

PRINCE OF PEACE

CELEBRATE GOD'S GIFTS WITH

Christmas

IN JULY



THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE
Treasure in a field

Matthew 13.44

Sunday July 26, 2020

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost / Christmas in July

Worship Assistant Susan Fisher

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, the one who made us,

The one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Source of all life,

We confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free.

We fear that we are not good enough.

We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it.

We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward.

Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love,

Willing to speak for what is right, Act for what is just,

And seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Children's Moment

First Reading: 1 Kings 3.5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today." ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

Psalm: 119.129 -136

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

**¹³⁰ The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.

**¹³² Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom toward those who love your name.**

¹³³ Keep my steps steady according to your promise,
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

**¹³⁴ Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.**

¹³⁵ Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

Gospel: Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom

of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Message

Song: Joy to the World # 267

Antioch

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields & floods, rocks, hills & plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

The Peace Announcements

Prayers of Intercession

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world,
and all who are in need.

A brief silence

Merciful God, your reign revealed to us in common things a mustard shrub, a woman
baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common
ways you encounter us in daily life.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

When your word is opened, give us light and understanding. Increase our
understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers.
Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. *(here a particular struggle may be named)*
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick *(especially)*.
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time.
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered

In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light *(especially)*.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Blessing:

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
Grant you to live in harmony with one another,
In accordance with Christ Jesus.

And may the blessing of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
be upon you all the days of your life.

Amen.

Hymn: "Go Tell it On the Mountain" # 290

Go Tell It 78767676

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'ry where;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Ref.*

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out an angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Ref.*

3. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born:
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Ref.*

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; Be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; Render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; Support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God!

Thanks for joining us!

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