

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford
An Order of Worship for the Evening
Wednesday, September 23, 2020 – 7:00 in the evening

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

Prelude: When in the hour of utmost need BWV 641

J. S. Bach

The Officiant greets the people with these words

Officiant Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Opening Sentences:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

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 #692 I heard the voice of Jesus say

The Third Tune

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto to me and rest;
and in your weariness lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my Star, my Sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till pilgrim days are done.**

Psalm 103 *Prayed Responsively*

BCP p. 733-734

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *

and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *

and forget not all his benefits.

3 He forgives all your sins *

and heals all your infirmities;

- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.
- 15 Our days are like the grass; *
we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
and its place shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who fear him, *
and his righteousness on children's children;
- 18 On those who keep his covenant *
and remember his commandments and do them.
- 19 The LORD has set his throne in heaven, *

and his kingship has dominion over all.

20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, *
and hearken to the voice of his word.

21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, *
you ministers of his who do his will.

22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; *
bless the LORD, O my soul.

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 Jonah

2:1-9

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, saying,
'I called to the LORD out of my distress, and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.
You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me;
all your waves and your billows passed over me.
Then I said, "I am driven away from your sight;
how shall I look again upon your holy temple?"
The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped around my head at the roots of the mountains.
I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me for ever;
yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O LORD my God.
As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD;
and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.
Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty.
But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay.

Deliverance belongs to the LORD!

Officiant: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

A Litany of Intercession*

O Lord our God: you hear our prayers before we speak, and answer before we know our need. May your Spirit pray in us, drawing us to you and toward our neighbors on earth.

Hear our prayers, O God.

We pray for the whole creation: may all things work together for good, until, by your design, your children inherit the earth and order it wisely.

Let the whole creation praise you, O God.

We pray for the Church of Jesus Christ; that, begun, maintained, and promoted by your Spirit, it may be true, engaging, glad, and active, doing your will.

Let the Church be ever faithful, O God.

We pray for whole household of faith, that all may use their gifts wisely and, never losing heart, have all hope encouraged.

Encourage your people, O God.

We pray for peace in the world. Quench ancient hate that smolders still, or flames in sudden conflict. Create goodwill among every race and nation.

Bring peace to earth, O God.

We pray for our enemies, as Christ commanded; for those who oppose us or scheme against us, who are also children of your love. May we be kept from infectious hate or sick desire for vengeance.

Make friends of enemies, O God.

We pray for those who govern us, who make, administer, or judge our laws. May this country ever be a land of free and able leaders, welcoming exiles and working for justice.

Govern those who govern us, O God.

We pray for those who are hungry, or ill-housed. Increase in us, and all who prosper, concern for the disinherited.

Care for the poor, O God.

We pray for those who are distressed, sick or struggling, and all who silently cry out for healing: may they be patient, brave, and trusting.

Heal the sick and troubled, O God.

We pray for those who are contending with windstorms, firestorms and raging waters: help us to be good stewards of all you place in our care.

Help us to heal this fragile earth.

We pray for the dying, who face the final mystery: may they enjoy light and life intensely, keep dignity, and greet death unafraid, believing in your love.

Have mercy on the dying, O God.

We pray for those whose tears are not yet dry, who listen for familiar voices and look for still familiar faces: in loss, may they know all that you promise in Jesus, who prepares a place for us within your spacious love.

Comfort those who sorrow, O God.

We pray for people who are alone and lonely, who have no one to call in easy friendship: may they be remembered, befriended, and know your care for them.

Visit the lonely, O God.

We pray for people everywhere: may they come into their own as your children, and inherit the kingdom prepared in Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, and Savior of the world.

Inspire and sustain us all, O God.

Hear our prayers, almighty God, in the name of Jesus Christ, who prays with us and for us, to whom be praise for evermore.

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.*

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.*

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,

Closing Hymn: #411 O bless the Lord, my soul

St. Thomas (Williams)

**O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee proclaim!
And all that is within me join to bless his holy Name!**

**O bless the Lord, my soul! His mercies bear in mind!
Forget not all his benefits! The Lord to thee is kind.**

**He will not always chide; he will with patience wait;
his wrath is ever slow to rise and ready to abate.**

**He pardons all thy sins, prolongs thy feeble breath;
he healeth thine infirmities and ransoms thee from death.**

**He clothes thee with his love, upholds thee with his truth;
and like the eagle he renews the vigor of thy youth.**

**Then bless his holy Name, whose grace hath made thee whole,
whose loving-kindness crowns thy days; O bless the Lord, my soul!**

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

** adapted from THE WORSHIPBOOK, as collected in The Wideness of God's Mercy, Jeffrey Rowthorn & Albert Tisdale, editors. Revised and Updated Edition. Church Publishing Inc. Kindle Edition.*