

Morning Prayer

Sunday, June 21, 2020 – National Indigenous Day of Prayer

Officiant & Preacher: The Rev'd Fr. Benjamin Gillard
Organist & Cantor: Damien Macedo

Prelude **Improvisation on a pentatonic melody**

The Gathering of the Community

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.
People **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

Venite *Psalm 95.1-7*
Officiant The Lord is our refuge and strength:
People **O come, let us worship.**

Officiant Come, let us sing to the Lord;
All **let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Officiant The Lord is our refuge and strength:
People **O come, let us worship.**

Hymn *There's a Voice in the Wilderness (106)*

ASCENSION

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may Go!

O Zion, give voice to good tidings, ascend to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.
The works of pride all perish, like flowers they shall decay;
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.

But your word, O God, is faithful, your arm, O Lord, is strong;
you stand in the midst of nations, and you will right the wrong.
You will feed your flock like a shepherd, and fold the lambs to your breast;
in pastures of peace you'll lead them, and give to the weary rest.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may Go!

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 40:25-31

Emily Hamilton

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,

mighty in power,

not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the Lord,

and my right is disregarded by my God"?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,

and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,

and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19:1-6,14

Please join on the alternating (bolded) verses of the psalm.

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²**Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

³There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

⁴**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶ **Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

Reader A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle A Song from Ezekiel

Officiant I will take you from the nations,
All **and gather you from every country,
and bring you home to your own land.**

**I will pour clean water upon you,
purify you from all defilement,
and cleanse you from all your idols.**

**A new heart I will give you,
and put a new spirit within you;
I will take from your body the heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.**

**I will put my spirit within you,
make you walk in my ways
and observe my decrees.**

**You shall dwell in the land
I gave to your forebears;
you shall be my people
and I will be your God.**

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

The Rev'd Fr. Benjamin Gillard

The Apostles Creed

Officiant Let us confess our faith as we say,
All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again
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.**

Invitation to Christian Stewardship

We at St John the Baptist Norway give regularly to God's work through offerings and other gifts. Our offerings support the life of the parish, as well as the work we do in the world, both locally and globally. We invite you to contribute financially as you are able to the life and ministry of the parish. Instructions for submitting contributions can be found in the announcements.

Officiant Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel, for ever and ever. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. All things come of thee and of thine own have we given thee. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Prayers

Intercessions

(written by the Rev'd Leigh Kern, Indigenous Ministries Coordinator for the Diocese of Toronto)

Leader Creator of all life, we lift our hearts to you in gratitude for all the medicines and teachings of this season of life. We take this moment, to center ourselves. We raise our hearts in gratitude for the gift of breath. We thank you Living Spirit- for the gift of our bodies, the lands and waters and relationships that sustain us. In the shadow of your wings, we are held:

All **Shelter us, in your loving mercy.**

Leader We pray for those who are sick, exhausted, or shut in. For healthcare workers, long term care workers, for all who are vulnerable in this pandemic. For those who are sick, on Reserve or remote communities, or in cities underserved, for all living without access to clean drinking water or other basic necessities of health. For those who are without shelter, for those who don't have enough to eat. For those who are struggling to survive, for their safety and protection. In the shadow of your wings, we are held:

All **Shelter us, in your loving mercy.**

Leader For our national Indigenous Archbishop Mark MacDonald, for the Indigenous House of Bishops, and all healers, traditional teachers, Elders, priests, deacons, lay and community leaders. For the self-determining Indigenous Church, and all its leaders. For Toronto Urban Native Ministry, and Reverend Evan Smith, Reverend Leigh Kern and Sandra Campbell. For all on the front lines of healing and justice. For the flourishing of our ministries and guidance of your Holy Spirit. For our local Chiefs and Indigenous leadership and governance, for all in leadership and authority, for the creativity of your vision. In the shadow of your wings, we are held:

All **Shelter us, in your loving mercy.**

Leader For those who have died from COVID-19 For all who have died alone For all whose lives have been cut short by violence. For recent fatal victims of police brutality, especially Chantel Moore and all murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit peoples. For all who mourn and grieve lost loved ones.

Moment of Silence

For justice and healing at every level of our relationships and society. For the healing of the legacy of Indian Residential Schools and policies of child apprehension. For the vulnerable, for prisoners, refugees, and all who are afraid. In the shadow of your wings, we are held:

All **Shelter us, in your loving mercy.**

Leader For all engaged in building trusting relationships and alliances across difference. For the liberation of our hearts and minds from all forms of racism. For the fire of your Spirit to enkindle renewal across this land. Open our hearts, O God, grant us compassion, help us see our interdependence, let love transform our communities. We thank you, source of life, mother of our souls, for our creation and all the nourishment of Mother Earth. In the shadow of your wings, we are held:

All **Shelter us, in your loving mercy. Amen.**

The Collect

Officiant Let us pray. Creator God, from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **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, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Officiant 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 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Faith of Our Fathers

ST. CATHERINE

Faith of our fathers! living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.
O how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word:
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers, we will strive to win all nations unto thee.
And through the truth that comes from God we shall all then be truly free.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers, we will love both friend and foe, in all our strife.
And preach thee too, as love knows how by kindly word and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Prelude in G Major (Antonin Dvorak)

Announcements

Suspension of public worship in church buildings to last until September

In a letter to parishes sent out last week, the Toronto bishops have extended the suspension of public worship in buildings to last until at least September. This upholds the decision in the letter from the Ontario House of Bishops that was distributed the previous week. Dial-in and virtual worship will continue through the summer months until worship in the church building resumes.

Contributing Financially

There are three ways you can contribute financially to the parish:

1. By cheque, made payable to 'St John the Baptist Norway Anglican Church' and mailed to: 470 Woodbine Ave South, Toronto, Ontario, M4E 2H6.
2. Donate online through CanadaHelps.org. A link can be found on the main page of the parish website (stjohnsnorway.com).
3. Pre-authorized Debit (PAD). If you wish to sign-up for automatic monthly withdrawals, please contact the wardens.

Tax receipts are issued for all gifts after year-end.

Ministries for Children and Youth

For children, our Sunday School coordinator Elisabeth Westberg is hosting weekly lessons on Zoom, beginning at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings. For our youth, Elisabeth and Fr. Benjamin are hosting a weekly check-in over Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 7:30 PM. For information about how to connect over Zoom, please email Elisabeth directly at youth@stjohnsnorway.com.

Weekly Online/Dial-in Bible Study – Thursdays at 1PM – **PASSWORD: 077686**

On Thursdays at 1:00 PM, Fr. Jeffry and Fr. Benjamin are holding a bible study focusing on the gospel passage from the previous Sunday. All you need to participate is a bible and a computer or phone. To join online, follow the link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2035813958>. To dial in on the phone, first dial: 647-558-0588. When prompted, enter the meeting ID: 203 581 3958#. Please refer any questions to Fr. Benjamin (curate@stjohnsnorway.com, 647-608-5608).

Weekly Happy almost-an-Hour – Fridays at 5PM – **PASSWORD: 077686**

On Fridays at 5:00 PM, we are holding "Happy almost-an-Hour!" Grab some snacks, tune into Zoom, and catch up with other parishioners! To join online, follow the link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2035813958>. To dial in on the phone, first dial: 647-558-0588. When prompted, enter the meeting ID: 203 581 3958#. Please refer any questions to Fr. Benjamin (curate@stjohnsnorway.com, 647-608-5608).

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