

A FAITH THAT HELPS

IN TIMES OF CONFLICT



8th September 2024 | 16th Sunday of Pentecost

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's Welcome

Cantor: Thank you for joining our Service today as we continue in our series exploring how to develop a faith that works when life doesn't. Today we are talking about how to develop a faith that helps us in times of conflict. We also welcome those joining us via livestream. If you would like to stand as we sing our opening hymn ...

Opening Song: We Are Companions on a Journey

*We are companions on the journey
Breaking bread and sharing life,
And in the love we bear is the hope we share
For we believe in the love of our God,
We believe in the love of our God.*

No longer strangers to each other,
No longer strangers in God's house;

© As One Voice CCL Licence no: 89934

We are fed and we are nourished
By the strength of those who care,
By the strength of those who care.

We have been gifted with each other,
And we are called by the word of the Lord;
To act with justice, to love tenderly,
And to walk humbly with our Lord,
To walk humbly with our Lord.

We are ...

We are...

Welcome

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus

Glory to God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: **as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**
Blessed be the name of the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

Sentence

The Apostle James writes, "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." (James 1:19-20)

Prayer of Approach

Deacon: *Let us prepare our hearts for worship,*

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.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, increase our faith, hope, and love, and, that we may receive all you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

The first reading is from the book of Proverbs chapter 22, verses 1-2, 8-9 then 22-23.

¹A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

²Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all.

⁸Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken. ⁹The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. ²²Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, ²³for the Lord will take up their case and will exact life for life.

Hear the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

The Psalm of the day number 125 which will be read in alternate verse.

¹Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

**²As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.**

³The sceptre of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous, for then the righteous might use their hands to do evil.

⁴Lord, do good to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart.

⁵But those who turn to crooked ways the Lord will banish with the evildoers. Peace be on Israel. May your word live in us **and bear much fruit to your glory.**

The New Testament reading comes from the book of James, chapter 1 verses 19-26.

¹⁹My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. ²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. ²⁶Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

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

Gospel Song: You are the Vine

You are the Vine, we are the branches,
keep us abiding in You.

*You are the Vine, we are the branches,
keep us abiding in You.*

Then we'll grow in Your love,

then we'll go in Your name,
that the world will surely know
that You have power to heal and to save.

*You are the Vine, we are the branches,
keep us abiding in You.*

Hearing the Good News

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 7, verses 24 - 37. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. ²⁵In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. ²⁶The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷"First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁸"Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

²⁹Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter."

³⁰She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³²There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. ³³After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). ³⁵At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. ³⁶Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

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

Sermon: Developing a faith that helps us in times of conflict

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come 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.

Offertory Hymn: Let us Sing (Sing Hosanna)

Let us sing to the God of salvation,
let us sing to the Lord our rock!
Let us come to his house with thanksgiving,
let us come before the Lord and sing!

*Praise our Maker, praise our Saviour,
praise the Lord our everlasting King.
Every throne must bow before him,
God is Lord of everything!*

In his hands are the earth's deep places
and the strength of the hills is his;
all the sea is the Lord's, for he made it,
by his hands the dry land was formed.

16th Sunday of Pentecost 8 September 2024

Let us worship the Lord our Maker,
let us kneel to the Lord our God;
for we all are the sheep of his pasture,
he will guide us by his powerful hand.

Let today be the time when you hear him!
May our hearts not be hard or cold,
lest we stray from the Lord in rebellion,
as his people did in time of old.

Giving and Offerings

Prayers for the World and Our Community

The Intercessor on the roster will lead our time of prayer.

We conclude by praying as our Saviour taught us:

**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.

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

Deacon will lead our preparations saying,

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. (Isaiah 55:6-8)

Confession and promise of forgiveness

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together,

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done.

We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.

For the sake of your Son, you died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us.

By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Minister will declare the promise of forgiveness:

God is slow to anger and full of compassion, forgiving all who humbly repent and trust in his Son Jesus as Saviour and Lord. God therefore forgives you in Christ Jesus, in whom there is no condemnation. **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

Our Lord Jesus Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. We have been washed. We have been sanctified. Let us therefore share in the peace we have received.

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.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things, making us in your own image.

We praise you for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and blood.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

We who are many are one body in Christ. **For we all share in the one bread.**

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 which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith,

We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.**
We do this until he returns. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Father as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts be renewed by your Holy Spirit and united in the body of your Son.

Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom, there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise:

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive
praise and honour and glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

Announcements: Please refer to the church newsletter for notices.

Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

Gracious God, thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are living members of Christ's body.

Father, **we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

The Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Closing Hymn: I the Lord of Sea & Sky (Here I am Lord)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord; is it I, lord?
I have heard you calling in the night;
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

© Together in Song CCL Licence no: 89934

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain;
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? *Here I am...*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? *Here I am...*

*Here I am, Lord; is it I, lord?
I have heard you calling in the night;
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*