

# SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Trinity Sunday 7 June 2020

Time after time mankind is driven against the rocks of the horrid reality of a fallen creation. And time after time mankind must learn the hard lessons of history—the lessons that for some dangerous and awful reason we can't seem to keep in our collective memory. —Hilaire Belloc

#### GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

### Gospel Invitation—Romans 5:8

God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners. Christ died for us.

### Introit—Holy God, We Praise Your Name, Vs. 1



Ho - ly God, we praise Your name; Lord of all, we bow be - fore You!



All on Earth Your scep - ter claim. All in Heav'n a - bove a - dore You:



In - fi - nite\_ Your vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is\_\_\_ Your reign.

Text: Based on *Te Deum*, 4<sup>th</sup> century, Attr. Ignace Franz, 1774; Music: GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1774.

# Call to Worship—Psalm 50:1-6

Pastor: The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

All: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Reader 1: Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.

Reader 2: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people: "Gather to Me My faithful ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!"

All: The heavens declare His righteousness.

Pastor: For God Himself is judge!

# Hymn of Praise—There's A Wideness In God's Mercy



Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1854; Music: HOLY MANNA, William Moore, 1825.

## GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts. God particularly entreats us in His Word to sing psalms. And while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to make use of the Psalter as the church's songbook.

### Psalm of Praise—Fret Not Yourself (Psalm 37)



vour-self when e - vil seems to Fret not in the land, \_\_ pros - per un - yield - ing And though he thinks he's root - ed fast, like а tree,\_ Be still be - fore the Lord and wait: de - light in His com - mands. have not seen, inyouth or age, the right-eous man de - crease.



Nor when the wick-ed\_ plots and schemes a - gainst the right - eous The wick - ed one will fade like grass, like smoke caught breeze. with And He shall keep your path-way straight, up - hold His vou hand. ofher - i - tage, The Lord pro-vides a а fu - ture  $full_{-}$ peace.



Dwell faith - ful - ly, and your heart's de-sires trust God will ful -His bow will break, his sword will fail; and just - ice will strong - hold sure in \_\_ trou - bled days, the Lord His peo - ple saves. He all is re - fuge ev - er - more, for who trust the Lord.

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 37, Elizabeth Dowdell, 2020; Music: GRAYMERE, Henry C. Haffner and Elizabeth Dowdell, 2020.

# Scripture Reading—Isaiah 64:6-8

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon Your name, who rouses himself to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Hymn of Praise—Speak, O Lord



CCLI #2844402 ©2005 Thankyou Music, Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2005.

# Baptism of Odin Dye, Son of Cody and Sarah Dye

# Reading of the Word—Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:3

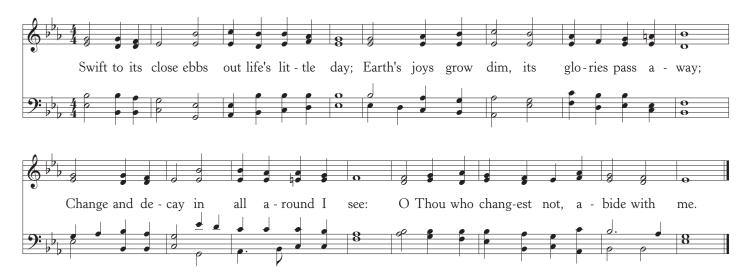
<sup>16</sup>Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. <sup>17</sup>I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work. <sup>18</sup>I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts. <sup>19</sup>For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. <sup>20</sup>All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. <sup>21</sup>Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth? <sup>22</sup>So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

<sup>4:1</sup> Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. <sup>2</sup> And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive. <sup>3</sup> But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

# Sung Response—Abide With Me, Vs. 2



Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1847; Music: EVENTIDE (MONK), William Henry Monk, 1861.

#### Sermon—Harsh Realities

-Pastor, George Grant

#### GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

#### Confession of Sin—from Psalm 51:1-2, 4

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your

abundant mercy.

All: Blot out our transgressions.

Pastor: Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin!

All: Against You, and You only, have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight.

Pastor: So You are justified in Your Words.

All: And You are blameless in Your judgment.

#### Assurance of Pardon—from Psalm 51:10, 12-13, 15; Acts 1:8

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a rightspirit within us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Then we will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You. O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare Your praise.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

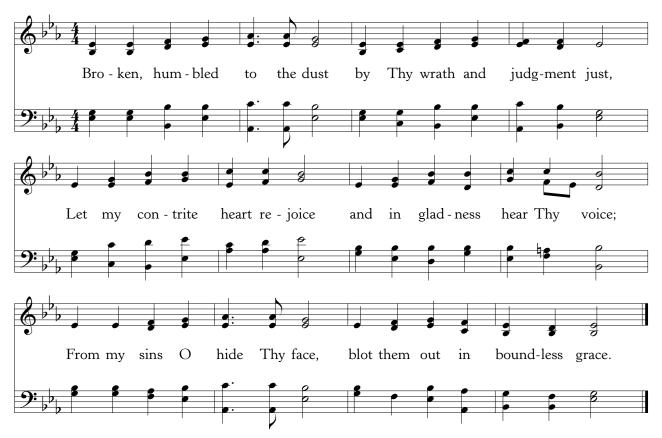
All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: For Christ Himself confirmed: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you

will be My witnesses."

All: "In Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

#### Sung Response—God Be Merciful To Me (Psalm 51), Vs. 4



Text: Psalm 51:8-9, The Psalter, 1912; Music: REDHEAD, Richard Redhead, 1853.

#### HEAVENLY GIFT—EUCHARISTO

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

### Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.* 

#### Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

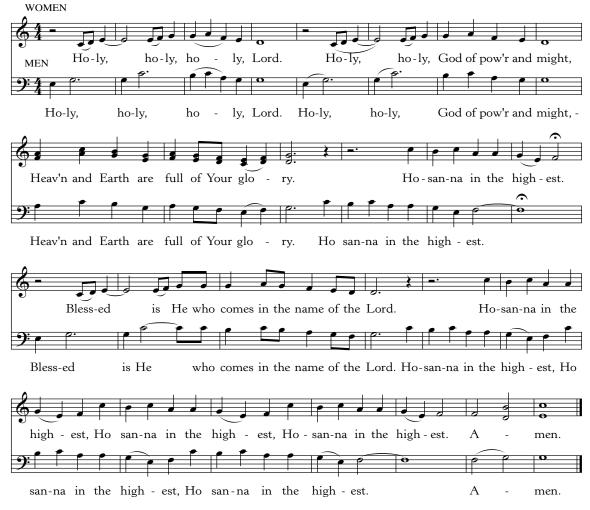
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our

Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal

praise:



Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: FRANKLIN SANCTUS, Gregory Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

# Hymn of Communion—Come, Ye Disconsolate



Text: Thomas More, 1816; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2007.

# GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

# Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

# Hymn of Praise—How Firm A Foundation



Text: "K" in John Rippon's A Selection of Hymns, 1787; Music: FOUNDATION, Traditional American Melody.

## GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

# Benediction—2 Timothy 2:1, 9

Be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The Word of God is not bound! Amen.

### Sung Response—Holy God, We Praise Your Name, Vs. 4



Text: Based on *Te Deum*, 4<sup>th</sup> century, Attr. Ignace Franz, 1774; Music: GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1774.

#### Announcements

### Worship Notes:

In this week's sermon passage, Solomon wrestles with the unjust state of the world. Everywhere he looked, he found wickedness and oppression. We too have reason to lament when we see "evil [...] prosper in the land" (Fret Not Yourself—Psalm 37), when we encounter "change and decay" (Abide With Me), when we must confront the sin we find in our own hearts and acknowledge that "all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment" (Isaiah 64:6). It is tempting to conclude that "the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive" (Ecclesiastes 4:2). But we are not left alone in our despair. We hear from Psalm 50 that "Our God comes; He does not keep silence." We sing that "there's a wideness in God's mercy," and a "kindness in His justice" (There's A Wideness). We are assured that "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). And so we can pray with David in Psalm 51 for God to "wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin" (Psalm 51:2), and know with certainty that He will. Is there still evil in this world? Do we still sin week after week? Yes. But we also serve a God who calls us here every week, who delivers all who take refuge in Him, whose "grace, all-sufficient, shall be [our] supply" (How Firm A Foundation). So "come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel," and know that "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal" (Come Ye Disconsolate). —Elizabeth Dowdell

**Key Words:** Sun, Justice, Wickedness, Righteousness, Beasts, Dust, Oppression **Keystone Verse:** God will judge the righteous and the wicked. (Ecclesiastes 3:17)



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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.