

MORNING PRAYER
ST. BARNABAS ANGLICAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF THE WORD

JULY 19, 2020

Welcome to our service of Morning Prayer. 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 Presider will speak the plain type.

ENTRANCE HYMN:

OPENING SENTENCE

May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith; that we being rooted and grounded in love may have power to comprehend what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge. (Eph. 3:17)

THE INVITATORY

I will bless our God at all times.

God's praise shall ever be in my mouth.

O magnify our God with me.

Let us exalt God's name together.

**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 JUBILATE (*Psalm 100*)

Worship God in the beauty of holiness: **Come let us adore.**

**All the earth cries out with joy to you,
serving you with gladness;
coming before you, singing for joy.**

You, Creator of all, are God.

You made us, we belong to you.

We are your people, the sheep of your flock.

**We go within your gates, giving thanks,
entering your courts with songs of praise.**

We give thanks to you and bless your name.

**Indeed, how good you are, O God,
eternal your merciful love.**

You are faithful from age to age.

Worship God in the beauty of holiness: **Come let us adore.**

Psalm 86:11-17

86:11 Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

86:12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

86:13 For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

86:14 O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.

86:15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

86:16 Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl.

86:17 Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

**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 PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Isaiah 44:6-8

44:6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

44:7 Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.

44:8 Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

THE FIRST CANTICLE

A SONG OF THE NEW CREATION

ANTIPHON: I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

**“I am God, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel whom I have chosen.”
Thus says God, who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
“Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I make all thing new,
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
The people whom I form for myself,
that they might declare my praise.”**

ANTIPHON: I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

13:24 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be

compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;

13:25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.

13:26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

13:27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'

13:28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'

13:29 But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.

13:30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

13:36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

13:37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;

13:38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,

13:39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

13:40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

13:41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,

13:42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

**THE SECOND CANTICLE
A SONG OF THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM**

Antiphon: I Wisdom's company do all good things come; those who receive her are friends with God.

**I prayed and understanding was given me:
I called upon God and the Spirit of Wisdom came to me.
I preferred her to sceptres and thrones
And I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her.
I loved her more than health or beauty
and I chose to have her rather than light,
because her radiance never ceases.
In her company, all good things came to me;
in her hands a wealth of true riches.
In all the good things, I rejoiced,
because Wisdom brings them,
but I did not know that she was their mother,
What I learned without selfishness,
I pass on without reserve'
I do not hide her gifts.
For Wisdom is an unfailing reassurance for mortals
those who receive her are friends with God.**

Antiphon: I Wisdom's company do all good things come; those who receive her are friends with God.

THE SERMON

When You Are Old by W.B. Yeats

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

And bending down beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

Does anyone know who wrote this wonderful poem? It is entitled *When You Are Old*, written by the great Irish poet of the latter 19th and early 20th century, William Butler Yeats.

I love Yeats, he was an uncontested genius and gifted poet. He in fact received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923. I probably committed this poem to memory when I was in high school. I can also recite many a passage from Jane Austen, another literary genius, in almost any situation; my friends sometimes tire of me saying, "well you know, Jane Austen said..." Because I have held this poem for so long in my heart, mind and soul, it has resonated and accompanied me many, many times during my life. I have internalized it, making it a part of me, and thus experienced it over and over again in new, profound and unexpected ways.

When I read today's Psalm in preparation for this sermon, I immediately thought to myself, this is something I should memorize. Sadly, memorizing great literary passages, from the bible or elsewhere, has gone out of fashion, and I think this to be very sad. It is a short passage, so let's hear it again:

Psalm 86:11-17

- 11 Teach me your way, O LORD,
that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
- 12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.
- 13 For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
- 14 O God, the insolent rise up against me;
a band of ruffians seeks my life,
and they do not set you before them.
- 15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
- 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your serving girl.
- 17 Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

I would like to suggest to you today, there are at least three good reasons to memorize this passage. Lets briefly explore them.

Firstly, committing scripture to memory gives us words to pray with ease and fluency; a way to express our commitment and our thanks, cornerstones really of every prayer. Although Psalm 86 is considered by scholars to be a Psalm of lament, by the time we get to verse 11, it is much more an expression of commitment. It affirms that God's way is the way of truth, just as Christ proclaimed he was the way, the truth and the life. "Give me an undivided heart to revere your name" is surely the heart we all pray for and daily seek to achieve. And, as a prayer of thanksgiving, the Psalmist continues in verse 12, "I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever." Forever is a long time; that speaks to commitment to be sure.

Secondly, committing scripture to memory can often give us insights and deep understanding that are perhaps not immediately obvious to us. Verse 13 continues as an expression of thanks for God's khesed (in Hebrew) or steadfast love, "For great is your steadfast love toward me." Importantly, the Hebrew term khesed has many nuanced meanings including loving kindness, love, kindness, mercy, loyalty, favor, devotion, goodness and more. In this simple phrase then, it seems to me, that we have in fact an expression of our glorious relationship with God. Verse 16 continues by

implored God's grace, strength and salvation, "Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl."

And finally, committing scripture to memory makes us better theologians. Studying our holy scriptures is a daunting and complex process, to say the least, that really takes a whole lifetime. If parts of that scripture are ready at hand, through familiarity, or an easily accessible memory, then we are afforded an opportunity to make those theological connections that are abundant in the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. In verse 15 the Psalmist declares, "But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness," pointing us back to God's graciousness as it was revealed to Moses at Mt. Sinai and elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible. This piece of scripture from Hebrews (4:16) echoes the same message, "Let us then approach God's throne of Grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Comparison and repetition are important in theology, and in our growing understanding of our faith.

Holding the words of God, and of our savior Jesus Christ, deeply internalized in our hearts, would serve us all well. Here, God's blessings can be amplified and multiplied as the long and winding road that is our life unfolds. And, as Jane Austen prayed, "Above all other blessings Oh! God, for ourselves, and our fellow-creatures, we implore thee to quicken our sense of thy mercy in the redemption of the world, of the value of that holy religion in which we have been brought up, that we may not, by our own neglect, throw away the salvation thou hast given us, nor be Christians only in name. Hear us Almighty God, for his sake who has redeemed us." Amen.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

THE PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SUFFRAGES

Show us your mercy, O God;
And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.

Keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God,
Mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

COLLECT FOR SUNDAY

O God, you make us glad
**with the weekly remembrance
of the glorious resurrection**

**of your Son our Lord:
Give us this day such blessing
through our worship of you,
that the week to come may be spent in your favor;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR MISSION (We pray for our church, especially the members of our community watching from home, or who are unable to attend services)

Loving God,
**from birth to death,
you hold us in your hand:
make us strong to bear each other's burdens
and humble to share our own,
that as one family we may rest in your power
and trust in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

CLOSING

O the depth of the riches and wisdom of God;
How unsearchable are your ways.

From God and to God are all things;
To you be the glory forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

In TODAY'S SERVICE

Celebrant: Emilie Smith

Preacher: Martha Cameron

Music: Janet Murray

Prayers: Maureen Shirley

Reader: Lorne Thompson