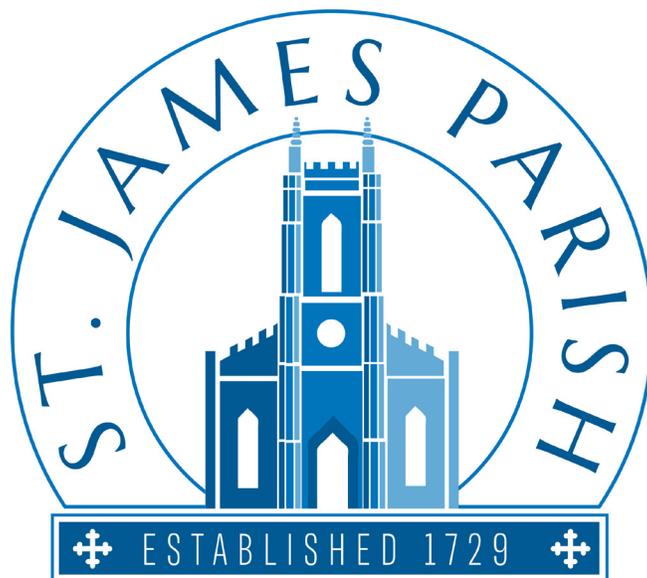


THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2020



Hymn 400: *"All creatures of our God and King"*

(sts. 1, 4-5, 7)

Lasst uns erfreuen

Bob Workmon, tenor; Stephen Luck, trumpet

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voices, let us sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Bright burning sun with golden beams, pale silver moon that gently gleams,
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dear mother earth, you day by day unfold your blessings on our way,
O praise him, Alleluia!

All flowers and fruits that in you grow, let them his glory also show:
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All you with mercy in your heart, forgiving others, take your part,
O sing now: Alleluia!

All you that pain and sorrow bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!

Praise God the Father, Praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

attr. Francis of Assisi

The Officiant begins with these sentences

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

Song of Praise

Gloria in excelsis (S-278)

William Mathias

Bob Workmon, tenor; Stephen Luck, trumpet

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Canticle 20

The Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A reading from Ezekiel (33:7–11)

Commentary:

Ezekiel ministered to the Jewish exiles living in Babylonia during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar. The purpose of Ezekiel's ministry was two-fold: to remind the people of the sins which had brought judgment and exile upon them and to encourage and strengthen their faith through prophecies of future restoration. God had commissioned Ezekiel to warn Israel that sin has consequences, and he had done so faithfully. On the other hand, God assured His people, through Ezekiel, that He took no pleasure in punishing them for their sins, He much preferred for them to turn from their sins and live.

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away

because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 119:33–40 (BCP, p. 766)

chant: John Sullivan

Bob Workmon, tenor

Antiphon (*The antiphon is first sung by the Cantor, then repeated by all*)



Teach me, O Lord, the way of your sta-tutes, and I shall keep it— to the end.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.

ANTIPHON

Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain

ANTIPHON

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

ANTIPHON

Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

ANTIPHON

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans (13:8–14)

Commentary:

In this letter, Paul was teaching the Roman Christians how to live out their faith. He reminded them that only one debt continued forever, the debt of love; they were to have the same loving regard for others they instinctively had for themselves. Paul urged his readers to be alert and ready to meet the Lord, instead of sleep-walking through their lives. The night, representing earthly life, is full of spiritual darkness and danger, but believers are to put aside evil deeds, replacing them with deeds of light. Basically, Paul is advising his readers to love and respect all people as they actively await the Lord's appearing.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (18:15–20)

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three

(The reading continues overleaf.)

witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Homily

The Reverend Jay Sidebotham

Solo: *“Wilt thou forgive that sin?”*

melody, John Hilton

Bob Workmon, tenor; Stephen Luck, trumpet

Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun,
which was my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt thou forgive that sin, through which I run,
and do run still, though still I do deplore?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done,
for I have more.

Wilt thou forgive that sin which I have won
others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun
a year or two, but wallow'd in, a score?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done,
for I have more.

I have a sin of fear, that when I've spun
my last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
swear by thyself, that at my death thy Son
shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore;
and, having done that, thou hast done;
I fear no more.

John Donne, alt.

The Nicene Creed (p. 358)

Officiant and People together

Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers

A prayer for transition

Almighty God, you know the needs of your church in every place: look graciously upon the people of St James Parish, and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we move through the search process for our new rector. Thank you for the faithful stewards you have provided, and will provide, for our leadership. We give thanks for those who have committed to serve on the Search Committee and ask for blessing on their endeavors. Give us discernment, wisdom, patience, and confidence in your timing. Help us to care for each other with mutual trust, respect, kindness, and clarity of purpose. You are the Good Shepherd, and we ask you to shepherd us throughout this journey. In the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Prayers in this time of pandemic

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. In this challenging and uncertain time of global pandemic and public health crisis, we come before you offering our prayers on behalf of those in need, the church, and the world.

We pray for the church, that it may not grow weary of proclaiming the gospel of Christ and serve as a beacon of hope to a suffering world. We pray for Michael, the Presiding Bishop, Rob our Bishop, Pierce our Interim Rector, our clergy, staff, wardens and vestry, and all who minister in your name. We also prayer for the Reverend Jay Sidebotham and Frances as they embark on their journey to New York.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us join all Episcopalians in The Diocese of East Carolina as we pray for Trinity Deanery in the Diocese of East Carolina and St. Paul's Clinton. May we all join together across the diocese in lifting up their ministry.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all affected by the coronavirus. We pray for all leaders and healthcare workers as they work for the common good to protect all. Grant public health and government officials the strength and will to act swiftly and decisively, with wisdom and compassion in service to all. We pray especially for our president, the Congress, Governors and mayors.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those students and teachers who are returning to school may they be safe and have a delight for learning once again.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for an end to racial and ethnic inequality. Let us pray for the wisdom and the will to eradicate the hatred and disrespect that weave through our culture and its official structures. Ignite a fire in us for racial equality.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer..**

We pray for all those known to our community who stand in need of God's healing power, remembering especially Anne, Bob, Delilah, Don, Jocelyn, Sarah... and others who we mention at this time.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Remove the presence of fear and anxiety from our hearts, that confident in your providence we may be generous in sharing our resources. Grant that our churches and communities of faith may reflect your love, as they minister to the most vulnerable among us.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have already lost loved ones and those who will yet suffer such loss that they may know the consolation of your love. On this Sunday, we pray for all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially Christopher Dols that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

The Concluding Collect

Holy and sovereign Lord, when the earth and all its people quake, you hold its pillars firm. What is uncertain and frightening to us is completely known to you and controlled by you. Look mercifully on the people of St James Parish. Although at this time we are apart from each other, we pray your Holy Spirit will unite us as one. Pour upon us your peace which passes all understanding, keep us safe and healthy, and above all, keep us mindful of those to whom we should show the love and compassion of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Officiant and People

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Benediction: "Simple Gifts"

Shaker folk song, *arr. Aaron Copland*

Bob Workmon, tenor

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'tis the gift to come down where you ought to be
And when we find ourselves in the place just right
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed
To turn, turn will be our delight
'Till by turning, turning we come round right.

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'tis the gift to come down where you ought to be
And when we find ourselves in the place just right
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight

The Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 376: “*Joyful, joyful we adore thee*”

Hymn to Joy

Bob Workmon, tenor; Stephen Luck, trumpet

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sins and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother: all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.



Scripture commentary: *Susan Ingle*

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MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (901) 763-1628 ♦ parish@stjamesp.org

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