Flower Service

14 June 2020

*Iain*

THE GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

*Iain*

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

*Iain*

WELCOME

HYMN 36 from CH4 *Latin 1748 Tr. Sir Henry W. Baker (1821 – 77)*

On this day the first of days,

God the Father’s name we praise,

Who, creation’s Lord and Spring

Did the world from darkness bring.

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Richard*

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God’s forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*Joyce*

Let us ask God to have mercy on our tired land, and to prosper the work of our soiled hands. Let us ask God to forgive our delusion of self-sufficiency so that we may praise him for his provision and goodness.

*Bru*

You delight in creation, its colour and diversity; yet we have misused the earth and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.

*Choir sings: Kyrie, kyrie, kyrie eleison*

*David*

You have brought order out of chaos, light out of darkness, good out of evil, but we have preferred darkness in words and deeds which dishonour God’s holy name.

*Choir sings Christe, Christe, Christe, eleison*

*Victor*

You have showered us with blessings, but we have been grudging towards others and lacking in generosity in word and deed.

*Choir sings: Kyrie, kyrie, kyrie eleison*

*Iain*

God of everlasting love, who is eternally forgiving, pardon and restore us, and make us one with you, in your new creation. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

*Joyce and Richard*

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Praise the Lord.

**The Lord’s name be praised.**

PSALM 104:11 – 21, 26

*Kilsaran Ian S*

26 O Lord, how manifold are your work! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

14 You water the hills from your dwelling on high; the earth is filled with the fruit of your works.

15 You make grass to grow for the cattle and plants to meet our needs,

16 Bringing forth fruit from the earth and wine to gladden our hearts,

17 Oil to give us a cheerful countenance and bread to strengthen our hearts.

*Joyce*

18 The trees of the Lord are full of sap, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted,

19 In which the birds build their nests, while the fir trees are a dwelling for the stork.

20 The mountains are a refuge for the wild goats and the stony cliffs for the conies.

21 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows the time for its setting.

26 O Lord, how manifold are your work! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

*Joyce and Richard*

 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

 FIRST READING

*Iain*

A reading from the Book Genesis

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. *Genesis 1: 9 – 13*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

BENEDICITE *verses 10, 11*

O let the earth bless the Lord:

Yea, let it praise him and magnify him forever.

O ye Mountains and Hills, bless ye the Lord:

O all ye green things upon the Earth, bless ye the Lord.

SECOND READING

*Dunleer Annemarie*

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Jesus said, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

*Collon* *John*

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. *Matthew 6: 25 – 33*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

HYMN 365 CH5 *Joachim Neander (1650 – 80)*

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All you who hear now to his temple draw near,

Joining in glad adoration.

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the Amen sound form his people again:

Gladly for aye we adore him.

SERMON *Bru*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH

*Joyce*

**We believe that Creation is a gift of God, an expression of our Creator’s goodness. We believe that as human beings we are part of this creation and that we share in the creative power of God. We believe that the resources of our land and waters and air are precious gifts from our Creator, to be used with loving care. We believe there is a rhythm to God’s creation, like a drum beat: when we lose the beat, or the drum is damaged, the music is out of tune.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Richard*

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord, have mercy.

**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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

*Joyce and Richard*

Show us your mercy, O Lord,

**and grant us your salvation.**

O Lord, guide and defend our rulers

**and grant our government wisdom.**

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness

**and let your servants shout for joy.**

O Lord, save your people

**and bless those whom you have chosen.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord,

**and let your glory be over all the earth.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us

**and renew us by your Holy Spirit.**

PRAYERS and THANKSGIVINGS

*Bru*

Let us pray:

‘The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it’

So we sing and so we also acknowledge. Yet we know, Lord, that while the earth is yours, you have appointed us stewards of your property. Keep us faithful to our trust; and make us mindful of our responsibility both to conserve the earth’s resources and to distribute its benefits justly and unselfishly, for the good of mankind, and for your great glory.

Upon the rich earth send a blessing, O Lord. Let the earth be fruitful and its resources be hallowed.

*Choir sings All good gifts around us*

*Are sent from heaven above*

*Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord*

*For all his love.*

*David*

Upon human labour send a blessing, O Lord. Prosper the work of our hands; may all find dignity and just reward in their work; grant that we may do our part to free the exploited and the oppressed.

*Choir sings All good gifts around us*

*Are sent from heaven above*

*Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord*

*For all his love.*

*Victor*

We hold before you all who cannot enjoy the beauties of the earth: those who have been made ill by pollution, poverty and exploitation; all who suffer injustice and neglect; all who mourn the death of loved ones. Lay your healing hand upon them, may they fell your presence with them, grant them light and peace.

*Choir sings: All good gifts around us*

*Are sent from heaven above*

*Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord*

*For all his love.*

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A General Thanksgiving

*Iain*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and lovingkindness to us, and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

HYMN *Cecil Frances Alexander (1818 – 1895)*

*All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful,  
the Lord God made them all.*

1 Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
he made their glowing colours,  
he made their tiny wings.

GOING OUT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

*Richard*

May God the Father, creator of all that is good and beautiful, bless you with eyes to see his creation**. Amen.**

*Joyce*

May God the Son, redeemer of the world, bless you with a heart to respond to him. **Amen.**

*Richard*

May God the Holy Spirit, sustainer of the world, guide you on your path. **Amen.**

*Iain*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, this night and for evermore. **Amen.**

HYMN 24 CH5 *William Henry Draper (1855 – 1933)*

1 All creatures of our God and King

Lift up your voice and with us sing

Alleluia, alleluia,

Thou burning sun with golden beam,

Thou silver moon with softer gleam:

*O praise him, O praise him,*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

7 Let all things their creator bless,

And worship him in humbleness,

O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,

And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One.

*based on ‘The Canticle of the Sun’ by Francis of Assisi. (1182 – 1226)*

DISMISSAL

*Joyce*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**