

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford

An Order of Worship for the Evening – Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 – 7:00 in the evening

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

Prelude: Liturgical Improvisation No. 1

“My soul hath a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord”

G. Oldroyd

The Officiant greets the people with these words

Officiant Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Opening Sentences:

Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—‘I believed, and so I spoke’—we also believe, and so we speak ..., Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 4: 13,15

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 #279 For thy dear saints, O Lord

St. George

**For thy dear saints, O Lord, who strove in thee to live,
who followed thee, obeyed, adored, our grateful hymn receive.**

**They all in life and death, with thee their Lord in view,
learned from thy Holy Spirit’s breath to suffer and to do.**

**Thine earthly members fit to join thy saints above,
in one communion ever knit, one fellowship of love.**

**Jesus, thy Name we bless, and humbly pray that we
may follow them in holiness, who lived and died for thee.**

Psalm 84: 1-6, 11-12

BCP p. 707-708

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their 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 Luke

24: 44-48

Then Jesus said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Officiant: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers: "For the Unity of God's Peoples" *Prayed responsively*

Brothers and sisters in the faith, from the nations of the earth God has
Called forth one people to be the sign of the unity intended for all
Humankind. Let us offer our prayers for the church and its mission
In the world, saying:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the people of the earth, that where there is strife and division,
The gift of peace may be the reward of all who work for justice,
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer,**

For the church of Jesus Christ, that where there is weakness health may be restored,
And where there is division unity may be nourished,
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer,**

For all leaders in the church, that where there is jealousy or distrust,
A spirit of forgiveness and compassion may nurture humble service,
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer,**

For all who are called to preach the gospel, that in the presence of fear and anxiety the message of hope
may be proclaimed courageously and effectively,
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer,**

For all missionaries in foreign lands, that when faced with hardship and testing,
They may be strengthened in their mission by the Spirit of God, and the example of Bishop
Schereschewsky,
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer,**

For our community and our families, that where there is misunderstanding or discord,
We may receive the grace to forgive and so rejoice in the peace of Christ,
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer,**

*God of unity and peace, in baptism you have made us one people in the body of your Son.
Hear us, as with one voice we offer you these prayers in the name of Jesus, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.*

Collect for Bishop Schereschewsky

**O God, in your providence you called Joseph Schereschewsky
from his home in Eastern Europe to the ministry of this Church,
and sent him as a missionary to China, upholding him in his infirmity,
that he might translate the Holy Scriptures into languages of the land.**

**Lead us, we pray, to commit our lives and talents to you,
in the confidence that when you give your servants any work to do,
you also supply the strength to do it;
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.**

A Prayer for an Election

Of your goodness, Almighty God, teach your people to rely on your strength
and to accept our responsibilities to our fellow citizens that we may elect trustworthy leaders
and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society;
that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name;
through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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 hither 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 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.*

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 #517 How lovely is thy dwelling place

Brother James' air

**How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts, to me!
My thirsty soul desires and longs within thy courts to be;
my very heart and flesh cry out, O living God, for thee.**

**Beside thine altars, gracious Lord, the swallows find a nest;
how happy they who dwell with thee and praise thee without rest,
and happy they whose hearts are set upon the pilgrim's quest.**

**They who go through the desert vale will find it filled with springs,
and they shall climb from height to height till Zion's temple rings
with praise to thee, in glory throned, Lord God, great King of kings.**

**One day within thy courts excels a thousand spent away;
how happy they who keep thy laws nor from thy precepts stray,
for thou shalt surely bless all those who live the words they pray.**

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

Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky, Bishop of Shanghai, 1906

The story of Joseph Schereschewsky is unique in the annals of the Church. He was born on May 6, 1831, of Jewish parents, in the Lithuanian town of Tauroggen. His early education was directed toward the rabbinate, but during graduate studies in Germany, he became interested in Christianity through missionaries of the London Society for Promoting Christianity Amongst the Jews, and through his own reading of a Hebrew translation of the New Testament.

In 1854 Schereschewsky emigrated to America and entered the Western Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh to train for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. After two years, he decided to become an Episcopalian, and to finish his theological studies at the General Theological Seminary in New York City, from which he graduated in 1859.

After ordination, and in response to Bishop Boone's call for helpers in China, Schereschewsky left for Shanghai. Always facile in languages, he learned to write Chinese during the voyage. From 1862 to 1875 he lived in Peking, and translated the Bible and parts of the Prayer Book into Mandarin. After Bishop Williams was transferred to Japan, Schereschewsky was elected Bishop of Shanghai in 1877, and was consecrated in Grace Church, New York City. He established St. John's University, in Shanghai, and began his translation of the Bible and other works into Wenli. Stricken with paralysis, he resigned his see in 1883.

Schereschewsky was determined to continue his translation work, and after many difficulties in finding support, he was able to return to Shanghai in 1895. Two years later, he moved to Tokyo. There he died on October 15, 1906.

With heroic perseverance Schereschewsky completed his translation of the Bible, typing some 2,000 pages with the middle finger of his partially crippled hand. Four years before his death, he said, "I have sat in this chair for over twenty years. It seemed very hard at first. But God knew best. He kept me for the work for which I am best fitted." He is buried in the Aoyama Cemetery in Tokyo, next to his wife, who supported him constantly during his labors and illness.

Lesser Feasts & Fasts, 2006. New York: Church Publishing, Inc., p.414-5

Prayers: "For the Unity of God's Peoples" (For the Unity of All Christians, p. 216 in Intercessions for the Christian People)