

October 6, 2021

**Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford**  
**An Order of Worship for the Evening**  
**Commemoration of William Tyndale**

7:00pm

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

Prelude: Liturgical Prelude I

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:

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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 #530:** Spread, O spread, thy mighty word

*Gott sei dank*

**Spread, O spread, thou mighty word, spread the kingdom of the Lord,  
That to earth's remotest bound all may heed the joyful sound;**

**word of how the Father's will made the world, and keeps it, still;  
how his only Son he gave, earth from sin and death to save;**

**word of how the Savior's love earth's sore burden doth remove;  
how forever, in its need, through his death the world is freed;**

**word of how the Spirit came bringing peace in Jesus' name;  
how his never failing love guides us on to heaven above.**

**Word of life, most pure and strong, word for which the nations long,  
spread abroad, until from night all the world awakes to light.**

Psalm 1 *Beatus vir qui non abiit* Prayed responsively

*BCP, p. 585*

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not  
wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.

- 4 It is not so with the wicked; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, \*  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

**A reading from the Book of James**

1:21-25

Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

*Officiant:* The word of the Lord.

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

Collect for Proper 28

*BCP*, p. 236

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,  
that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Collect for William Tyndale

*LFF*, p. 445

**Reveal to us your saving word, O God, that like your  
servant William Tyndale we might hear its call to  
repentance and new life. Plant in our hearts that same  
consuming passion to bring the scriptures to all people in  
their native tongue, and the strength to endure amidst all obstacles;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.***

**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 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 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.*

*Intercessory Prayer*

*BCP, p. 814*

O God, the creator and preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, they saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; (especially those for whom our prayers are desired); that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. *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 #631: Book of books, our people's strength**

*Liebster Jesu*

**Book of books, our people's strength, states-man's, teacher's, hero's treasure,  
bringing freedom, spreading truth, shedding light that none can measure;  
wisdom comes to those who know thee, all the best we have we owe thee.**

**Thank we those who toiled in thought, many diverse scrolls completing,  
Poets, prophets, scholars, saints, each a word from God repeating;**

**Till they came, who told the story of the Word, and showed his glory.**

**Praise we God, who hath inspired those whose wisdom still directs us;  
praise him for the Word made flesh, for the Spirit which protects us.  
light of knowledge, ever burning, shed on us they deathless learning.**

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:** Canzona (Fugue) in G BuxWV 175

D. Buxtehude

**William Tyndale** was born about 1495 at Slymbridge near the Welsh border. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees at Magdalen College, Oxford, and also spent some time in study at Cambridge. After his ordination, about 1521, he entered the service of Sir John Walsh at Little Sodbury, Gloucestershire, as domestic chaplain and tutor. In 1523 he went to London and obtained a similar position with a rich cloth merchant, Humphrey Monmouth.

Tyndale was determined to translate the Scriptures into English, but, despairing of official support, he left for Germany in 1524. From this point on, his life reads like a cloak-and-dagger story, as King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and others, sought to destroy his work of translation and put him to death. He was finally betrayed by one whom he had befriended, and in Brussels, on October 6, 1536, he was strangled at the stake, and his body was burned.

William Tyndale was a man of a single passion, to translate the Bible into English; so that, as he said to a prominent Churchman, "If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know more scripture than thou dost." His accomplished work is his glory. Before his betrayal and death, he had finished and revised his translation of the New Testament, and had completed a translation of the Pentateuch and of Jonah and, though he did not live to see them published, of the historical books from Joshua through 2 Chronicles. His work has been called "a well of English undefiled." Some eighty percent of his version has survived in the language of later and more familiar versions, such as the Authorized (King James) Version of 1611.

After the fashion of his time, Tyndale could be a bitter controversialist, and his translations sometimes had a polemical purpose. He was a lonely and desperate man, constantly hunted and hounded. In his personal life he was amiable and self-denying. His last words were prophetic: "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."