

FAITH AT FIVE

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2020

MT. LEBANON CHAPEL



Our liturgy this evening draws from the Celtic Christian tradition of Iona and Northumbria in Scotland. There are many standard elements of Christian theology that are, of course, shared in the Celtic tradition - such as the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Christ. The distinctiveness of the Celtic theology is rooted in its focus on the presence of the divine in the physical world. God is experienced in all of creation and therefore is all of nature. If God is in all things, then the natural world is to be celebrated and honored as holy. This extends to every aspect of life, including human life as well. The everyday world is infused with a spiritual presence - even in the most mundane activities. If creation is holy, humankind is a part of creation and therefore also holy and sacred. This evening's celebration also highlights another Celtic concept - a strong sense of community, because all people together are valued and loved. In this and every age, people are called to offer support to one another and all people, likewise, depend on one another. We thank God for binding us together as a human family within all of creation. Wherever you are in your life and in your journey in faith, we welcome you to this Worship Experience and pray God's Blessing over this time of worship and over your life.

Gathering Music *(Sung by the music team from inside the chapel; the congregation is invited to listen)*

Opening Sentences

In the beginning, when it was dark, God said, "Let there be light."

And there was light.

(The sign of light - a lighted candle - is placed on a central table)

In the beginning, when it was quiet, The Word was with God.

And the Word was God.

(The sign of the Word - an open Bible - is placed on the table.)

When the time was right, God sent His Son.

He came among us and was one of us.

Last week many of us acknowledged God's care for the "Birds of the Air."

This week we will be hearing Scripture about "Servanthood."

The Gospel of Matthew tells us "whoever wants to become great among you must be a servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."" As we join our hearts and our lives in worship and as we come together as a community of love, let's also notice what it means to be a "servant"

Song of Prayer: (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

Leader The God of Love is with us.
People **The Spirit of love is in us.**
Leader Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen**
Leader Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, to you our hearts are open and our inmost desires are known. We cannot hide our most intimate secrets from you. We ask you to be present at all times in our thoughts and our hearts, and to purify them, so that we may love you with the love of the Holy Spirit and praise your name with humility and joy; Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise: (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

Leader The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Leader Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Word of God: Joshua 24:14–16

Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

Here is what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Silence is observed after the reading.

Psalm 139

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise;
You perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;
You are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue,
You, Lord, know it completely.

You hem me in behind and before,
And you lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
Too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
If I make my bed in the depths, you are there;

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
If I settle on the far side of the sea,

Even there your hand will guide me,
Your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
And the light become night around me,"

The night will shine like the day,
For the darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being,
You knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when
I was made in the secret place,
When I was woven together in the
depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body; All the days
ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!

Were I to count them, they would
outnumber the grains of sand;
when I awake, I am still with you.

Second Reading: Psalm 116:12–19

What can I give back to God for the blessings he's poured out on me? I'll lift high the cup of salvation - a toast to God! I'll pray in the name of God; I'll complete what I promised God I'd do, and I'll do it together with his people. When they arrive at the gates of death, God welcomes those who love him. Oh, God, here I am, your servant, your faithful servant: set me free for your service! I'm ready to offer the thanksgiving sacrifice and pray in the name of God. I'll complete what I promised God I'd do, and I'll do it in company with his people, In the place of worship, in God's house, in Jerusalem, God's city. Hallelujah!

Matthew 20:20–28

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is observed after the reading.

The Holy Gospel:

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. (Mark 9: 30–35)

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it. They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon: *"Being a Servant"*

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God: divine parent; beginning, end and what exists beyond beginning and ending; creator of all we see, feel, hear, taste, and touch.

We believe in One Lord, Jesus: who is God, the only Son of God, begotten of God the Father. Therefore, he is God from God, Light from Light, Love from Love. Truth from Truth. Jesus was not made, but begotten, for Jesus is God. And is one with God. Jesus was with God and through him as LOGOS* all things were made for creation and its redemption. Jesus embodied flesh. Became trapped in human flesh, and truly embodying humanity. Jesus was divine. Jesus was human. Jesus is the son of God. He was born of a virgin, Mary. Jesus was a man. He was crucified by a Roman authority bolstered with the cry of the Jewish people. He truly suffered as humans suffer. He truly died as humans die. On the third day, he became alive. In accordance with what has been said in Scripture, he also ascended into heaven and into the dance of the Trinity. We believe that Jesus/God will come again to reorder creation, judging and righting that which is chaotic and evil. The kingdom of God will never end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit: God, giver of life, who proceeds from the Father & Son. With the Father & Son the Holy Spirit is worshipped and glorified. The Holy Spirit speaks through prophets that sing, write, draw, dance, paint, rap, teach, and preach. The Holy Spirit unifies Christ's church. We believe in a single baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We all seek resurrection and the completed in-breaking of the Kingdom of God--looking to the eternal life that will continue in the world to come. Amen.

[*The Word of God]

The Prayers

Leader Lord Jesus Christ,

People **Be with us, within us, behind us and before us.**

Leader We bind ourselves, O God, today, to the strong name of the Trinity,

People **And we name you: Three in One, One in Three; and claim our place in your community of love.**

Leader We are embraced, loving God, in the community that is the heart not just of our church, but also in the community that is the very heart of who you are,

People **Three in One; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Leader Within that great love, we are held and treasured. Lord, hear our prayers this evening;

People **We pray for our hurting world.**

Leader That war-makers will find peace. That the hungry will find food. That refugees will find shelter. That injustice will be answered with all that is right and good.

People **We pray for all who suffer.**

Leader For those we love dearly. For those we barely know. For those whose suffering, we have ignored. Be present in the healing touch of all hands that help the sick and suffering. And send your Spirit to comfort and protect all who need you.

People **We pray for all who struggle.**

Leader For those who cannot see a way through broken relationships, difficult financial realities, emotional darkness, and deep, deep loneliness. May we find you even in the most helpless places. And may we, your people, be present also in those places, bringing Good News and hope to all who are longing for the true life that only you can provide.

People **We pray for all who are joyful.**

Leader We rejoice at the promise of new life, and the goodness of each new day. We celebrate the movement through milestones: births, graduations, new jobs, new relationships; and the hopes that they bring. We remember those moments of blessing in our own lives and we thank you for the opportunity to use our lives to your glory, to live lives that are full and worthy of your calling.

We lift up to you, Lord, the prayers that you've placed on our hearts in our own words at this time...

(We will intentionally PAUSE for the community present to share their requests, thanksgivings, desires, hopes & joys either out loud or silently.)

We bind ourselves, O God, today, to the strong name of the Trinity.

People **And we name you: Three in One, One in Three: and claim our place in your community of love.**

Leader Lord Jesus Christ

People **Be with us, within us, behind us, before us. Amen.**

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise
are yours at all times and in all places,
our true and loving God;
through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.
You laid the foundations of the world
and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;
You brought forth all creatures of the earth
and gave breath to humankind.
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;
And so as the morning stars sing your praises
we join the heavenly beings and all creation
as we shout with joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,
your Word has never been silent;
you called a people to yourself,
as a light to the nations,
you delivered them from bondage
and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus
to be human, to share our life,
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign
and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
you have freed us from sin,
brought us into your life,
reconciled us to you,
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us
Jesus took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:
“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”
After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,
said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:
“Drink this, all of you:
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,
poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”
And so, remembering all that was done for us:
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,
longing for Christ’s coming in glory,
and presenting to you these gifts
your earth has formed and human hands have made,
we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be to us
the Body and Blood of your Christ.
Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power,
may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,
and in the fullness of time gather us
with all your people
into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you our God and Creator
in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer *(Celebrant and People)*

**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.**

We break this bread
to share in the Body of Christ.
**We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

Music during Eucharist: *(Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen)*

Post-Communion Prayer *(Celebrant and People)*

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Lord,
It is night.

The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
What has not been done has not been done;
Let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world
And in our lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
All dear to us,
And all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
New joys,
New possibilities.

In your name we pray. **AMEN**

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind, and the blessing of God be with you always. **AMEN.**

Dismissal



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