

FAITH AT FIVE

SUNDAY 25 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)*

Where charity and love prevail there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear his charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength now love him in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.

Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's Name;
our common life embraces all whose Father is the same.

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.

(The Sign of the Son - a cross - is placed on the table.)

Last week we immersed ourselves into what it means to "SERVE."

This week we will be sharing Scripture about "Love".....

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that we "shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and "to love our neighbor as ourselves." As we come together to worship and as a community of love, let's ponder what it means to "love."

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

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me."

Refrain

Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live.

Refrain

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)*

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.

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: Leviticus 19: 1–2, 15–18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great; with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any other people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

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: 1 John 4: 7–21

Dear Friends, Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. Now one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he is us; He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In the world we are like Jesus.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 13: 1–1

If I speak in the tongues of men or angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a challenging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy. it does not boast. It is not proud. It does not dishonor others. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now i know in part; then I shall know more fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three things remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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. (Matthew 22: 34 –36)

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

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducces, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second s like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: "Love"

Jane Rippy

Affirmation of Faith

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.

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.**

Confession of Sin

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned.
I will confess my sins to the Lord, I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

Silence

God forgives and heals us.

We need your healing, merciful God:

give us true repentance.

Some sins are plain to us;

some escape us,

some we cannot face.

Forgive us;

set us free to hear your word to us;

set us free to serve you.

God forgives you.

Forgive others;

forgive yourself.

Silence

Through Christ, God has put away your sin:
approach your God in peace.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

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 cre-
ated 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)*

*Refrain:
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.
Refrain

Neighbors are rich and poor,
neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are nearby and far away.
Refrain

These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love,
all these are neighbors to us and you.
Refrain

Loving puts us on our knees,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.
Refrain

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.

Night Prayer

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**

Blessing

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



MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (910) 763-1628 ♦ parish@stjamesp.org

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