

**Worship**  
**The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 5, 2020**

**Introduction**

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

**Gathering/Announcements**

**P.** = Pastor                      **W.** = Worship Assistant                      **A.** = All in attendance

**Prelude:    Improvisation on Materna    "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"**

**Recognition of Graduates:**

Charlotte Bisese	Erin Brandt
Andrew Brandt	Brady Coon
Charles Brandt, Jr.	Keith Huffman

**Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness**

**P.** In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**A.** Amen.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

**P.** Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P.** Reconciling God,  
**A.** **we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.  
We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.  
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.  
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.  
We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have  
welcomed us.  
We sin in thought, word, and deed.  
By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us;  
and in your Spirit, lead us;  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

**P.** Beloved of God,  
by the radical abundance of divine mercy  
we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus,  
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.  
Our sins are forgiven.  
Let us live now in hope.  
For hope does not disappoint,  
because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit.

**A. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: # 765 "Lord of All Hopefulness"**

*Slane*

<p><b>A.</b> 1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, Whose trust, ever childlike No cares could destroy: Be there at our waking, And give us, we pray, Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, At the break of the day.</p>	<p>4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, Whose voice is contentment, Whose presence is balm: Be there at our sleeping, And give us, we pray, Your peace in our hearts, Lord, At the end of the day.</p>
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### **Greeting**

**P.** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A. And also with you.**

**KYRIE** (*said*)

**W.** Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

**A. We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**W.** Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

**A. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**W.** Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.

**A. Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

**Canticle of Praise** (*said*)

**A. Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels round the throne;  
ten thousand thousand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
"Worthy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be exalted thus!"  
"Worthy the Lamb," our lips reply, "for he was slain for us!"  
Jesus is worthy to receive honor and pow'r divine;  
and blessings, more than we can give, be, Lord, forever thine.  
Let all creation join in one to bless the sacred name  
of God who sits upon the throne, and to adore the Lamb.**

**P.** Let us pray.

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P.** You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**A. Amen.**

### **First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12**

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."*

**W.** <sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey  
<sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war-horse from Jerusalem  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

**W.** The Word of the Lord:

**A. Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 145:8-14**

**W.** <sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

**A.** <sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are | good to all,  
and your compassion is over | all your works.**

**W.** <sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise | you, O LORD,  
and your faithful | ones shall bless you.

**A.** <sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom  
and speak | of your power,**

**W.** <sup>12</sup>that all people may know | of your power  
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.

**A.** <sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures  
through- | out all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and  
loving in | all your works.**

**W.** <sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all | those who fall  
and lifts up those who | are bowed down.

### **Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a**

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it  
and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free  
from such a futile existence.*

**W.** <sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do  
the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is  
good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within  
me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I  
can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want,  
but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is  
no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at  
hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my  
members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to  
the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who  
will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus  
Christ our Lord!

**W.** The Word of the Lord:

**A. Thanks be to God.**

### **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**A. Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia.**

### **THE GOSPEL**

**P.** The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**A. Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the  
Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive  
what God has to offer.*

**P.** [Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup>‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ <sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**P.** The Gospel of the Lord:

**A. Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon:** “Our Burden”

There is a delightful story about an elderly lady who had always wanted to travel abroad. She’d never even been out of the country, so she started the process by getting her passport. She went to the passport office and asked how long it would take to have a passport issued. The clerk told her that she would have to take the loyalty oath first.

“Raise your right hand, please,” he said. The lady did as she was told. “Do you swear to defend the Constitution of the United States against all its enemies, domestic or foreign?” was the first question.

Her face paled and her voice trembled as she asked in a very small voice, “Uhhh . . . all by myself?” Well, that would be a big responsibility or burden for any one person to bear - would it not?

Now, we hear in our gospel lesson for today: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

What an interesting lesson for this particular Sunday as we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week-end; I say it is interesting because there is a statue that stands in New York Harbor welcoming immigrants from almost every land on earth.

We know her as the Statue of Liberty. Within the pedestal on which this great statue stands is a poem by Emma Lazarus graven on a tablet with these immortal words that describe the highest ideals of this nation of immigrants,

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Yes, Christ himself extends a similar invitation to all who would heed it, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

This familiar invitation is certainly addressed to all people, including us, people who often times are tired, weary, and ready to throw in the towel. We all have heavy loads at times to pull.

Grief is a weight. Constant illness is a weight. Making ends meet can be a burden. Living in sin is a load. Trying to please a critical parent is exhausting. And when we try to carry these burdens all by ourselves, our Lord would say we are wearing a yoke of slavery to sin.

You know, sin does not have to be stealing or murder. Sin can be any attitude or behavior which puts ourselves and our own efforts in the center of our lives where God should be.

So here is Christ's invitation to the tired and the weary: "Come . . . and I will give you rest." Rest! Blessed rest! Just what we need. For all who are worn out, burned out, tired out, fed up and ready to give up: rest!

Dr. Ken Blanchard, author of "The One Minute Manager," tells about a tour he took of Sea World a few years back. On this tour, he learned how employees of Sea World trained and worked with Shamu, their killer whale.

Blanchard remembers them saying that they designed Shamu's days into five different time periods of maximum effectiveness: work time, play time, free time, rest time, and learning time. Blanchard says he wonders how many people are wise enough to systematically try to cover those same priorities every week.

Work time, play time, free time, rest time, learning time, and we would add worship time. Yes, we too need to have balance in our lives. To achieve this, we need to accept Christ's invitation.

But wait a minute. How could Christ possibly speak of rest in one breath and then in his next sentence in our gospel talk about trading our already heavy burden for another burden?

For remember the next words of Christ: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me." How can that possibly be rest. To take a yoke, even the yoke of Christ does not sound very appealing, does it?

Perhaps it will help if we understand a yoke as it used to be, in the days of Christ himself, the days when a yoke was as much a necessity as food and drink for it helped provide that food and drink that meant survival.

Christ tells us that his yoke is easy. Don't be misled by the word easy, for its root word in Greek speaks directly of tailor made yokes: they were "well-fitting." You see, the yoke Christ invites us to take, the yoke that in itself brings rest to weary persons, is one that is made exactly to our lives and hearts.

The yoke Christ invites us to wear fits us well, does not rub us nor cause us to develop sore spirits and is designed for two. His yokes were always designed for two. And our yoke-partner is none other than Christ himself.

Taking Christ's yoke is intentionally living in relationship with Christ. Christ in this invitation has cut through to the very heart of the problem for most of us. We are tired, weary, and worn out keeping up with our schedules and our routines.

We are all at times guilty of filling our days with an endless round of activities designed to keep us busy, but little else. We spin our wheels doing so much. So often the burdens that we carry are not physical loads but rather mental anguish and fear that somehow we will not measure up to what we are supposed to be and do.

We load ourselves with emotional baggage carried over from previous relationships, from childhood, or from some notion of what "they" tell us we "ought" to do. Such baggage presses down and keeps us from living full, rich, whole lives.

And then we wonder why we are weary. Over sixteen hundred years ago, St. Augustine hit the nail on the head when he said, "our hearts are restless until they find rest in God."

Our rest in God, you see, is given when we take Christ's offer and become yoked to him and with him. To be bound to Christ links us with the source of deep and abiding joy emanating not from things but from the heart of God. To be bound to Christ is to live the life that God intends us to live.

It restores a proper balance and a new perspective about life and about what is ultimately significant. Above all, perhaps, because we are yoked to Christ, his closeness and his guidance keeps us on the right track, preventing us from getting sidetracked.

There is our rest! It is not a rest that is a passive sitting down and doing nothing. Rather this rest is a confidence that we are moving with Christ, the Lord of the universe, along a path that is directed toward God's kingdom of peace and harmony and good will.

Thus, to be yoked with Christ is to allow him to share the burden of our daily lives, to allow him to take off our shoulders the weight of trying to solve our problems alone. Being yoked with Christ is one of the secrets of a productive life.

The invitation still stands: take the yoke of Christ, accept life with Christ, and find peace, discover life and salvation, and receive true rest for your life. Amen.

The peace of God that passes all human understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Hymn of the Day: # 818 "O Master, Let Me Walk With You" Maryton**

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|--|---|
| <p><b>A.</b> 1. O, Master, let me walk with you<br/>In lowly paths of service true<br/>Tell me your secret, help me bear<br/>The strain of toil, the fret of care.</p> | <p>4. In hope that sends a shining ray<br/>Far down the future's broad'ning<br/>way,<br/>In peace that only you can give,<br/>With you, O Master let me live.</p> |
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## THE APOSTLES' CREED

- A. 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 into hell,  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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.**

### Prayers of Intercession

**W.** Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

**W.** We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Hear us, O God.

**A. Your mercy is great.**

**W.** We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God.

**A. Your mercy is great.**

**W.** We pray for the nations of our world. Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

**A. Your mercy is great.**

**W.** We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, hospitalized, or oppressed *especially Kiersten Zomolsky, Richard DelPercio, Kenny Shoemaker, Richard and Kathy Hefflin, Pastor Cyril Hurnyak, Pat Brick, Greg Waldfogle, those suffering from the coronavirus, and those whom we now name in our hearts before You* .  
.. Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. Hear us, O God.

**A. Your mercy is great.**

**W.** We pray for this congregation. Bless pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders. Energize children's ministry volunteers, church administrators, and those who maintain our building. Shine in this place that we might notice the ways your love transforms our lives. Hear us, O God.

**A. Your mercy is great.**

**W.** We give thanks for those who have died in faith. Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life. Hear us, O God.

**A. Your mercy is great.**

**P.** O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, on this Independence Day week-end, we give you grateful thanks on the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence for the priceless blessings of liberty that with your help were won for us by our forefathers. Stir up within us a new appreciation of the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness that we enjoy in this land of the free. Give wisdom and faithfulness to those in positions of leadership. Grant enduring peace to our country and its institutions. Hear us, O God.

**A. Your mercy is great.**

**P.** This day, we especially pray for our graduates: Charlotte Bisese, Andrew Brandt, Charles Brandt, Jr.; Erin Brandt, Brady Coon, and Keith Huffman. Help them to use their talents, their improved abilities, and their acquired knowledge to your glory and the betterment of all mankind. May they be successful in the goals that they have set for themselves and keep them always in your hands and in your care. Hear us, O God.

**A. Your mercy is great.**

**P.** Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A. Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**P.** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and continue to teach us to pray:

**A. 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: # 888 "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"**

*Materna*

1. O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruitful plain:  
America!, America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.
3. O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam,  
Undimmed by human tears:  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self  
control  
Thy liberty in law.

**Blessing**

**P.** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A. Amen.**

**Dismissal**

**W.** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**A. Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: "Stars and Stripes Forever"**

*John Philip Sousa*

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