

# Prelude

## Announcements

### Opening Hymn

*Unison or harmony*

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. \_\_\_\_\_  
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass. \_\_\_\_\_  
 born of the one light E - den saw play! \_\_\_\_\_

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! \_\_\_\_\_  
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. \_\_\_\_\_  
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day! \_\_\_\_\_

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), alt.. Copyright © by permission of David Higham Associates Limited, London. Music: *Bunessan*, Gaelic melody; harm. Alec Wyton (b. 1921) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Celebrant: 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.

## Venite

sung by a cantor

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, \*

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

## The First Lesson

Lector: A Reading from Acts

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself

gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 66:7-18 *Jubilate Deo***

7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*

make the voice of his praise to be heard;

8 Who holds our souls in life, \*

and will not allow our feet to slip.

9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*

you have tried us just as silver is tried.

10 You brought us into the snare; \*

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

11 You let enemies ride over our heads;

we went through fire and water; \*

but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings

and will pay you my vows, \*

which I promised with my lips

and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts

with the smoke of rams; \*

I will give you oxen and goats.

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;

17 But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.

## **The Second Lesson**

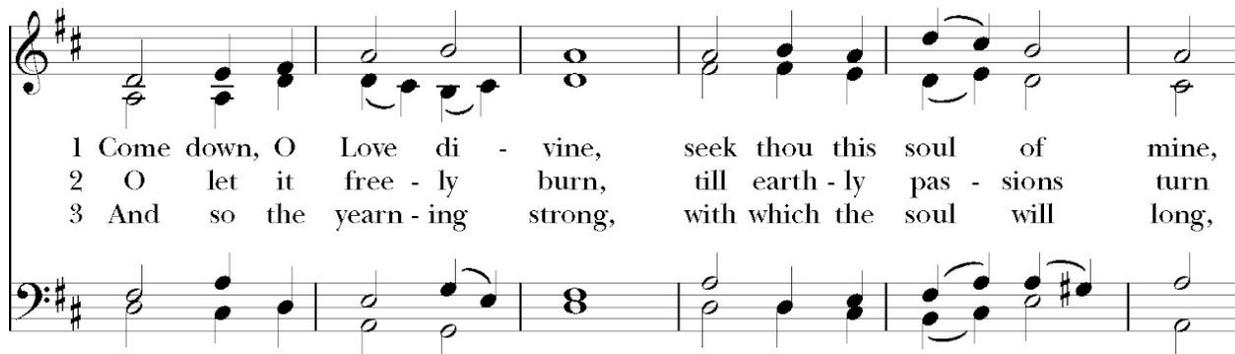
Lector: A Reading from First Peter

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

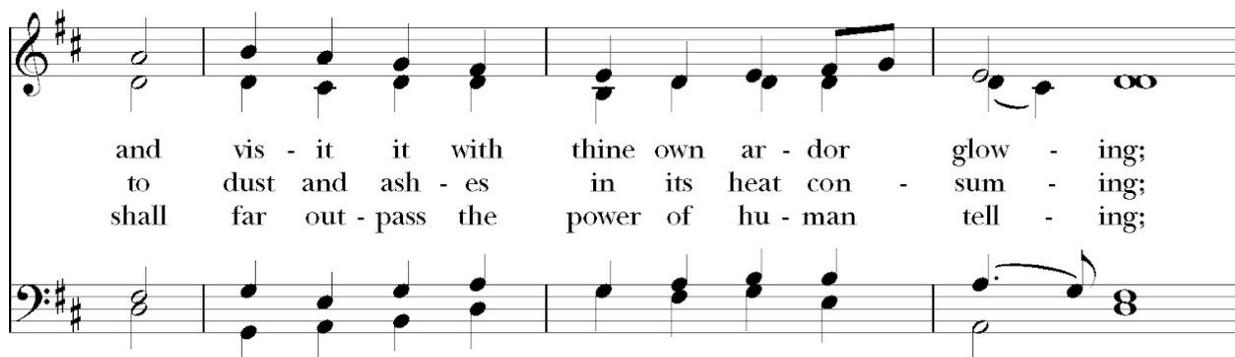
Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

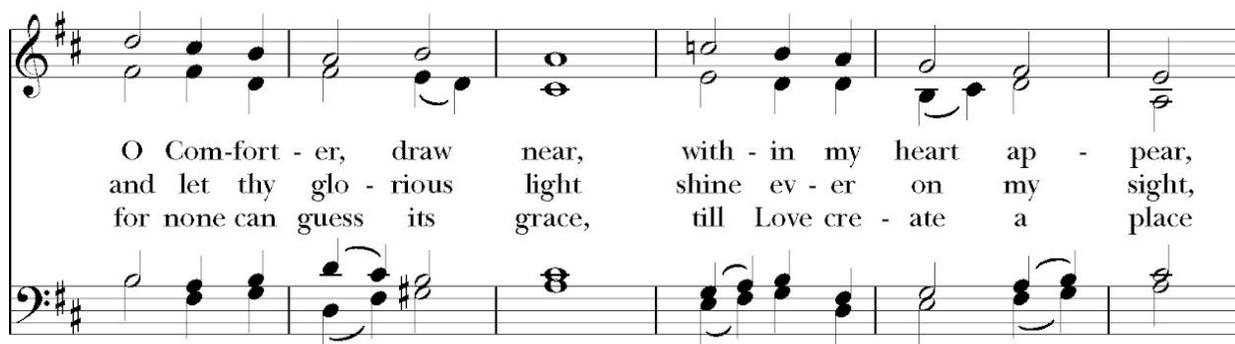
## Gospel Hymn



1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,  
2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn  
3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,  
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place



and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434?); tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890), alt. Music: *Down Ampney*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
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## The Gospel

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According To John

People: Glory to You, O Christ.

## **John 14:15-21**

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Deacon: The Gospel of Our Savior.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

## **The Homily**

### **3 Questions:**

- How much does your sense of who you are depend on your nation?
- How much does your sense of who you are depend on your idea of God?
- In what ways are you being sustained, even when there's considerable mystery surrounding who or what is sustaining you?

## **Suspended by Denise Levertov**

I had grasped God's garment in the void  
but my hand slipped  
on the rich silk of it.

The 'everlasting arms' my sister loved to remember  
must have upheld my leaden weight  
from falling, even so,  
for though I claw at empty air and feel  
nothing, no embrace,  
I have not plummeted. (from *Evening Train*)

## **The 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 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.

## Hymn

1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst his pri - son,  
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
 4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,

God hath brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness:  
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;  
 with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joy to ren - der;  
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold thee as a mor - tal:

loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,  
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion  
 but to - day a - midst thine own thou didst stand, be - stow - ing

led them with un - mois - tened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
 wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion.  
 that thy peace which ev - er - more pass - eth hu - man know - ing.

## The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: In joy and hope let us pray to God. That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That we may be granted humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That we may help provide for those who lack food, work or shelter we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That war and famine may cease throughout the world, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That the light and presence of divinity may be revealed to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That, according to the promise, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That the fire of the Holy Spirit may descend upon the people, so that we may bear faithful witness to the resurrection, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: God, you are beyond our understanding, yet you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your

Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

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 from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## Anthem Text

### Your Hands, O Lord, in Days of Old

Text by Edward H. Plumptre; Music by Carson P. Cooman

*Your hands, O Lord, in days of old were strong to heal and save;  
They triumphed over pain and death, o'er darkness and the grave.  
to you they went, the blind, the mute, the palsied and the lame,  
The leper set apart and shunned, the sick and those in shame.*

*And then your touch brought life and health, gave speech and strength and sight;  
And youth renewed, with health restored, claimed you, the Lord of light.  
And so, O Lord, be near to bless, almighty now as then,  
In every street, in every home, in every troubled friend.*

*O be our mighty healer still, O Lord of life and death;  
Restore and strengthen, soothe and bless with your almighty breath,  
On hands that work and eyes that see, your healing wisdom pour,  
That whole and sick and weak and strong may praise you evermore.*

## The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Please join us for **Coffee Hour Questions: Growing as Disciples from Our Homes** by following this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93054661025?pwd=aEhtdkszYzRveVhVSUVOb2Y0VHhMUT09>