

The Season After Pentecost  
**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**St. George's Church**  
Glenn Dale Parish  
The Episcopal Diocese of Washington

**October 10, 2021**

*Understand that this is sacred ground and it hurts to walk here. But at the same time, I “need” to walk here, need the strength, the sense of purpose, the knowledge of self, that walking here imparts. ... What do I want from you? I want you to be my sister and to walk here with me. I know it’s a hard walk. I know it causes you pain. But this much I also know: If ever we learn to tread this ground together, there’s no place we can’t go. |*  
**—Leonard Pitts, Jr.**

*Welcome to St. George's! We are glad to see you this morning, whether in person or virtually. Zoom participants are encouraged to leave your video camera on or turn it off; at certain points during the service participants in the sanctuary will see the gallery view of those taking part in the service via Zoom.*

**Prelude: *Higher Ground* by Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932), arr. Victor Labenske**

***Call to Worship***

Sacred Ground

Moses approached the burning bush  
With fear, awe, and wonder  
he heard, learned and understood  
what he must do  
was it easy?

**Response**      **NO**

Sacred Ground

A group of St. George's came to meet  
a safe place made to share  
we met, learned, and cried together  
we didn't know what we must do  
was it easy?

**Response**      **NO**

Sacred Ground

In that safe place we shared  
spoke our truths, our experiences  
we listened to each other  
we knew we couldn't fix or resolve anything  
was it easy?

**Response**      **NO**

## Sacred Ground

Our learned experiences were sacred  
we saw and heard of Sacred things, terrible things  
bondage  
discrimination  
hatred  
violence  
murders  
imprisonment  
we knew it is on our past, present and our future  
was it easy?

**Response**      **NO**

## Sacred Ground

What we do know  
is to tread carefully  
do not judge  
share with others  
pray and repeat  
was it easy?

**Response**      **NO**

But with God's help

We must for it is **Sacred Ground**

## Opening Hymn: Gather #337 *Sing Out, Earth and Skies*

Words and Music: Marty Haugen. © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Come, O God of all the earth: Come to us, O Right-eous One; Come, and bring our  
Come, O God of wind and flame: Fill the earth with right-eous-ness; Teach us all to  
Come, O God of flash-ing light; Twin-king star and burn-ing sun; God of day and  
Come, O God of snow and rain: Show - er down up - on the earth; Come, O God of  
Come, O Jus-tice, Come, O Peace: Come and shape our hearts a - new; Come and make op-



love to birth: in the glo - ry of your Son. Sing out, earth and skies!  
sing your name: May our lives your love con - fess.  
God of night: In your light we all are one.  
joy and pain: God of sor - row, God of mirth.  
- press - sion cease: Bring us all to life in you.



Sing of the God who loves you! Raise your joy-ful cries! Dance to the life a-round you!

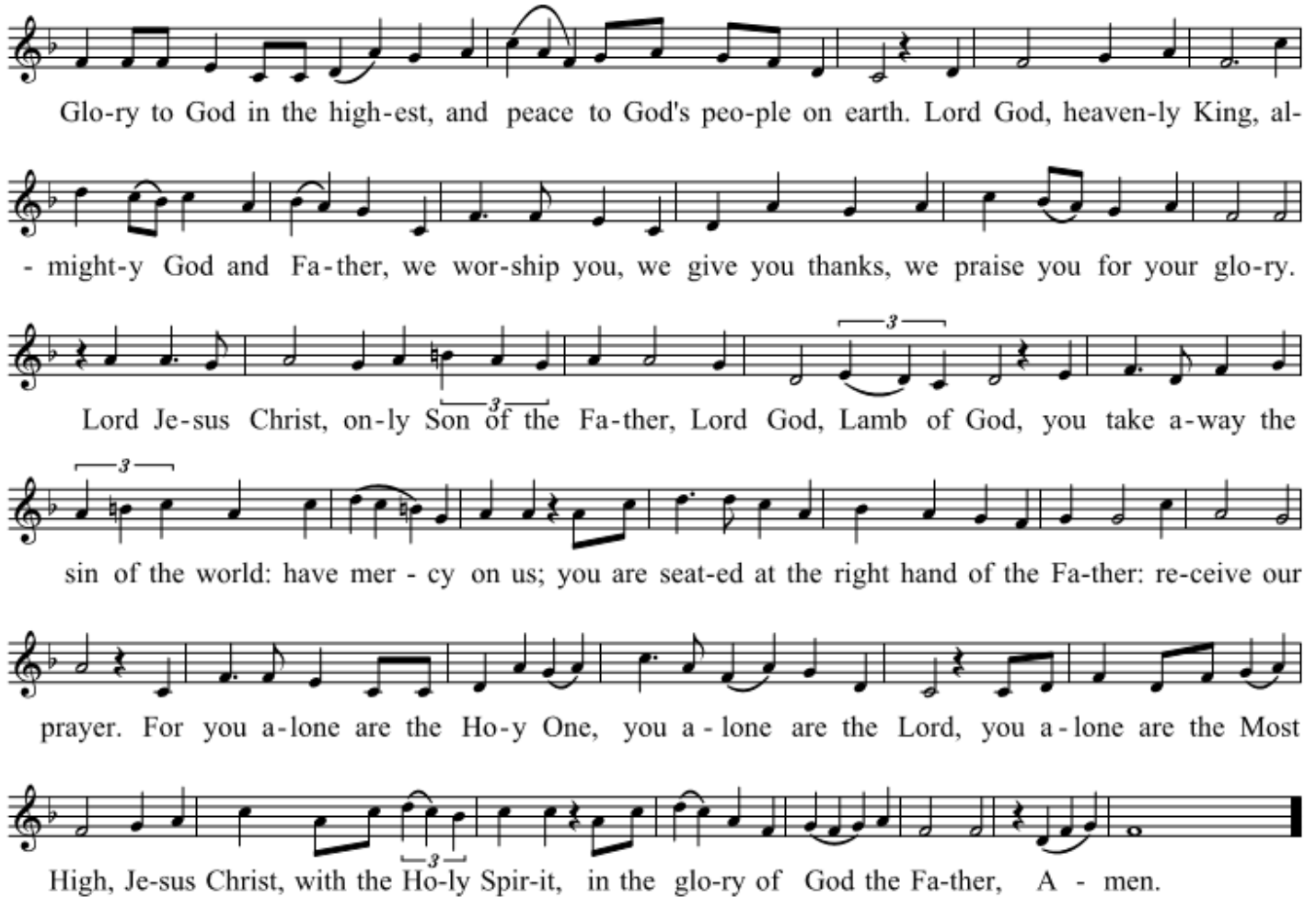
*Celebrant:* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People:* Glory to God for ever and ever.

*All pray together:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Gloria: Hymnal 1982 #S280

Setting: Robert Powell. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-  
- might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.  
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our  
prayer. For you a-lone are the Ho-y One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most  
High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther, A - men.

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray together the Collect of the Day: **Holy God, breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth, that barriers would crumble and divisions cease. Make us more fully your co-healers of the broken world. Unite us with all people in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Exodus 3:1-6**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" and he said "here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." and Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 146**

Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Put not your trust in rulers, not in any child of earth,

**for there is no help in them.**

When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

**and in that day their thoughts perish.**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!

**whose hope is in the LORD their God;**

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

**who keeps promises for ever;**

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,

**and food to those who hunger.**

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

The LORD loves the righteous;

The LORD cares for the stranger;

**and sustains the orphan and widow,**

**but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

The LORD shall reign for ever,

**Your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.**

**Hallelujah!**

***Diversify The Mix*** by Jeffrey Williams from *Reflections of the Heart* page 34

*(Jeffrey was an original member of Repairing the Breach team and worked to establish the Sacred Ground class for St. George's)*

In the midst of diversity, we seek to minimize adversity while searching for the goodness within each heart; we hope to acknowledge the greater of our parts.

We strive to grow each day a bit more than the past and with dignity and respect guide others through the labyrinth of life's offerings.

Acceptance not agreement is the greatest challenge hindering our becoming better messengers of our faith.

The difficulties encountered are not obstacles to the mix but resolutions waiting to explore strength diversity brings.

The roads paved with good intentions have no strength to endure unless we join each other and diversify the mix.

When we come together without regard for race, creed, or color, then we create an opportunity for humanity to become a concept lived, not just prayed for every day.

When we acknowledge that together, we are greater than our parts, then the image of our creation becomes the cohesions of our hearts.

### **Gospel Hymn: NCH 188 *Give Me a Clean Heart***

Words and Music: Margaret Douroux. © 1970 CPP/Belwin, Inc. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Give Me a Clean Heart". It consists of three staves of music in a 6/8 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first six measures, the second staff contains measures 7 through 10, and the third staff contains measures 11 through 14. The lyrics are: "Give me a clean heart so I may serve you. God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you." The lyrics are aligned with the notes on the staves.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### **Luke 6:27-36**

But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. The Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

# The Sermon

Roy Peterson, Helen Rowe, Christine Bloecker, Cynthia Griffith, John Rebstock, TSSF

## The Creed *We Believe in God Our Creator*

Words: Nicene Creed paraphrased by Terry Doyle TSSF.

Music: 17<sup>th</sup> Century French Carol, *Piccardy*; Hymnal 1982 # 324 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*

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1. We be - lieve in God our Cre - a - tor, mak - ing ev - 'ry  
2. We be - lieve in Christ our Re - deem - er, God from God and  
3. Christ now con - quers death on the third day, and as - cends to  
4. We be - lieve in God's Ho - ly Spi - rit, Breath of Life sus -  
5. We are sim - ple, bro - ken peo - ple, gath - ered in one



u - ni - verse, who was and will be for -  
love from love, one in be - ing with the Cre -  
God's ho ly throne, God tri - une now rules for  
- tain - ing Earth. For the Spir - it groans in  
Church and made whole. One with seek - ers, saints, and



- e - ver, source of all that live and breathe.  
- a - tor, and the Spir - it three in one.  
all time as the course of stars will run.  
la - bor as cre - a - tion gives new birth.  
sin - ners, trust - ing in God's mer - cy and love.



All things vis - i - ble and all that is un - seen  
Je - sus born of Ma - ry from the Spir - it formed,  
Christ now comes a - gain as judge of all on Earth,  
And the Spir - it now re - news all life on Earth,  
As God's lov - ing kind - ness knows no hu - man bounds,



come to be through God the One.  
shared our flesh and died our death.  
re - con - cil - ing all to God.  
in God's end - less flow - ing love.  
be - yond death we're raised to new life.

## The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Mariann, our bishop; Connie our rector; Anne-Marie, Sarah and Thelma as they offer pastoral support; for all lay and ordained ministers; and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world.

God of love,

**Open our hearts for the church.**

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love.

God of freedom,

**Open our hearts for the world.**

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*

God of justice, we pray for the earth, your creation entrusted to our care: For the animals and birds, the mountains and oceans, and all parts of your creation that have no voice of their own. Stir up in us a thirst for justice that protects the earth and all its resources, that we may leave to our children's children the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us.

God of justice,

**Open our hearts for the earth.**

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*

God of peace, we pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and markets; for our neighborhoods and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home.

God of peace,

**Open our hearts for this community.**

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*

God of mercy, we pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and those connected to us as part of the human family. For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering, the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons.

God of mercy,

**Open our hearts for all who are in need.**

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*

God of grace, we pray for those who have died: For the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light.

God of grace,

**We keep in our hearts those who have died.**

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

One: Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

**Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift:**

**You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us.**

**We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family.**

**We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others.**

**We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are, while making judgements of**

**others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience.**

**We have tried to love our neighbors individually while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.**

**Forgive us, Holy God.**

**Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people.**

**Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love.**

**Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in our diversity, even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit, Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## **Announcements and Blessings for Birthdays & Anniversaries**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) and anyone celebrating their birthday or anniversary this week as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## The Offertory

Do good works and share what you have, for these are the sacrifices pleasing to God.

*Traditionally this would be the time for the basket to be passed to receive financial donations from those worshipping in person. For safety reasons, that practice has changed. We encourage you to give electronically wherever possible. You can use your phone to text stgeodragon to 72356. Or just use your web browser to go to [www.onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/Give](http://www.onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/Give). If your bank offers Zelle, you can use your banking app to send a donation via Zelle to [donations@stgeo.comcastbiz.net](mailto:donations@stgeo.comcastbiz.net). There are also baskets at the entrance and exit doors of the Sanctuary for donations of checks or cash. Many thanks for your financial support of St. George's.*

### Offertory Hymn: I Am Willing by Holly Near (b. 1949), arr. Steve Milloy (b. 1965)

*The Congregation is invited to join the choir on the refrain.*



I am o-pen and I am will-ing, for to be hope-less would seem so strange. It dis-



- hon-ors those who go be - fore us, so lift me up to the light of change.

*There is hurting in my family  
There is sorrow in my town  
There is panic in the nation  
There is wailing the whole world round  
May the children see more clearly  
May the elders be more wise  
May the winds of change caress us  
Even though it burns our eyes  
Give me a mighty oak to hold my confusion  
Give me a desert to hold my fears  
Give me a sunset to hold my wonder  
Give me an ocean to hold my tears*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

We give you thanks and praise, Almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe.

**Glory to you forever and ever.**

You created us to love you with our whole hearts, and to love each other as ourselves, but we turn against you and against each other. Yet, in Jesus your Son, you call us back, bring healing to our world, and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wondrous name, as we sing:

### Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy* Levas # 255

Music: Grayson Warren Brown (b. 1948), A Mass for Soulful People © 1979 North American Liturgy Resources.

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Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord God of  
hosts. Heav-en and earth are filled with your glo - ry Ho-  
- san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is the one who comes in the  
name of the Lord, of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues:*

We give you thanks and praise O God because in sending us Jesus you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry; he suffers with the sick and rejected. Yet even betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death, and by raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all people. **Glory to you forever and ever.**

On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to them saying "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me." **Glory to you forever and ever.**

Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you, proclaiming the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again**

And now, O Holy One, we pray that you send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread, and share in the risen life with him and all your people. **Glory to you forever and ever.**

Holy One, You call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather with joy at the table of your kingdom.

**We sing your praise, O God, through Jesus our Lord, in the power of the Spirit, now and always. Glory to you forever and ever. Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant:* And now let us pray with confidence the words our Savior has taught us:

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### The Breaking of the Bread

*The bread is broken and silence is kept, all sing the fraction anthem.*

#### Fraction Anthem: *Be Known to Us Wonder Love and Praise # 875*

Setting: Gary James. © 1992 Morningstar Music Publishers. Hymns reprinted under OneLicence.net #A-701323

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff is labeled 'Cantor or choir' and contains the lyrics: 'Be known to us Lord Je-sus, in the break-ing of the'. The second staff is divided into two parts: '1. Congregation' and '2. Cantor or choir', with lyrics: 'bread. be bread. One bod-y are we, al-le-lu-ia, for though'. The third staff is labeled 'Congregation' and contains the lyrics: 'man-y we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord Je-sus, in the'. The fourth staff contains the lyrics: 'break - ing of the bread.' and includes the number '12' at the beginning and 'WLP 875' at the bottom left.

*Celebrant:* Mindful that not all are present physically to receive the sacrament, we pray with those who receive spiritual Holy Communion this day:

**Lord Jesus, in union with your faithful people, we offer to you our praise and thanks. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we pray that you come spiritually into our hearts. Strengthen us with your grace, O Lord, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## The Communion

*If you would like to receive the Eucharist, you may choose to receive both the bread and wine or only one of them. If you receive the wine, please drop your empty cup into the recycling bin at the door. Note that hand sanitizer is available as you exit. Please follow the arrows to go through the narthex (hallway) and back into the Sanctuary and on to your seat.*



*Wherever you are on your journey, whatever you believe or don't believe, know that you are welcome at this table. For this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.*

## Communion 1: LEVAS #106 *Precious Lord Take My Hand*

Words and Music: Thomas A. Dorsey; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer. © 1940 Unichapell Music, Inc.  
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Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am  
When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin ger near, When my life is  
When the dark - ness ap-pears and the night draws near, And the day is



weak, I am worn; Through the storm, through the night, Lead me  
al - most gone, Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my  
past and gone. At the riv - er I stand, Guide my



on to the light, Take my hand, prec-ious Lord, Lead me on.  
hand, lest I fall, Take my hand, prec-ious Lord, Lead me on.  
feet, hold my hand, Take my hand, prec-ious Lord, Lead me on.

## Communion 2: LEVAS # 227 *We Shall Overcome*

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr Carl Haywood from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*. © 1992  
Hymns reprinted under OneLicence.net #A-701323



We shall o-ver come, We shall o-ver come, We shall o-ver come some day.



Oh, deep in my heart, I do be-lieve. We shall o-ver come some day.

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. We'll walk hand in hand, today | 4. We are not afraid, today.        |
| 3. God is on our side, today      | 5. We shall live in peace, someday. |

### Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray:

**Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now O God, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

### The Blessing

*Celebrant:* May God, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour out blessings upon all creation, and upon us God's people, that we may use the gifts God has given us to do justice and bring peace. And may the blessing of God who created us, Christ Jesus who brings us new life, and the Holy Spirit who guides and sustains us, be with you now and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**



## Dismissal Hymn: LEVAS #1 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Words: James Weldon Johnson. Music: J. Rosamond Johnson. © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Company.  
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Lift ev-'ry voice and sing, 'Till earth and heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo -  
Ston-y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chast-'ning rod. Felt in the days when  
God of our wear - y years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who has brought us



- nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re-joic-ing rise High as the list - 'ning  
hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead-y beat, Have not our wear-y  
thus far on the way; Thou who has by thy might, Led us in to the



skies, Let it re-sound loud as the roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the  
feet Come to the place for which our Fa - thers sighed? We have come o - ver a  
light, Keep us for - ev - er in the path we pray. Lest our feet stray from the



faith that the dark past has brought us; Sing a song full of the  
way that with tears has been wa - tered; We have come, tread - ing our  
pa - ces, our God, where we met thee; Lest our hearts, drunk with the



hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing  
path through the blood of the slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y  
wine of the world, we for - get thee, Shad - owed be - neath Thy



sun Of our new day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
past, Till now we stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
hand, May we for - ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

### The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*, arr. Marianne Kim (b. 1972)