,



our sisters and brothers.

When we are broken and cast aside, embrace us in your love.

**Restore us, O God, let your face shine!**

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O Source of all life, 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*

Creator of all,

you gave us golden fields of wheat,  
whose many grains we have gathered  
and made into this one bread.

**So may your Church be gathered**

**from the ends of the earth**

**into your reign of justice and peace.**

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

### *Prayer After Communion*

*The people stand.*

Let us pray:

All your works praise you, O Lord.

**And all your faithful servants bless you.**

Gracious God,

we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
May we, who share his body, live his risen life;  
we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;  
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so that we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *Community Announcements*

### *Priest`s Blessing*

### *Sending Hymn ~ You Are Not Forgotten*

You Are Not Forgotten, (3x)  
God knows your name, God knows your name.

We Are Not Forgotten, (3x)  
God knows your name, God knows your name.

They Are Not Forgotten, (3x)  
God knows your name, God knows your name.

I Am Not Forgotten, (3x)  
God knows your name, God knows your name.

You Are Not Forgotten, (3x)  
God knows your name, God knows your name.

### *Sending out*

Go forth in peace and love, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Thanks be to God.