



16th June 2024

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Finding the courage to fearlessly witness about Christ

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and God's ownership of all things (Psalm 24:1). In God's sovereignty, God has allowed other groups to migrate to these shores. We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are thankful for the community that we share together now.

Cantor: Thank you for joining our Service today, as we celebrate the 4th Sunday in the season of Pentecost Growth. We welcome those watching via livestream. I invite you to stand to sing our opening hymn.

Opening Hymn: This is the Day

This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord hath made.

This is the day,
this is the day when He rose again,
when He rose again.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.

This is the day when He rose again,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day when He rose again.

This is the day,
this is the day when the Spirit came,
when the Spirit came.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
This is the day when the Spirit came.

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Minister's Welcome

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age.

Praise the Lord of our salvation, according to the will of God our Father
to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Sentence

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. (2 Corinthians 5:19)

Prayer of Approach

Deacon: Knowing the goodness of God and His generous love towards us, let us approach His throne of grace,

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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.

Minister:

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, without you we are unable to please you: mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

The first reading is from the first book of Samuel, chapter 15, verse 34 through to chapter 16, verse 13.

³⁴Then Samuel left for Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul. ³⁵Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

16The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." ²But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" ⁵Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." ⁹Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." ¹²So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." ¹³So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm of the day is 20.

¹May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.

²**May he send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion.**

³May he remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings.

⁴**May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.**

⁵May we shout for joy over your victory and lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the LORD grant all your requests.

⁶**Now this I know: The LORD gives victory to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand.**

⁷Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

⁸**They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.**

⁹LORD, give victory to the king! Answer us when we call!

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.**

The second reading is from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 5, verses 11-21.

¹¹Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹²We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Song: Jesus, God's Righteousness Revealed

Jesus God's righteousness revealed,
the Son of Man, the Son of God,
His kingdom comes.

Jesus, redemption's sacrifice,
now glorified, now justified,
His kingdom comes.

*And His kingdom will know no end,
and its glory shall know no bounds,
for the majesty and power
of this kingdom's King has come,
and this kingdom's reign,
and this kingdom's rule,*

*and this kingdom's power
and authority,
Jesus, God's righteousness revealed.*

Jesus, the expression of God's love,
the grace of God, the word of God,
revealed to us.
Jesus, God's holiness displayed,
now glorified, now justified,
His kingdom comes.

And His kingdom will know no end...

Hearing the Gospel of our Lord

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 4 verses 26-34.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁶He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.

²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

³⁰Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³²Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." ³³With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Sermon: Ambassadors for Christ (Rev Denis Kirkaldy will be speaking)

Offertory Hymn: Servant King

From heaven You came, helpless babe,
entered our world, Your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give Your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears
my heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' He said.

This is our God...

Come see His hands and His feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

This is our God...

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone Him,
each other's need to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

This is our God...

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Giving and Offerings

The Prayer of the Week

Lord, we beseech you to keep your family, the Church, in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve you in good works, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for the world and our community.

The intercessor on the roster will prepare prayers for:

A prayer for the world ...

A prayer for all in authority ...

A prayer for the universal church, and our new evening service ...

A prayer for our community, and those on our prayer list ...

Please join me in praying

Lord, you have given us grace to agree in these our prayers, and you have promised you will grant their requests. Fulfil now, Lord, our desires and prayers as may be best for us. Grant us, in this life, knowledge of your truth and in the age to come, life eternal. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Please pray with me the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

**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.

Deacon:

Confession

Confident of God's goodness and his willingness to forgive us, let us bring the confession of sins before him.

God of mercy, we humbly admit that we need your help.

**We have wandered from your way. We have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and failed to do what is right. You alone can save us.**

Have mercy on us, wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.

Bring forth in us the fruit of your Spirit

that we may live the new life to your glory.

This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

Deacon: Please stand to hear God's promise of forgiveness.

Promise of Forgiveness

It is for freedom that Christ has set you free. Rejoice therefore in the freedom that Christ has obtained for you. Stand firm, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery. You are called to live in freedom, through the power of the Spirit. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. This we will do through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

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

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Lord be with you **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, ever living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By His death on the cross, and rising to new life, He offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for His people.

As we walk by the promised Spirit, poured out at Pentecost, continue to fill us with power and love so we may boldly proclaim your gospel to all peoples,
and serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and this wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks, he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

'Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples saying,

'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded;
proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and
glorious ascension and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

We who are many are one body, **for we all share in the one bread.**

Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

Quiet reflective music will play during communion.

Announcements: Please refer to the church newsletter for notices.

Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

Living God, in this holy meal you fill us with new hope. May the power of your love, which we
have known in word and sacrament, continue your saving work among us, give us courage for
our daily lives and bring us to the joys you promise.

**Most loving God, you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully
and with courage in the power of your Spirit.**

Almighty God, you have redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ, and raised us to newness
of life. You brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom. May the eternal God give you joy
and peace in faith and bring you to your eternal inheritance; and the blessing of God Almighty;
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all ever more. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: In the Presence of Your People

In the presence of Your people
I will praise Your name,
For alone you are holy,
Enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Let us celebrate Your goodness
And your steadfast love;
May Your name be exalted
Here on earth and in heaven above!