

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, West Roxbury

Online Service of Thanksgiving During the Time of Pandemic

October 4, 2020

The Word of God

Prelude

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

Respondent: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.*

Amen.

Celebrant: 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.

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

Respondent *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Lector: (First reading)

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah (5:1-7)

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

After the Reading, the Lector says:

The Word of the Lord

Respondent: *Thanks be to God.*

The Psalm is to be led by the Lector, responsively, the respondent reading the alternate verses

Psalm 80:7-14

- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; *
you cast out the nations and planted it.
- 9 You prepared the ground for it; *
it took root and filled the land.
- 10 The mountains were covered by its shadow *
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
- 11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea *
and its branches to the River.
- 12 Why have you broken down its wall, *
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
- 13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, *
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
- 14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine; *
preserve what your right hand has planted.

Lector: A reading from the Letter to the Philippians (3:4b-14)

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

After the Reading, the Lector says: *The Word of the Lord*

Respondent: *Thanks be to God.*

Celebrant:
The Holy
Gospel
According
to Matthew

Jesus said, “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Respondent: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Dialogue Sermon: Everyone is invited and welcome to join the conversation. The Priest will offer some thoughts and listeners may respond with comments or questions.

The Nicene Creed (Respondent)

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.

Lector: The Prayers of the People

(Lector reads the prayers, the respondent answers – *Lord, hear our prayer.*)

The Christian church is the vineyard of the Lord, with all its needs and problems: growing the grapes, making the wine, managing the Lord's work. Let us pray to the Lord of the vineyard, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

That the fruit of our common prayer and ministry be the eucharistic wine which will soon unite all in Christ the vine and make us one, let us pray to the Lord of the vineyard.

Respondent: Lord, hear our prayer.

That our leaders in both church and state may accept their stewardship and accountability to God, and that there may be a rich harvest, let us pray to the Lord of the vineyard.

Respondent: Lord, hear our prayer.

That the peace of God which is beyond all understanding may lift from our suffering world its burdens of anxiety, war, violence, oppression, poverty, and disease, and that God's fruitfulness will give life to all in need [especially N.], let us pray to the Lord of the vineyard.

Respondent: Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Lord's vineyard may quickly extend its healthy branches through the world, sheltering the peoples with Christ's gentleness and loving-kindness. Today we continue the parish cycle of prayer remembering most especially Bob, Courtney and Sam Feathers, Kim and Diana Chaban-Griffith, and their children Stuart, Andrew and Matthew, let us pray to the Lord of the vineyard.

Respondent: Lord, hear our prayer.

That Jesus, the stone which the builders rejected, may be recognized as the keystone of the church and creation, let us pray to the Lord of the vineyard.

Respondent: Lord, hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Respondent:

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest says

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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
Respondent *And also with you.*

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

Respondent:

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.

Prayer of Communion in the time of Pandemic

Celebrant: Gracious God, we believe that you are present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. We love and remember all that you have done for us and for all of humanity. We cannot now receive you physically but ask that you come into our hearts spiritually. As though you have already come. Let us

unite ourselves and one another to you in heart mind
and spirit that we may never to be separated from you.
Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Celebrant

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food as yet unseen.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing: May the peace of the Lord which passes all understanding, keeps your hearts and
minds in the knowledge of God and of his son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And may the Blessing of
God Almighty, The Father and the son be with us all and ever more. Amen

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia Alleluia
Respondent: Thanks be to God. Alleluia Alleluia.