



JULY DIOCESAN VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

July 26, 2020

 **DIOLEX**
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

worship led by Bishop Mark Van Koevering and the people of the Greater Bluegrass Region

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO: THE WORD OF GOD

A service of ante communion, beginning with the Penitential Order

For Social Justice

July 26, 2020

Opening Music:

"Oh Lord, What a Morning" (African American Spiritual)

Whit Whitaker, tenor
(Good Shepherd, Lexington)

Bishop: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel. The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your hearts, with all your soul, with all your minds, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Confession of Sin

The Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux
(Trinity, Danville)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Song of Praise:

"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"
(Peter R. Scholtes)

Virtual Music Ministry
(St. John's, Versailles)

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray,
Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray,
Heavenly Father, in our baptism you call us to be reconciled with your son Jesus and with each other. Give us grace to follow daily the path that leads to racial healing in our land, and when we fail to see you in our neighbor, give us strength to mend our ways until your kingdom comes and your will is done, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A Reading from the Book of the
Prophet Isaiah [42:1-7]**

*The Rev. Peter Doddema
(Ascension, Frankfort)*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72

Musicians at St. Patrick, Somerset

Refrain: In his days, justice will flourish; in his days, fullness of peace for evermore.

Verse 1: O God, with your judgement endow the king;
with your justice endow the king's son.
With justice he will govern your people,
your afflicted ones with right judgement.

Refrain

Verse 2: May the mountains give love to the people,
and the hills the fruits of your love.
May he defend the suffering,
and save the poor from distress.

Refrain

Verse 3: He rescues the poor when they cry out,
the afflicted with no one to help.
The lowly and poor he shall pity,
the lives of the poor he will save.

Refrain

*Text: Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4, 12-14; Michael Joncas; Music: Michael Joncas © 1987, 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.;
Text and Music for vs. 3-4 written by Elizabeth Loiacono, © 2020.*

A Reading from the Letter of James [2:5-9, 12-17]

*Joyce Shew
(St. Peter's, Paris)*

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Matthew [10:32-42]**

*The Rev. Carol Ruthven
(Our Saviour, Madison County)*

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

Reflection

Brian Washington (St. Peter's, Paris)

The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Mark Van Koevering, Bishop of Lexington

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

*The People of Resurrection, Jessamine County
Helen Satkowski, Elizabeth Hunter, and Harry Fogler*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of authority and public trust, that they may seek wisdom and lead with kindness, so that our many conflicts might be resolved for the good of your people, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, for the sick and the suffering, particularly those experiencing illness and anxiety during this time of pandemic, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For doctors and nurses and all medical personnel, for all first responders, and for all essential workers, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and all who mourn, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance for those in danger, and under oppression, especially those whose opportunities are thwarted and whose lives are threatened by the sins of racism, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Gracious and merciful God, give us humble, obedient and teachable hearts. Incline our ears to listen to the voices of people You created in Your own Image with diverse bodies and abilities, and traditions and stories; and help us hear your truth embodied in their insights.

Lord, have mercy.

Help us to work for justice: by learning how racism is built into the systems in which we live, by repenting of the roles we have played in maintaining these systems, by praying for the wisdom and courage to act: that we might build the beloved community of welcome and mercy. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us endure faithfully in the practice of intercession, as we now make our petitions, either silently or aloud.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Offertory Anthem

**"There is a Balm in Gilead"
(Hymn 676)**

Words: African-American spiritual
Music: Balm in Gilead, Afro-American spiritual
Acc. David Hurd (b.1950)
Meter: Irr. with Refrain
Choir members of St. Michael's, Lexington
Accompaniment: Ruth Witt, St. Michael's, Lexington

For the offering today, you are welcome to give to your own faith community, and we also invite you to consider supporting one of these organizations that support and empower People of Color in the region.

*NAACP of Lexington, or your local NAACP chapter
Black Soil
Black Church Coalition of the Bluegrass*

The Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
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.**

Blessing

And may God give you grace to follow His prophets in faith, justice, hope, and love, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

