

**A Service of Morning Prayer
May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter**



Holy Spirit

Contemporary painting by American Jayne Pinnix

If you love me, you will keep my word, and my Father will love you, and we will come to you. See *John 14:23*

CP 429 For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

5 For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of 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 66:8-20 *Refrain:* Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands.

66:8 Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

66:9 who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

66:10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

66:11 You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

66:12 you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

66:13 I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,

66:14 those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

66:15 I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah

66:16 Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

66:17 I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

66:18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

66:19 But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

66:20 Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

A Reading from Acts 17:22-31

17:22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.

17:23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

17:24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,

17:25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

17:26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,

17:27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him-- though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

17:28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own

poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

17:29 Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

17:30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

17:31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 397 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

1 Praise the one who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light.

Praise the one who frees the prisoners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel,
healing every dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

2 Praise the one who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the one who drove out demons
with a piercing two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand.
From this well comes living water
quenching thirst in every land.

3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.

A Reading from 1 Peter 3:13-22

3:13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

3:14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,

3:15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;

3:16 yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

3:17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

3:18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,

3:19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,

3:20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

3:21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the

body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 653 Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost

1 Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost,
taught by thee, we covet most,
of thy gifts at Pentecost,
holy heavenly love.

4 Faith will vanish into sight;
hope be emptied in delight;
love in heaven will shine more bright;
therefore give us love.

2 Love is kind, and suffers long;
love is meek, and thinks no wrong;
love than death itself more strong;
therefore give us love.

5 Faith and hope and love we see
joining hand in hand agree;
but the greatest of the three,
and the best, is love.

3 Prophecy will fade away,
melting in the light of day;
love will ever with us stay;
therefore give us love.

6 From the overshadowing
of thy gold and silver wing
shed on us, who to thee sing,
holy, heavenly love.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:15-21

14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

14:17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

14:18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

14:19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

14:20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

14:21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 5272907 Highly Favoured**Chorus**

Majesty and mercy meet me in this moment

How can it be that I have been chosen by the King

There's no greater honour

There's no greater treasure

Than to be known and loved by You

I am highly favoured

I am highly favoured

1 Who I have become in You
Is grace beyond all measure
In the light of who You are
Who am I to be found here

2 Who I have become in You
Is grace beyond all measure
Raised to life and crowned with love
Jesus Yours forever

3 A child of grace I have become
Adopted into favour
Now I sing Your Spirits song
Crying Abba Father

Ending

Who I have become in You
Who I have become in You
I am highly favoured
I am highly favoured
I am highly favoured
Who I have become in You
I am highly favoured

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 offer our prayers on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people according to their needs saying Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer.

We prayer for God's church throughout the world:

- for the Church of the Province of West Africa
- for the Diocese of the Arctic and her Bishop, the Rt. Rev. David Parsons, and her Suffragan Bishops, the Rt. Rev. Annie Ittoshat, the Rt. Rev. Lucy Netser, and the Rt. Rev. Joey Royal.
- for St. Augustine of Canterbury, Edmonton, and her Rector, Jonathan Crane; Honorary Assistants, Anne Wightman, Bob Peel, and Ron Hörst; the Congolese Congregation and her Honorary Assistant, Jean Nsengiyumva.
- for the Buyé Diocese and the Canika Parish and her Rector, Evariste Nsabimana.
- for the people and communities of all First Nations of Treaty 6.
- for our online ministry team of Alison and Nadine and those who read and lead the prayers, our in-person ministry team of David, Nadine and all who assist with readings and prayers, the altar guild and bulletin creators. Guide and sustain us as we travel through this time of transition.

Holy Father, bless your Church with the continued power and presence of your Holy Spirit, so that your love fills and overflows it. Nourish it with word and sacrament; and through its words and actions, let the world see, desire, and dwell in your love forever. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Bless the people of this congregation of St. Peter's with love, respect, and kindness towards each other, so that others in our community may truly know we are your followers. Give us faith to trust in you and your will for us. Fill us with wisdom and prudence, and through the gift of your Holy Spirit, make us glad to obey your commandments. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Pour out upon the leaders of the nations of the world the spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might. Teach them to love justice; to act with mercy toward the poor and hungry in their lands; and to walk humbly before you. Grant to all people the blessings of peace and unity on earth. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you, Father, for those whose work sustains our nation, and this community in which we live; for those who grow and provide our food or who in industry, commerce and transport bring it to our homes.

We thank you for those who, day and night, maintain the public services; for the police, for those who respond to emergencies, and for all whose work is in health or healing or social care. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Father, we thank you for all those who fill the roles of mother, no matter who they may be. May they be sustained by your strength, love and guidance. We pray that those who mourn the loss of a mother figure and those who mourn the loss of a child may find comfort in your presence. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Grant the refreshment and joy of your life-giving spirit to all who are in the midst of a storm and who cry to you for help. Today we name those who have specifically requested our prayers:

Sandra... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Helen.....Tony and Mary Jean..... Bill..... Geraldine....
 Florence..... Joan..... Shirley and Cyril..... Lisa..... Marijke..... Chrissie..... Diane.....
 Janelle..... Roald..... Luci..... Barry W.; those we hold in our hearts and those known to you alone.

Grant them wholeness of body and mind; a joyful and confident hope in your goodness, and the peace which the world cannot give them. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, thank you for the faithful who have gone before us. Gather us, with them, to your eternal kingdom that all whom you have redeemed can dwell with you forever. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect

Merciful God,
 you have prepared for those who love you
 riches beyond imagination.
 Pour into our hearts such love toward you,
 that we, loving you above all things,
 may obtain your promises,
 which exceed all that we can desire;
 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 423 How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

***Then sings my soul my Saviour God, to
thee;***

how great thou art, how great thou art!

***Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to
thee:***

how great thou art, how great thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I
wander,

I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain:

3 But when I think that God, his Son not
sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain:

4 When Christ shall come, with shout of
acclamation
and claim his own, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou
art!"

Refrain:

The Dismissal

If you love me, you will keep my word, and my Father will love
you, and we will come to you. *See John 14:23*

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.