

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford
An Order of Worship for the Evening
St. Hilda of Whitby
Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – 7:00 in the evening

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

Prelude: At Eventide op. 182.5

C. V. Stanford

The Officiant greets the people with these words

Officiant Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Opening Sentences:

Jesus said 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

Matthew 5:14-16

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 #549 Jesus call us; o'er the tumult vss. 1, 3-5

St. Andrew

**Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice soundeth, saying,
"Christian, follow me;" saying "Christian, follow me;"**

**Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store;
from each idol that would keep us, saying,
"Christian, love me more." Saying "Christian, love me more."**

**In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these." "Christian, love me more than these."**

**Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.
serve and love thee best of all.**

Psalm 33: 1-5, 18-22

1 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous; *
it is good for the just to sing praises.

2 Praise the LORD with the harp; *
play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.

3 Sing for him a new song; *

sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.

- 4 For the word of the LORD is right, *
and all his works are sure.
- 5 He loves righteousness and justice; *
the loving-kindness of the LORD fills the whole earth
- 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,
- 19 To pluck their lives from death, *
and to feed them in time of famine.
- 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; *
he is our help and our shield.
- 21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, *
for in his holy Name we put our trust.
- 22 Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.

Concluding *Gloria Patri*: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Response: As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen

A reading from the Book of Ephesians

4:1-6

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Officiant: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

A Remembrance of Faithful Women*

Let us remember and give thanks for faithful women of God, that their lives may inspire ours.

For Miriam, prophet who led the women of Israel in rejoicing at their deliverance from Egypt;

For the unnamed woman who acted as prophet and anointed Jesus before his burial:

God of abundant life,

We give you thanks.

That we may claim our gifts of leadership and have courage to announce your truth

by our words and actions:

God of graceful power,

We offer our prayer.

For Joanna and Susanna, disciples who followed Jesus and supported him in his ministry;

For Mary Magdalene, disciple and first witness to the Resurrection, who proclaimed the Good News;

For women leaders in the early Church: for Phoebe, Priscilla, and Junia:

God of abundant life,

We give you thanks.

That we and all your Church may follow Christ faithfully and bear witness

to the good news of God in Christ Jesus:

God of graceful power,

We offer our prayer.

For the woman who had hemorrhaged for twelve years and dared to touch the hem of your garment;

For the woman who had been bent over for eighteen years and came to you for healing:

God of abundant life,

We give you thanks.

That we may recognize your healing grace and be healed from all that weakens or handicaps us;

That your healing grace may be with any who are sick or suffering:

God of graceful power,

We offer our prayer.

For women mystics of the Middle Ages:

for Hildegard of Bingen, Teresa of Avila, and Julian of Norwich, who used many names and images to praise you and tell of your goodness and love:

God of abundant life,

We give you thanks.

For women whose wisdom was recognized in the Middle Ages, for Hilda of Whitby and Catherine of Sienna, who were consulted by kings and prelates, and who guided large communities in your ways of mercy, justice and peace:

God of graceful power,

We offer our prayer.

For the women of this country who fought against slavery and worked for justice for all people:

for Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Eleanor Roosevelt, Rosa Parks;

For the women who struggled for women's rights:

for Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony:

God of abundant life,

We give you thanks.

For your servants Verna Dozier and Pauli Murray, who prophetically declared your dream for all people in both the church and our larger society:

God of abundant life,

We give you thanks.

That we may be empowered to strive for justice and peace among all people:

God of graceful power,

We offer our prayer.

That we may be faithful to the ministries to which you call us:

God of graceful power,

We offer our prayer.

Life-giving God, you have healed and empowered women throughout all ages.
Grant that we may follow their examples and live faithfully as your people in the world.
In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Collect for St. Hilda Whitby

**O God of peace, by whose grace the abbess Hilda was endowed with gifts of
justice, prudence, and strength to rule as a wise mother over the nuns and monks of her household,
and to become a trusted and reconciling friend to leaders of the Church:
Give us the grace to recognize and accept the varied gifts you bestow on men and women,
That our common life may be enriched and your gracious will be done;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen**

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

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 #521 Put forth, O God, thy Spirit's might

Chelsea Square

**Put forth, O God, thy Spirit's might and bid thy Church increase,
in breadth and length, in depth and height, her unity and peace.**

**Let works of darkness disappear before thy conquering light;
Let hatred and tormenting fear pass with the passing night.**

**Let what apostles learned of thee be ours from age to age;
their steadfast faith our unity, their peace our heritage.**

**O Judge divine of human strife! O Vanquisher of pain!
To know thee is eternal life, to serve thee is to reign.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Adagio in C für Glasharmonika K. 356

W. A. Mozart

*From Lesser Feasts & Fasts, 2006. New York: Church Publishing, Inc.

p. 458

Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, d.680

“Hilda’s career falls into two equal parts,” says the Venerable Bede, “for she spent thirty-three years nobly in secular habit, while she dedicated an equal number of years still more nobly to the Lord, in the monastic life.” Hilda, born in 614, was the grandniece of King Edwin. She was instructed by Paulinus (one of the companions of Augustine of Canterbury) in the doctrines of Christianity in preparation for her baptism at the age of thirteen. She lived, chaste and respected, at the King’s court for twenty years, and then decided to enter the monastic life. She had hoped to join the convent of Chelles in Gaul, but Bishop Aidan was so impressed by her holiness of life that he recalled her to her home country, in East Anglia, to live in a small monastic settlement.

One year after her return, Aidan appointed her Abbess of Hartlepool. There, Hilda established the rule of life that she had been taught by Paulinus and Aidan. She became renowned for her wisdom, eagerness for learning, and devotion to God’s service. Some years later, she founded the abbey at Whitby, where both nuns and monks lived in strict obedience to Hilda’s rule of justice, devotion, chastity, peace, and charity.

Known for her prudence and good sense, Hilda was sought out by kings and other public men for advice and counsel. Those living under her rule devoted so much time to the study of Scripture and to works of righteousness that many were found qualified for ordination. Several of her monks became bishops; at least one pursued further studies in Rome. She encouraged the poet Caedmon, a servant at Whitby, to become a monk and to continue his inspired writing. All who were her subjects or knew her, Bede remarks, called her “mother.”

In 663, Whitby was the site of the famous synod convened to decide divisive questions involved in the differing traditions of Celtic Christians and the followers of Roman order. Hilda favored the Celtic position, but when the Roman position prevailed she was obedient to the synod’s decision. Hilda died on November 17, 680, surrounded by her monastics, whom, in her last hour, she urged to preserve the gospel of peace.