



*We seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ and his call to the realm of God: the practice of justice, mercy and faith. Our mission is represented by the Celtic cross, a shepherd's crook, the extension of the right arm of fellowship into the world and the church's hospitality toward the world.*

November 8, 2020

**23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

PRELUDE

*My Lord, What a Morning*

Richard Billingham

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

FOCUS ON MINISTRY

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God,

you summon the day to dawn,

you teach the morning to waken the earth.

For you the valleys shall sing for joy,

the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

For you the kings of the earth shall bow,

the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.

Your love and mercy shall last forever,

fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

Great is your name.

Great is your love.

GATHERING HYMN 352

*My Lord! What a Morning*

Stanzas 1 and 3

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Ten lamps gathered, with oil enough for all.

Ten lamps gathered,

But five are empty showing careless disregard.

Ten lamps gathered,

Five blaze with oil abundant enough to share.

Ten lamps gathered,

Five lifeless when laziness and greed collide.

Ten lamps gathered...

Creator God, giver of oil, hear us as we pray...

For generous hearts to share oil with our neighbors.

Creator God, giver of oil, hear us as we pray...

For the vision necessary

to leave our comfortable seats in search of oil.

Creator God, giver of oil, hear us as we pray...

For forgiveness for the ways our selfishness and our apathy collide.

Ten lamps gathered, with oil enough for all.

Come children of God, into a sacred circle

Where sharing creates abundance

And no one leaves hungry. **Amen**

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Behold: there is a new heaven, a new earth and a new city,  
where the river of life flows,  
where the tree of life bears fruit in every season.

This heaven, this city, this river, this tree

are a vision of your life reborn, restored, and renewed.

**Thanks be to God! Amen**

GLORIA: HYMN 492

*You Belong to Christ*

Sung twice through

THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

You may comment a message of peace

in the comment section below the live stream if you wish.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shine within our hearts, loving God,

with the true light of your divine knowledge,

and open the eyes of our minds,

that we may comprehend the message of your Word,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE FIRST LESSON

Numbers 13:1-2, 17-20, 25-33, 14:1-9

RESPONSE

Holy wisdom, holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE ANTHEM

*Triumphant Spirit*

Nick Hanson

THE GOSPEL LESSON      Matthew 25:1-13

RESPONSE

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON      “So There are Giants in the Land”      Rev. Paul Akin

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us confess the faith of our Baptism.  
I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
    who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
    suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
    and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
    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 AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

SELF OFFERING

We are invited in prayer to offer our lives and our world to God.

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of every good and perfect gift,  
our gifts are not always good, and they are always imperfect.  
We give, knowing that our motives are mixed  
and our mission is unclear.  
Still, we offer these efforts with boldness,  
knowing that your love is stronger  
than our impurities and imperfections. Through Jesus Christ. *Amen*

SENDING HYMN 362      *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE      *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*      Greg Bottomley

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