

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



AUGUST 30, 2020

Prelude

Call to Worship

L: We come together as the church of Jesus Christ, recognizing that our Lord lived and died, not just for the church, but for all people, God's highest creation.

P: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

L: We also recognize that in God's great love, we sense our need first to be loved and thus to be turned around, to face the needs of others.

P: We love, because God first loved us.

L: Let us love, then, so that we may be free of selfish desires, liberated to strive for God's will.

P: Whatever we do to the least of God's family, that we do to our Lord.

****Hymn: Holy, holy, holy**

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- 1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**
- 2. Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea,
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.**
- 3. Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though our eyes in sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only though art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.**
- 4. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Prayer — The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Scripture Readings

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15–21

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Psalm 26:1–8 *Refrain 1*



- 1 Vindicate me, O Lord,
**for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.**
- 2 Prove me, O Lord, and try me;
test my heart and mind.
- 3 **For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.**
- 4 I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;
- 5 I hate the company of evildoers,
and will not sit with the wicked.
- 6 **I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O Lord,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.**
- 7
- 8 O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.

Second Reading: Matthew 16:21–28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

****Hymn: Take up your cross** 211

1. **Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if my disciple you would be;
deny yourself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.**
2. **Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill frightened spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.**
3. **Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let your foolish pride rebel:
for you the Saviour bore the cross,
to save your soul from death and hell.**
4. **Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,
and every danger calmly brave;
'twill guide you to a heavenly home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.**
5. **Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down,
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.**

Sermon A Call to Sacrifice

Prayers of the People

****Hymn: Follow me, the Master said** 645

1. **"Follow me," the Master said: we will follow Jesus.
By his word and Spirit led, we will follow Jesus.
Still for us he lives to plead, at the throne will intercede,
offers help in time of need; we will follow Jesus.**
2. **Should the world and sin oppose, we will follow Jesus.
He is greater than our foes; we will follow Jesus.
On his promise we depend; he will hear us and defend,
help and keep us to the end; we will follow Jesus.**
3. **Though the way may dark appear, we will follow Jesus.
He will make our pathway clear; we will follow Jesus.
In our daily round of care, as we plead with God in prayer,
with the cross which we must bear, we will follow Jesus.**
4. **Ever keep that end in view; we will follow Jesus.
All his promises are true; we will follow Jesus.
When this earthly course is run, and the Master says,
"Well done!"
life eternal we have won; we will follow Jesus.**

Announcements

Offering

Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow 830

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication

1. **He leadeth me: oh blessed thought!
oh words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

Refrain **He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!
A faithful follower I would be,
for 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

2. **Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom,
by waters still, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me!** *Refrain*

3. **Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine,
content, whatever lot I see
since 'tis my God that leadeth me!** *Refrain*

4. **And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me.** *Refrain*

Benediction

Postlude

**Our thanks to Pastor Dan Chook Reid,
organist Brenda Beckingham,
and soloist Sharon Haidenger.**

~ All hymns are in the public domain. ~

Teach us, O God of love, to learn how to love each other and care for all at this time when we are being urged to distance ourselves from each other.

Be with us as we isolate ourselves and learn the discipline of not crowding into other's lives and spreading the disease.

Teach us to savour this time of isolation as a gift from you to grow in ourselves — teach us to be alone without feeling lonely.

"If you can't go outside, go inside" a wise quotation says ... so may we use this time to reach into our hearts and discover those corners of love and service to each other and to God that we will yet have a chance to demonstrate.

Teach us to appreciate this possibility of isolating ourselves ... so many in crowded tenement house and urban poor settlements cannot enjoy that privilege.

"Escaping from quarantine" implies spreading the virus ... and some have yet done it causing harm to others.

Teach us patience dear God.

Thank you, O God of compassion, for all those in the medical profession who are caring for those who are sick and for the medical staff who themselves are dying — give them strength, health and the loads of patience and perseverance they need at this time.

Be with our churches and the Christian community that we will continue to serve you and all those who need our love and service at this time.

Dear God in whom we trust and have our being ... be with us!
Amen

~ *The Rev. Dr Aruna Gnanadason*