

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford
An Order of Worship – St. Aelred of Rievaulx
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 – 7:00 in the evening

The church is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin.

Prelude: *O Quanta Qualia* ...

P. Cranmer

The Officiant greets the people with these words

Officiant Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Opening Sentences:

Philippians 2:1-4

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let us pray:

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us, and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Opening Hymn: #348 Lord, we have come at your own invitation

O quanta qualia

**Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
chosen by you, to be counted as friends:
yours is the strength that sustains our vocation,
ours a commitment we know never ends.**

**Here, at your table, confirm our intention
ever to cherish the gifts you provide;
teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
led by your Spirit, defender and guide.**

**When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed, and our courage restored:
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept you as Lord.**

**So, in the world where each duty assigned us
gives us the chance to create or destroy,
help us to make those decisions that bind us,
Lord, to yourself, in obedience and joy.**

Psalm 36: 5-10 *Dixit injustus* *prayed responsively*

BCP, p. 632

5 Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, *
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; *

you save both man and beast, O LORD.
7 How priceless is your love, O God! *
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.
9 For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen

A reading from The Gospel according to John

15:9-17

Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'"

The Gospeller concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. *People Respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

Litany for the Church and the World

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may
be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal
your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the
ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another
and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation,
that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others
and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whom we hold dear, and grant that after the blessed example of
Aelred of Rievaulx, we may serve family, colleagues, and friends as beloved
companions in Christ, loving one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or
spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and

bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, including our dear friends Charlie Koncz, Robert Sweeney, Jim Rae, Janet Moffat, David Moore and Bob Linskey that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Concluding Collect For St. Aelred of Rievalux

**Grant to your people, Almighty God, a spirit of mutual affection;
that, following the example of your servant Aelred of Rivaulx,
we might know the love of Christ in loving one another;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayer For our Country

BCP, p. 820

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage:

We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves
a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will.

Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners.

Save us from violence, discord, and confusion;
from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.

Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought higher out of
many kindreds and tongues.

Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government,
that there may be justice and entrust peace at home,

and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness,
and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail;
all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Additional Intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered at this time.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

The Officiant and People say together

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us in the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

The Officiant concludes with the following

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening. As you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil and every fear; for you are our light and salvation, and the strength of our life. To you be glory for endless ages. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn: #392 Come, we that love the Lord

Vineyard Haven

**Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne.**

Refrain: Hosanna, hosanna! Rejoice, give thanks and sing.

**Let those refuse to sing that never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King may speak their joys abroad.**

Refrain

**The heirs of grace have found glory begun below;
celestial fruits on earthly ground from faith and hope may grow.**

Refrain

**Then let our song abound and let our tears be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground to fairer worlds on high.**

Refrain

The Almighty God bless us with his grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Wie schöne leuchtet der Morgenstern ...*

J. Pachelbel

St. Aelred of Rievaulx, Monastic and Theologian

Aelred was born in 1109, into a family who had long been the treasurers of the shrine of Cuthbert of Lindisfarne at Durham Cathedral. While still a youth, he was sent for education in upper-class life to the court of King David of Scotland, son of Queen Margaret. The king's stepsons, Simon and Waldef, were his models and intimate friends. But after intense disillusionment and inner struggle, Aelred went to Yorkshire, where he became a Cistercian monk at the abbey of Rievaulx in 1133.

Aelred soon became a major figure in English church life. Sent to Rome on diocesan affairs by Archbishop William of York, he returned by way of Clairvaux. Here he made a deep impression on Bernard, who encouraged the young monk

to write his first work, *The Mirror of Charity*, on Christian perfection. In 1143, Aelred led the founding of a new Cistercian house at Revesby. Four years later, he was appointed abbot of Rievaulx. By the time of his death in 1167, the abbey had more than 600 monks, including Aelred's biographer and friend, Walter Daniel. During this period, Aelred wrote his best known work, *Spiritual Friendship*. Friendship, Aelred teaches, is both a gift from God and a creation of human effort. While love should be universal and freely given to all, friendship is a particular love between individuals, of which the example is Jesus and John the Beloved Disciple. As abbot, Aelred allowed his monks to hold hands and give other expressions of friendship. In the spirit of Anselm of Canterbury and Bernard of Clairvaux, Aelred writes:

"There are four qualities that characterize a friend: Loyalty, right intention, discretion, and patience. Right intention seeks for nothing other than God and natural good. Discretion brings understanding of what is done on a friend's behalf, and ability to know when to correct faults. Patience enables one to be justly rebuked, or to bear adversity on another's behalf. Loyalty guards and protects friendship, in good or bitter times."

Aelred died in the year 1167.

Lesser Feasts and Fast 2018. New York: Church Publishing, 2018, p. 38