

**A Service of Morning Prayer
January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**



“Sermon on the Mount”

Painting by Laura James, 2010

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Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. *Matthew 5.12*

CP 380 O Worship the King

1 O worship the King, all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.

2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds
form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

3 The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old,
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

4 Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the
plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

6 O measureless Might, ineffable Love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,
**To you all hearts are open,
 All desires known,
 And from you no secrets are hidden.
 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.**

Psalm 15

Refrain: Put your trust in the Lord and do good.

¹ O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

² Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

³ who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbours;

⁴ in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honour those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

⁵ who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

A Reading from Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³ 'O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.'

⁶ 'With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 171 What Does the Lord Require

1 What does the Lord require for praise and offering?
 What sacrifice, desire, or tribute bid you bring?
 Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with your God.

2 Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice know?
 Will God your pleading hear, while crime and cruelty grow?
 Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with your God.

3 All who gain wealth by trade, for whom the worker toils,
 think not to win God's aid, if greed your commerce soils.
 Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with your God.

4 How shall our life fulfill God's law so hard and high?
 Let Christ endue our will with grace to fortify.
 Then justly, in mercy, we'll humbly walk with God.

A Reading from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,

23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are,

29 so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

30 He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

31 in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 439 Blest Are the Pure in Heart

1 Blest are the pure in heart,
for they shall see our God;
the secret of the Lord is theirs,
their soul is Christ's abode.

3 still to the lowly soul
his presence doth impart
and for a dwelling and a throne
chooseth the pure in heart.

2 The Lord, who left the heavens
our life and peace to bring,
to dwell in lowliness with us,
our pattern and our King,

4 Lord, we thy presence seek;
may ours this blessing be:
give us a pure and lowly heart,
a temple fit for thee.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 7121854 The Goodness of Jesus

1 Come you weary heart now to Jesus
 Come you anxious soul now and see
 There is perfect love and comfort in your
 tears
 Rest here in His wondrous peace

2 Come find what this world cannot offer
 Come and find your joy here complete
 Taste the living water never thirst again
 Rest here in His wondrous peace

Chorus
Oh the goodness the goodness of
Jesus
Satisfied he is all that I need
May it be come what may that I rest all
my days
In the goodness of Jesus

3 Come and find your hope now in Jesus
 He is all he said he would be
 Grace is overflowing from the Saviour's
 heart
 Rest here in His wondrous peace

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**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.
 He ascended into heaven.
 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.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

Let us now offer our prayers and thanksgivings to God and ask the Spirit to bring to our
 consciousness those things and people for which we pray, saying Lord in your mercy,
 hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church and the people of God throughout the world and for all ministers and people.

- For the Church of Pakistan
- For the Diocese of Ontario and her Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Michael Oulton.
- For the staff of the Diocesan Synod Office: her Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Stephen London; Sarah Kemp, Bishop's Assistant; Scott Sharman, Canon to the Ordinary; John Gee, Deacon and Synod Secretary-Treasurer; Margaret Glidden, Director of Communications; Shelly King, Deacon and Administrative Assistant.
- For the Buyé Diocese, and the Mwendo Parish and Rector, Samson Misago.
- For all First Nations people and communities of Treaty 6.
- For our parish of St. Peter's as we journey towards the future of our ministry in our community; for wisdom, vision, and hope as we make important decisions about how we can best serve you.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the freedom and well-being of all people; for the needs of this city, province, and country, for her leaders, and for the well-being those who live here.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the needs and concerns of this congregation; for those who have requested our prayers: Sandra... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Helen.....Tony and Mary Jean..... Bill..... Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan..... Shirley and Cyril..... Lisa..... Marijke..... Chrissie, Cathy, and the family..... Diane..... Janelle..... Rosemary..... Roald; for any who are sick, those in prison, the travelers, the unemployed, and the downhearted; for those who give their time for the work of your kingdom here on earth, and in a moment of silence, those others we know or those known to you alone.....

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have completed their earthly journey, those who are nearing its completion and those who mourn and stand vigil. Today we pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of Wayne Benner.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Let us pray, too, in thanksgiving for the many blessings of this life, for all the boundless graces God so generously bestows upon us and our world,

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect

**Living God,
 in Christ you make all things new.
 Transform the poverty of our nature
 by the riches of your grace,
 and in the renewal of our lives
 make known your glory;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.**

**And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
 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,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 434 The Love of Jesus Calls Us

1 The love of Jesus calls us our joyous praise to sing;
 Our deeply felt thanksgivings we now together bring,
 For all God's many blessings, unasked yet still received;
 And for the generations who faithfully believed

2 The love of Jesus calls us, that we may always be;
 Companions on a journey, where all the world may see
 That serving Christ is freedom which time does not destroy;
 Where Christ's command is duty, and every duty joy.

3 The love of Jesus calls us to go where he would go,
 To challenge all that limits, to change, to learn, to grow,
 To know that Christ has freed us, that prisons are no more;
 For those who seek his kingdom, Christ opens every door.

4 The love of Jesus calls us in swiftly changing days;
 To be God's co-creators in new and wondrous ways;
 That God with one another may so transform the earth,
 That love and peace and justice may give God's kingdom birth.

The Dismissal

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. *Matthew 5.12*

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.