

**A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP
FROM THE NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK**

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**The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost  
October 25, 2020**

*Please join in on italicized responses.*

*Officiant for This Morning's Service – Ron Alarie*

## The Preparation

Great is the Lord and worthy of all praise,

***Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,  
Thanksgiving and honor, power and might,  
Be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.***

*Great and Wonderful*

1. Great and wonderful are your deeds O Lord God the almighty:  
***just and true are your ways O Sovereign of the nations.***
2. Who shall not revere and praise your name O Lord?  
***for you alone are holy.***
3. All Nations shall come and worship in your presence:  
***for your just dealings have been revealed.***
4. To the One who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb:  
***be blessing and honor, glory and might for every and ever. Amen.***

Revelation 15:3b-4, 5:13

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us praise and worship God who has called us together. Let us celebrate God's majesty, and delight in the wonder of God's love. Together we shall confess our sins and receive assurance that we are forgiven.

As the scriptures are read, we can allow God's word to speak to us, and ponder its meaning for our lives. In our prayers, we give thanks for God's goodness, we pray for others as well as for ourselves, and we offer our lives anew in Christ's service.

All this we do, because we believe in the presence among us of our Savior Jesus Christ, and in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear these words of scripture.

*"As God who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct."*

***Spirit of God, search our hearts.***

Let us be in silence and remember our need for God's forgiveness.

*Silence*

Let us confess our sins to God.

***God of mercy, we have sinned against you and against others.  
We have sinned in what we have done, and in what we have***

*failed to do. We are truly sorry. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for our sins, forgive us all that is past and raise us to newness of life. Amen.*

Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent, forgive our sins, strengthen us by the Holy Spirit, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

*Amen*

### **The Ministry of the Word**

O come, let us sing to the Lord,  
*let us rejoice in the rock of our salvation.*

We sing to you O God, and bless your name;  
*and tell of your salvation from day to day.*

We proclaim your glory to the nations,  
*your praise to the ends of the earth.*

### **Psalm 1**

### **Beatus vir qui non abiit**

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, \*  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

*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.*

**A reading from the Old Testament: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18**

*Laws of Holiness and Justice*

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 of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

*[Silence may follow the reading]*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

***Thanks be to God.***

*The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

1. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases:  
**God's mercies never come to an end;**
2. they are new every morning:  
**your faithfulness O Lord is great.**
3. You are all that I have:  
**and therefore I will wait for you.**
4. You O Lord are good to those who wait for you:  
**to all those who seek you.**
5. It is good to wait in patience:  
**for the salvation of the Lord.**

Lamentations 3:22-26

**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.**

**A reading from the New Testament: Matthew 22:34-46**

*The Great Commandment*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him 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 is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,

‘Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet’?”

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

*[Silence may follow the reading]*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

***Thanks be to God.***

*The Song of the Church*

We praise you O God:

***we acclaim you as the Lord.***

All creation worships you:

***the Father everlasting.***

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven:

***cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise,***

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:

***heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

The glorious company of apostles praise you:

***the noble fellowship of prophets praise you,***

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:

***Father of majesty unbounded.***

Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship:

***and the Holy Spirit, our advocate and guide.***

You Christ are the king of glory:

***the eternal Son of the Father.***

When you became incarnate to set us free:

***you humbly accepted the Virgin’s womb.***

You overcame the sting of death:

***and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.***

You are seated at God’s right hand in glory:

***we believe that you will come to be our judge.***

Come then Lord and help your people:

***bought with the price of your own blood,***

And bring us with your saints:  
*to glory everlasting*

The Lord be with you.  
*The Lord bless you.*

**An Article by the Rev. Jane A. Willan, First Congregational Church-United Church of Christ, Paxton  
“Vote for What You Believe”**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray

*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 forever. Amen*

### **The Intercessions**

The reader and people pray responsively.  
Particular intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered before any section.

Caring God, we thank you for your gifts in creation:  
For those who have birthdays this week:  
Luanne Morgado, Josh Morin, Ralph Morse

For those who have wedding anniversaries this week:  
Robert and Claudia Krey, Hal and Pam Marshall

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Tessmer, Tompkins, and Tyndall families, and for our parish administrator, sexton, and organist.

For our world,  
***the heavens tell of your glory;***

for our land, its beauty and resources,  
***for the rich heritage we enjoy.***

We pray for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth,  
***that we may use your gifts responsibly;***

for our president, Donald, our governor, Charlie, our lieutenant Governor, Karyn, and our Town Manager, Kevin:

for those who work on the land and sea, in cities and in industry,  
***that all may enjoy the fruits of their labors  
and marvel at your creation;***

for artists, scientists and visionaries,  
***that through their work we may see creation afresh.***

We thank you for giving us life;  
***for all who enrich our experience.***

For Rev. Ann, our Priest in Charge, for our Bishop, Michael and our Bishop Doug. For all bishops, priests, and deacons.

We pray: for all who through their own or others' actions are deprived of fullness of life,  
***for prisoners, refugees, the handicapped, and all who are sick or need God's healing grace;***

**for** Patricia Martin, Sarah, Amelia, Kelly D, Margaret, Linda, Tony, Charlotte, Debbie, Tim, John, Patty, Jeff Kalb, Tanya, Nancy Kelly, Joanne Cox, Bev, Beth, Scott, Eric, Craig McDonough, Randy Swallow, Anthony, Ken, Linda Allen, Becky, Catherine.

For those who are ill with the corona virus and for those who seek to heal and those who work to provide essential services during this difficult time.

For those in politics, medical science, social and relief work,  
and for your Church especially,  
we pray for Peace and Social Justice among all people, for our Trinity parish, for St. Stephen's, Westborough, and the Episcopal Appalachian Ministries,

*for all who seek to bring life to others.*

We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation.

*Give us reverence for life in your world.*

We thank you for your redeeming love;

*may your word and sacrament strengthen us to love you as you love us.*

God, Creator, bring us new life.

*Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.*

Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.

## **The Peace**

## **Announcements**

## **Collects for the Morning**

Holy and everliving God, by your power we are created  
and by your love we are redeemed; guide and strengthen  
us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service,  
and live each day in love to one another and to you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen*

In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love,  
to serve your purpose, and to praise your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

## **Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may  
obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **The Dismissal**

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God*

*The almighty and merciful God bless us*

*And keep us now and forever. Amen.*