

**MORNING PRAYER**  
**ST. BARNABAS ANGLICAN CHURCH**



*My love is like a young gazelle . . .*

***SERVICE OF THE WORD***

***JULY 5, 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.**

## **PSALMS 145:8-14**

### **Antiphon:**

**In your light, O God, we see light.**

8 .You, O God, are gracious and full of compassion,\*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

**9 You are loving to everyone\*  
and your compassion is over all your works.**

10 All your works praise you, O God,\*  
and your faithful servants bless you.

**11 They make known the glory of your dominion\*  
and speak of your power;**

12 That the peoples may know of your power\*  
and the glorious splendor of your dominion.

**13 Your dominion is everlasting;\*  
and endures throughout all ages.**

14 You are faithful in all your words\*  
and merciful in all your deeds.

### **Antiphon: In your light, O God, we see light.**

**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**

*The people sit.*

## **THE FIRST LESSON**

### **Song of Solomon 2:8-13**

2:8 The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills.

2:9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

2:10 My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;

2:11 for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

2:12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

2:13 The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

## **THE FIRST CANTICLE A SONG OF SOLOMON**

**Antiphon: Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.**

**Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm.**

**For love is strong as death  
Passion fierce as the grave,  
its flashes are flashes of fire,  
a raging flame.**

**Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can the floods drown it.**

**If all the wealth of our house were offered for love,  
it would be utterly scorned.**

**Antiphon: Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.**

## **THE SECOND LESSON**

### **Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

11:16 "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

11:17 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon';

11:19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

11:25 At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;

11:26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

11:27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

11:28 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The word of the Lord. **(Thanks be to God.)**

## **THE SECOND CANTICLE**

**Antiphon: Ascribe majesty to the name of the Most High; let all creation give thanks with praise**

**Listen to me, my faithful children,  
and blossom like a rose growing by a stream of water.  
Send out fragrance like incense  
and sing a hymn of praise,  
bless our God for all creation.  
Ascribe majesty to the name of the Most High;  
give thanks with praise,  
with songs on your lips and with harps.**

**All your works are good, O God,  
and whatever you command will be done.**

**Antiphon: Ascribe majesty to the name of the Most High; let all creation give  
thanks with praise**

## **THE SERMON**

Well, here we are. It is the first time since the middle of March that we have gathered in any sort of way in this precious, holy place, our beloved church. The whole season of Easter has come and gone, and then Pentecost, Trinity, all these days, and now we are into the long season after Pentecost, which will take us all the way, with a few special days, until Advent and then Christmas. Thanks to everyone for hanging in there.

So . . . now we gather. But only some of us are here. It is a little bit heartbreaking. I want everyone to gather! I want us to be able to give one another hugs, like long ago friends come home. I want to eat together -- remember Lorne's pineapple upside-down cake? Remember Maureen fussing in the kitchen because it's somebody's birthday, and someone else brought a cake. And strawberry socials? Strawberry season is almost gone. And strawberry socials with the good china cups are my favourite part of being church! (But not really!)

We gather -- some of us -- because this way of one week some, the next week others, is the best we could think of doing, as we looked around in our space. We will try this out for a while, and we will listen to what the health authorities say.

What a time this has been! Disruption, postponements, cancellations. And so much time looking at screens instead of at people. But we in Vancouver, in British Columbia, are living in paradise, in one of the safest places on earth. Are we better off here because we are lucky? Are we blessed? (Of course we are -- but are we MORE blessed than others? Of course we aren't!) I think it is a combination of sensibleness, and luck. We have followed the rules, and we have had one another's well-being in our hearts.

Today, a group of us gathers, next week a different group, and we will hear the Word of God spoken to God's people, we will pray and listen, and see one another. As very soon as we are able we will share in God's holy sacrament, we will break bread and remember the promise of oneness that came to us in Jesus, but that not quite yet. Praying for that soon.

This year, this strange year, is also Year A according the revised

common lectionary that many of us use. That means that we will be reading mostly from the Gospel according to Matthew. (Later on there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth!)

We begin with this strange reading which doesn't sound like anything familiar to our experience today. Children in the marketplace calling to one another? Flutes -- no dancing? Wailing -- but no accompaniment in mourning? John the Baptist, rejected and misunderstood. Jesus, also rejected and cast aside? What can all this possibly mean?

I hear, I see, a society profoundly out of sync with itself, with one another. A community where people have forgotten what it means to be community, where we neither celebrate, nor mourn with one another -- and more drastically -- when God sends one man (John the Baptist) to open our ears, we hear nothing. When God makes the cosmos-shattering decision to come to earth to incarnate Godself and to become human, to show us the way to love, he is rejected, and finally murdered.

For the wise and the intelligent, this God coming to earth is totally nonsense. The only way, it seems, to approach any kind of understanding of our faith is to be like an infant. To be open to the world, a new world, in a totally new way. Can we, if we are older and our ways are calcified, and change seems impossible, can we experience this God, who yes Made Heaven and Earth, the God, who yes Came to Earth to Teach us the Way to Love, this God, who is STILL HERE, is always here, has never left us, is as close to us as every breathe, this Spirit that comes into us, that is life, that is acceptance, that is belonging, that is radical inclusion, that is justice.

This God of ours, if we dare to hold this God, and believe, is inviting us to be these kind of people of faith. Not afraid. Not worried that we can't do things as we have always done them. Not concerned that the world is changing. Because we have a Rock. And we are sheltered from every storm in its cleft.

I give thanks every day for this community. For all that we do and what we are. I give thanks for those who are here, and those who are not here, but who hold us up in prayer. I pray for those who have gone before us, all those who have prayed in this place, in celebration, and in sorrow. I give thanks for those who are praying for us right now, from their homes. Amen, brothers and sisters!

I pray -- I know -- that we can continue to be a sign in this neighbourhood, and in the whole world, that God has not forgotten God's

children. Are you weary? Are your burdens many? In some way, you can hand that all over to God, Jesus will never say no. Somewhere deeper than everything that is wrong with the world, everything is right. It really is.

My youngest son is getting married in six days. Maybe that's why I chose the reading from the Song of Songs (also known as the Song of Solomon). It is one of the most tender parts of our holy scripture. Written, it seems, as a love song between two people. But it has long been interpreted too, as a word of promise to God's faithful.

The winter is past. The rain is over and gone (!) Flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come. Maybe not quite yet. But soon. Hang on. You are loved.

## **MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**

### **THE PRAYERS**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious and loving God, who sees and knows all things, we bring to you this day our heavy burdens; anxiety over illness, regret from what we have done and left undone, uncertainty during these difficult times and loneliness in our separation. We raise our voices to you saying **Lord, from these heavy burdens, give us rest.**

We feel the weight of responsibility as we work to re-open our church during this time of pandemic. Grant our leaders the wisdom and strength to guide us. We pray especially for our Archbishop Melissa, and our priest Emilie as we venture in to renewed, and restrained, worship today. May our plans and efforts result in all our voices sounding the glory of your name, saying **Lord, from these heavy burdens, give us rest.**

We feel the weight of duty when we think of our national, provincial and local leaders as they are obliged to make, and remake, plans and policies so that we are all safe and healthy. We pray that they remain steadfast in their mission, honest in their dealings, and humble in their successes, saying **Lord, from these heavy burdens, give us rest.**

We feel the weight of anxiety when we survey the world and see such suffering, as the pandemic continues to spread and cause ruin. Especially in South America, the United States and the Middle East, despair and loss are everywhere. We pray that the rising numbers will soon begin to decrease, and that those who are ill will recover and flourish, saying **Lord, from these heavy burdens, give us rest.**

We feel the weight of commitment to our parish and community as we work hard to keep our parish together during these difficult times. May our plans to re-open today be



a blessing to our church community, and to our neighbourhood, as we all long for normal times to return, saying **Lord, from these heavy burdens, give us rest.**

We feel the weight of care for all those in our community of New Westminster who we might serve. May we, in your glorious name, never tire in our service to those in need, those in recovery, the hungry, the lonely and the sick. Please take a moment now to remember to God those in your hearts who are in need. (Pause) Help us to search for and always find new ways to glorify your name, saying **Lord, from these heavy burdens, give us rest.**

We feel the weight of sadness and grief as we remember those who have departed. We especially remember Leif, Vladim and Jason, and we hold Donna and Irena in our hearts as they grieve. May they know your love and support through us, saying **Lord, from these heavy burdens, give us rest.**

God of all creation, all love and all peace, let us never forget your words, "Come to me all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Help us to know and reveal your rest in all that we do and say, to the glory of your name always, **Amen.**

## **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,  
**your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ**  
**is the light of the world.**  
**May your people,**  
**illumined by your word and sacraments**  
**shine with the radiance of his glory,**  
**that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed**  
**to the ends of the earth:**  
**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)

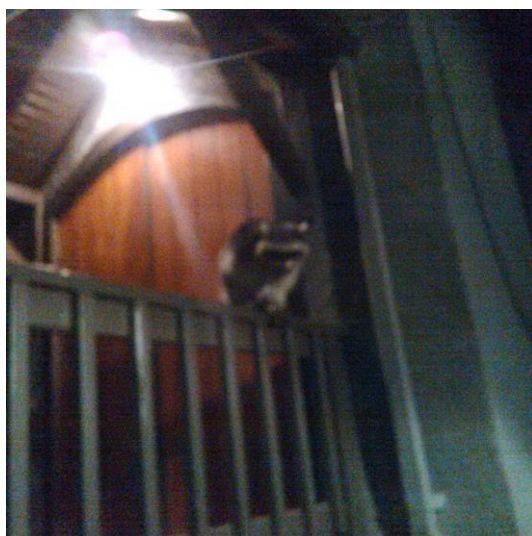
Loving God,  
**from birth to death,  
you hold us in your hand:  
make us strong to bear each other's burdens  
and humble to share our own,  
that as one family we may rest in your power  
and trust in your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### **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:**



A new parishioner visits St. Barnabas!

In TODAY'S SERVICE

Celebrant: Emilie Smith

Music: Jason Wu

Prayers: Martha Cameron

Reader: Lorne Thompson