

The Church of St. Barnabas, Irvington

in the Episcopal Diocese of New York



A Service of Morning Prayer
for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2020 at ten o'clock

Before the Service

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948-)

Time itself is neutral; it can be used either destructively or constructively...
Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the
tireless efforts of men and women willing to work to be co-workers with God,
and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social
stagnation. We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is
always ripe to do right.

Why We Can't Wait (1963)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

I need a love that is troubled by injustice. A love that is provoked to anger when
Black folks, including our children, lie dead in the streets. A love that can no
longer be concerned with tone because it is concerned with life. A love that has
no tolerance for hate, no excuses for racist decisions, no contentment in the
status quo. I need a love that chooses justice.

I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness.

Austin Channing Brown

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

The discipline of prayer is the intentional, concentrated, and regular effort
to create space for God. Everything and everyone around us wants to fill
up every bit of space in our lives and so make us not only occupied people,
but preoccupied people as well. When we permit the world to pack our
minds and hearts with countless things to look at, listen to, and read
about, and countless people to visit, write to, talk to, and worry about,
how do we focus? When there are countless happenings to be excited or
depressed about, how can we ever manage to keep a space for the One
who says: "Do not set your heart on all these things. Set your hearts on
God's Kingdom first . . . and all these other things will be given you as
well." (Matt. 6:33-34)

Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)

A Service of Morning Prayer

When life's circumstances prevent us from attending Church.

Prelude

“Merifield”

Janet Correll (b. 1942)

“Morning Song”

William France (1912-1985)

Opening Sentence

Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. *Matthew 3:2*

+ Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

The Invitatory and Psalter

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall show forth your praise.

Officiant and People:

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

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

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

Jubilate *Psalm 100*

Officiant and People:

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God;

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting;

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Then follows in union

Psalm 119

[129-136]

129 Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

130 When your word goes forth it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.

131 I open my mouth and pant;
I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me in mercy,
as you always do to those who love your Name.

133 Steady my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.

135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.

At the end of the Psalms is said

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

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

The Lessons

One or two lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying

A Reading from Romans

[8:26-39]

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for

us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 13:31-33,44-52
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Rector

The Apostles' Creed

said in unison

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Officiant and People:

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. **And grant us your salvation.**
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Intercessions

Officiant

Let us bring before the Lord the prayers that dwell in the heart of our community, responding, "*Hear us, good Lord.*"

Biddings

Let us pray for the healing of the nations in a world bruised and torn apart by war, oppression and injustice. We pray also for all those who are seeking to bring peace and reconciliation in our own nation and an end to racial injustice.
Hear us, good Lord.

Let us pray for all those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit at this time. Especially for whom we have been asked to pray, among them: [N]; may God's all embracing love reach out to them through his appointed people so that we are brought into fellowship with them, our brothers and sisters in need.

Hear us, good Lord.

Let us pray for all those who are recently departed and those whose anniversaries fall at this time, among them: [N]; we commend them to your mercy that your will for them may be fulfilled, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Hear us, good Lord.

Lord of Life and Love, you have called us to serve you; give us the grace and strength to respond to your call and fill us with your ubiquitous and audacious love. We ask these prayers in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Collects

The Collect of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Divine Encounter

God of healing and hope, in Jesus Christ you meet us in our places of pain and fear. Look with mercy on those who have contracted the novel coronavirus, on any who are vulnerable, and on all who feel in danger.

Through this time of global concern, by your Holy Spirit bring out the best not the worst in us. Make us more aware of our interdependence on each other, and of the strength that comes from being one body in you. Through Christ our wounded healer. **Amen.**

The Reverend Sam Wells; St Martins in the Field, London

A Collect for the Nation

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Greetings and Announcements

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, Look mercifully on this your family gathered in their own homes as well as in places of recovery and places of protest, that by your great goodness they may be justly governed and rightly preserved for evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Toccata in Seven"

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Officiant: Gareth Evans

Organist and Choirmaster: Donald Butt

Audio-Visual: Kelli Scott