

Morning Prayer

February 13, 2022

Zoom link:

[https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4](https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09)

[MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09](https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09)

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

Epiphany 6C

Prelude

Announcements

Opening Sentence

The Presider says

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. *Isaiah 49:6b*

Opening Hymn

Hymnal 376

Joyful, joyful we adore thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Joyful, joyful we adore thee". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first system contains three verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and simple melodic lines.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way;
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, bloom-ing mea-dow, flash-ing sea,
 Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our Bro-ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each o-ther, lift us to the joy di-vine.

Confession of Sin

The Presider says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of the Holy One, to set forth God's praise, to hear God's holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship, let us keep silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
 in thought, word, and deed,
 by what we have done,
 and by what we have left undone.**
**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

**have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Presider says

Fear not, sisters and brothers: God, who is full of grace and abounding in steadfast love, meets us in our sin and transforms us for God's glory and the healing of God's world. In the name of the + Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven; be now at peace. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

Presider Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Presider 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. Alleluia.

God is the Rock of our salvation:
O come let us worship.

Invitatory: Venite Psalm 95

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

**In God's hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to God's voice!

Psalm 1

¹Happy 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 God's law day and night.**

³They 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.**

⁵Therefore 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.**

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the 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. Alleluia.

The Lessons

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

A Reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.
The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse--
who can understand it?
I, the LORD, test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 20: Glory to God

Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God, Creator,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;

**have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.**

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,

**you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

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. Alleluia.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Hymnal 656

Blest are the pure in heart

1 Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God; the
2 The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring, to
3 he to the low - ly soul will still him - self im - part and
4 Lord, we thy pres - ence seek; may ours this bless - ing be; give

se - cret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's a - bode.
dwell in low - li - ness with us, our pat - tern and our King;
for his dwell - ing and his throne will choose the pure in heart.
us a pure and low - ly heart, a tem - ple fit for thee.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written between the two staves of each system.

Third Reading

Luke 6:17-26

A Reading from Luke.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with [the twelve apostles,] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”



Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People

**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.**

The Prayers

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People

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.**

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collect of the Day

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Presider My sisters and my brothers, blessed are those who trust in the Lord! So lift up the prayers of your heart, saying, "Test our minds; search our hearts; hear our prayer."

Intercessor Lord our God, bless your Church. Bless us with the boldness of the prophets. Bless our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig. Bless all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our brothers and sisters worshipping at All Saints, East Lansing, and Jesus of Nazareth, San Francisco, in the Dominican Republic; those in the Nippon Sei Ko Kai in Japan, and for all the members of Christ's body. Give us the courage to proclaim your kingdom. Give us the courage to proclaim our allegiance to Christ alone. Test our minds; search our hearts; **hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

Lord our God, bless the people of this and every nation. Bless us with compassion for the poor, the hungry, and those who weep. Turn our hearts away from our selfish desires; turn our hearts to you. Test our minds; search our hearts; **hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

Lord our God, bless this planet, your very footstool. Bless this planet with growth and health. Give food enough that the hungry might be filled, and give us the will to see that all receive their fair share of earth's bounty. Test our minds; search our hearts; **hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

Lord our God, bless our city. Bless us with health. Heal our land and our water. Deliver us from violence and sorrow. Test our minds; search our hearts; **hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

Lord our God, bless the sick, the struggling, and the sad. Send forth your healing power. Cause laughter to once again flow from the hearts of those who now weep. We pray especially for _____.

Lord our God, we offer our thanks and praise for all your goodness to us, and for all your good gifts. We offer our gratitude for _____.

Lord our God, bless the dying and the dead. Bless them with everlasting life. And at the last day raise _____, and all the departed to new life with your Christ. Test our minds; search our hearts; **hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

Presider In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. **Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

The Presider then says

My brothers and sisters, I invite you- wherever you are- to take into your hands the gifts you offer today. Gifts of food, gifts of money, gifts of whatever form, and join me as we offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good our vows to the Most High.

Let us pray.

Loving God and merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: we come to you with thanksgiving and praise. We offer to you this day our gifts of time, talent, and possessions, knowing that all we are, and all we have, is a gift from you. **Please accept these gifts, and help us to reach out to others as you, our God, have reached out to us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.

**We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,

**by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Concluding Hymn

Go forth for God; go to the world in peace

Tune: *Woodlands*



Go forth for God; go to the world in peace;
 Go forth for God; go to the world in love;
 Go forth for God; go to the world in strength;
 Go forth for God; go to the world in joy,



be of good cour-ge, armed with heaven-ly grace,
 streng-then the faint, give cour-age to the weak;
 hold fast the good, be ur- gent for the right;
 to serve God's peo- ple eve- ry day and hour,



in God's good Spi- rit dai- ly to in- crease,
 help the af- flict- ed; rich- ly from a- bove
 ren- der to no one e- vil; Christ at length
 and serv- ing Christ, our ev- ery gift em- ploy,



'til in the king- dom we be- hold God's face.
 God's love sup- plies the grace and power we seek.
 shall o- ver- come all dark-ness with his light.
 re- joi- cing in the Ho- ly Spi- rit's power.

Presider Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Romans 15:13

Postlude

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Due to the continuing spread of COVID Omicron virus in our county, we will be worshipping **only on Zoom through February 27, 2022.** It is the Ministry Support Team's intention to resume in-church worship on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022. According to the most recent directive from the Bishops of the state of Michigan (Feb. 3, 2022), "masks are required to be worn (covering mouth and nose) for all indoor gatherings."

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Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations of food to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive is February 20**. Please contribute as generously as you can. Contributors are asked to take their donations to Nancy’s house rather than leave them at the church; thank you!

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Upcoming Commemorations

- February 13 Absalom Jones, Priest, 1818
- 14 Valentine, Priest, 270; and, Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries, 869 and 885
- 15 Thomas Bray, Priest and Missionary, 1730
- 16 Charles Todd Quintard: Bishop of Tennessee, 1898
- 17 Janani Luwum, Archbishop and Martyr, 1977
- 18 Martin Luther, Pastor and Church Reformer, 1546
- 19 Agnes Tsao Kou Ying, Agatha Lin Zhao, & Lucy Yi Zhenmei, Catechists and Martyrs, 1856, 1858,& 1862

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Epiphany 6C February 13, 2022

Jeremiah 17:5-10

In this piece of wisdom literature, Jeremiah gives a somewhat stark vision of what occurs when we put our hopes in things of this world. We become withered or shriveled versions of God’s hope for us, unable to envision the relief that God provides, placing our trust instead in worldly strength or power. As humans, we have a propensity to turn toward the things of this world which we think will provide us comfort. We are often more inclined to be distracted, to turn away from God, to have hearts that seem crooked or not fully aligned with God’s. More mysterious, we often can’t understand it. Why do we return to habits or behavior we are not proud of? What keeps us from fully living into the blessing of fully trusting in God?

The simplicity of verse 7, “Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord,” is deceiving. We read of well-nourished, deep-rooted trees, unafraid of heat or drought, and wonder how this can be, particularly in a time that seems so wrought with our own literal and metaphorical heat and drought. Our hope, then, can be found in a God who searches our hearts and sees where we have fallen short. In seeing this, God encourages our turn and return to find the lushness of life, the loss of anxiety that is possible in God.

- How do we trust in a God who mysteriously knows us, our desires and our failings, so well?
- How do we participate in the turn and return to God when the distractions of the world have drawn us away?

Psalm 1

Psalm 1 shares with Jeremiah the imagery of deeply rooted, fruitful trees contrasted here with the imagery of chaff, something akin to corn husks or other parts of a harvest that get thrown away. It can become easy to pit these two images against each other, assigning the trees and the chaff in our lives, based on our perceptions of ourselves and our neighbors. What might it mean to project this psalm internally even more, rather than outwards, perhaps in judgment, toward others? Being human is complicated, and we are rarely fully good or fully sinful. How might we recognize the areas in our lives that have been deeply rooted, that provide nourishment for our relationship with God and the world? How might we be able to recognize the sinful or worldly areas that lack rootedness, the chaff that we may be holding too tightly for the wind to take it from us?

- What areas of your relationship with God and the world could be seen as the deeply rooted tree?
- What areas of your relationship with God and the world could be seen as the chaff, waiting to be blown away?

Corinthians 15:12-20

We often become tied up in the need for direct, thorough answers. Paul, in his arguments to the Corinthians around the nature of Christ's bodily resurrection, is, in some ways, no exception. Paul is speaking to those who may not believe in the resurrection of Jesus, particularly naming a variety of things that would make the work of him and other early followers of Jesus seem empty or in vain if this resurrection were not true. When reading Paul's words, there is a sense of urgency from him. He presents his arguments in ways that both focus on the human experience—despair of remaining in sin, pride or fear of misrepresenting God, futility of faith without hope— and illuminates the tragedy of life lived only for this human world. Even in Paul's words of persuasion in these verses, there seems to be an opportunity for more wonder and mystery around what God is doing through resurrection.

- Do we have to know the specifics of how God worked through the resurrection in order to trust in its power as a saving act for creation?
- How often do we, in an attempt to reason out the way God works in the world, allow our own pride to limit the access we have to the mystery of God?

Luke 6:17-26

In Luke's Sermon on the Plain, Jesus comes among his followers to preach of God's love and preference for those who presently experience struggles in this worldly life. Jesus seems to expand on the verse from Jeremiah— "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is in the Lord"— to name specifically the ways that those who are poor, who are hungry, who weep, and who are questioned or hated will experience their trust in God to be fulfilled. One of the themes of these lectionary readings—of finding personal relief or comfort in the things of this

world, which turn us away from God—is nuanced by Jesus, who names that those who experience fulfillment while on Earth have not avoided experiencing the hardships. What might it look like, for those seeking comfort, renewal, or care, to seek beyond the worldly options, and more fully commit to trusting in God? How do our times of struggle and times of prosperity change if we remain turned to God in similar ways during these different times? Jesus’ sermon here, particularly considering his audience, invites us to persist in our trust in God and challenges us to consider and change the ways we are putting our trust in places other than God.

- In what ways have you found yourself putting your trust in God? Are there life circumstances that make this easier or more difficult?
- How are you being called to change the ways you put your trust in God?

This Bible study was written by Sarah Diener-Schlitt

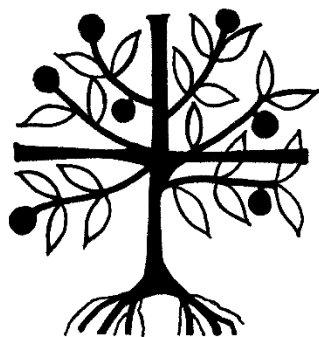
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Absolution from Bolz-Weber, Nadia. *Pastrix*. NY: Jericho, 2013, p.75
Intercessions and Thanksgivings from *Planning for rites and rituals: a resource for Episcopal worship, Year C*. New York: Church Publishing, 2018, pp.106-107.
Concluding Hymn tune is *Woodlands*, found at *Hymnal* 438

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Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ,
and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of
Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



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