

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Worship
Sunday, July 5, 2020 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost
<https://vimeo.com/435129877>

Prelude - Come, Creator Spirit

setting by George Lachenauer (b. 1933)

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn - Let the Whole Creation Cry

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We gather in the name of the Father ☩ and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us confess our sin.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading – Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God’s covenant with Israel, the people are designated as “prisoners of hope.”

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Psalm 145:8-14

Refrain

The Lord is gra-cious and full of com - pas - sion, the

Lord is full of com - pas - sion.

Refrain

The LORD is gracious and full¹ of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in¹ steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, you are¹ good to all, and your compassion is over¹ all your works. Refrain**

¹⁰All your works shall praise¹ you, O LORD, and your faithful¹ ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory¹ of your kingdom and speak¹ of your power,**

¹²that all people may know¹ of your power and the glorious splendor¹ of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through-¹ out all ages.**

You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in¹ all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all¹ those who fall and lifts up those who¹ are bowed down. **Refrain**

Second Reading - Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Sermon

Pastor Amanda Highben

Hymn of the Day - Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake

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APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all nations. Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Free us from patriotism that hinders relationship-building. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed, especially, Audrey, Barbara, Jan, Johanna, Tony, Sonja, Charlie, JoAnn, Leon, Judy, Janet, Carol, Jim, Joyce, Barbara, Ida, Debbie, Larry, Blanche, Leslie, Jim, Kaaren, Leigh, Bob, Kathy and all those we name now in our hearts or on our lips. Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation. Bless pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders. Energize children's ministry volunteers, church administrators, and those who maintain our building. Shine in this place that we might notice the ways your love transforms our lives. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for those who have died in faith, especially, Ruth Ann Marschner Boynton. Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Holy Holy

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of powe'r and might; Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,

and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Come to the banquet for all is ready.

**Communion will be available in the church parking lot Sunday, from 10 to 11 am.
PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR. WE WILL COME TO YOU AND DELIVER A
WAFER AND WINE OR GRAPE JUICE. IT WILL BE SERVED TO YOU IN A FOAM
BOWL. PLEASE TAKE THE ELEMENTS AND DISTRIBUTE AMONG THOSE IN YOUR
VEHICLE AND THEN DISPOSE OF THE CUPS AND BOWL WHEN YOU GET HOME.**

Prayer after Communion

God of the welcome table,
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all,
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.
Amen.

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, ☩ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
Amen.

Sending Hymn - O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

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Postlude - We All Believe in One Creator God

setting by G. C. Albert Kappel (early 20th century)

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Audrey Pearson, Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Johanna Nikitscher, Tony Perrotte, Sonja and Charlie Bock, JoAnn and Leon Bowman, Judy Schlegel, Janet Ravert, Carol and Jim Sackett, Joyce Veazey, Barbara Anderson, Ida Elliott, Debbie Fullbright, Larry Jenkins, Blanche Bragg, Leslie Johnson, Jim Klausman, Kaaren Johanson, Leigh Stock, Bob Lewis, Kathy Daniels

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Ruth Ann Marschner Boynton who died on Friday, June 26, 2020. She is the mother of Lois Boynton and was a member at St. Paul's for many years.

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time** - drop a note in the offering plate, email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews [Tony's mother], Robert Meissner [Tony's uncle], and Dian and Gina Piazza [friends] (by Tony and Penni Perrotte); Byron Franzen (brother of David Franzen), Laura and Mike Smith (sister and her husband by Carol Sackett), Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), JoAnn Sackett (daughter-in-law of Carol and Jim Sackett), Kate Genaitis, Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Phillip Idom & Warner Ettinger (friends of the Perrotte's), Pamela Kildahl (sister of Wendy Waugh), Tom and Mary Jakubus (friend of Deb Tabert), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Tristan and Hailey Hunter (relatives of Deb Tabert), Cary Grant (friend of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Lydia Taylor (cousin of Bee Ellertson), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Bob and Ellie DeVries, Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gary Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Lois Horn (friend of Penni Perrotte), Rose (friend of Deb Tabert), Brady Laubert (grandson of Pam and Steve Taylor), Staci Dominick (daughter-in-law of Ted and Diana Dominick), Leonard Anderson, (family friend of Ted and Diana Dominick), Marti Casalino (friend of Marcia Redman), Jane Craig (aunt of Pat Casper), Ruby Fox (cousin of Marlene Coulter), David Dearthoff (cousin of Marlene Coulter)

Devotions Needed

New dates through Saturday, July 25 for the daily devotions have been added to the Devotion Sign Up. If you are willing to write a daily devotion for the congregation please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily>. Please submit your devotion to Vicar Anna at least two days in advance of the publish date.

From Pastor Scott Anderson: We extend to you an invitation to a new initiative by the NC Synod of the ELCA concerning Racism and our desire for justice and equity. Their effort is another opportunity to engage in learning and conversation as well as develop new skills in our fight to overcome racial inequality. Follow this link to this initiative: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Special-e-News-From-the-bishop.html?soid=1101477504383&aid=NQtoMkx5b7E>. I would encourage you to consider participation in this effort.

Helping explain racism to children. There are two videos in the following link where Sesame Street Characters address Racism in a CNN Townhall and Abby supports Big Bird in the second video. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/06/app-news-section/cnn-sesame-street-race-town-hall-app-june-6-2020-app/index.html>. Feel free to share the link.

Here is an article which helps Christians respond to Racism.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/racism/the-best-way-white-christians-can-respond-to-racial-tensions.html>

Pour a cup of tea or coffee and join the Pastor and Vicar for Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11. We are looking forward to seeing you, chatting, and catching up. Here is the info:

Topic: **Coffee Hour with the Pastor and Vicar**

Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRIgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09>

Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 Password: 292680

Scott Anderson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Bible Study on Thursday mornings.

Topic: **Bible Study - Acts** – You may download the lessons ahead of time by going to the home page of our website (stpaulsdurham.org)

Time: 10:30 am on Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/946532621?pwd=UTJqYjV0V3laMmpROStMdGRvTGhUT09>

Meeting ID: 946 532 621

Password: 402561

The Continuing Conversation Group is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **CCG and Congregation**

Time: Jul 15, 2020 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84531557926?pwd=R01KczEzaG1YdUVJV1VsbGZ1eFo5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 845 3155 7926

Password: 419213

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

We have been blessed this year with the presence of Vicar Anna. She is nearing the end of her stay and internship with our congregation. In this strange and challenging year it has been the talents of Vicar Anna that have helped to provide the video services that allow us to continue with some normalcy to our worshipping together. I know there are lots of you who will want to honor her service to our church with a gift from your heart. She will be leaving at the end of July, only a month away.

We are trying to arrange a video of members saying goodbye and some type of get together to bid her a fond farewell. We ask that members video or take a snapshot of their goodbye/remembrance of Vicar Anna. For these digital messages, please send them to Tim Hoke by July 20 at tim1hnva@gmail.com and they will be edited into a video message to be delivered to her.

Please plan to participate in a drive-by farewell in the parking lot at St Paul's on Thursday, July 30 at 6:00 pm. If you would like to make a sign, decorate your car or bring a card, they will all be appreciated.

In Christ, with God's Grace and Peace

Tim Hoke, Co-Chair

St Paul's Vicar Committee, 2019-20

Dear St. Paul's family,

I want to update you about what's happening in our building. It is still closed for most purposes, but staff are increasingly working from their offices. The sanctuary is open for prayer and meditation each weekday from 10-3. To use this opportunity, you should enter from the Cornwallis Rd. side of the building and follow instructions posted in the foyer. If you need to contact the staff, please use phone and email rather than dropping by. We all long for more in-person interaction, and the COVID-19 Task Force is drafting recommendations to Council about how we should proceed. Look for those to be published in the next couple of weeks.

The Preschool board recently came to the difficult decision to cancel its summer camps. Amanda Stoen and her team are focusing on planning for fall.

As a full time daycare, Wildflower Cottage is considered an essential service and began to reopen as soon as stay-at-home orders were relaxed. It started with very small groups of children and has gradually increased its numbers, adapting its program to take place mostly outdoors. I recommend a drive by the church building on weekdays--the grounds are full of activity!

To increase the amount of shaded space and create an outdoor shelter from rain, Wildflower requested to put up a tent on the Cornwallis Rd. side of the sanctuary. They noted that it would be available for congregational use on weekends. The council approved, and the task force will include the tent among available resources for outdoor worship and meetings.

As always, you are invited to share your concerns and suggestions with the council:

council@stpaulsdurham.org

Wishing you peace,

Tina