

Prelude
Welcome

Opening Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

H#376



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bles - sing, ev - er blest,

5

1. hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
2. stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
3. well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

9

1. Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the dark of doubt a - way; giv -
2. Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea, chant -
3. Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine; teach

13

1. - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
2. - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
3. us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

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

H#S280

2

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace — to his

6

peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heav'n - ly King, al - might - y — God and

11

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

16

3. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of

20

God, 4. you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

24

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our

29

pray'r. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, — you a - lone — are the

33

Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most — High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

37

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God — the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Ezekiel 33:7-11

A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

The Response

Psalms 119:33-40

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

The Second Lesson

Romans 13:8-14

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.





1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
 2 God is Love; and love en - folds us, all the world in
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all



earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
 one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind-ness



and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall



da - tion, God who spread the heavens a - bove, God who breathes through
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so



all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the

church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

“Can We Talk?”

The Rev. Kevin Powell

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(The Leader and People pray responsively)

Father, we pray for your Holy Church; especially in the Anglican Communion, for the Province of Alexandria; in our companion Diocese of Eswatini, for the Mhlume/'Tshaneni Parochial District; in our companion Diocese of Brechin, for University Chaplaincies; in our companion Diocese of Nzara, for Nambazia Parish; and in the Diocese of Iowa, for Christ Church, Clinton and for Trinity Church, Ottumwa;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

We pray for Bob, Sherry, Audrey, John, Cody, Betty, Christina, David, Kathy, Shea, Ruth, Bill, Steven, Dick, Mary, Margaret, Lucinda, Aadon, Megan, Lucy, Sandy, Jim, Mike, and for those who have no one to pray for them; have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray for this congregation, for our Vestry, and for all who minister among us; that, guided by the Holy Spirit, we may be faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, build up the Body of Christ in love, and bear witness to God's light and glory in the world. Lead us Lord:

And guide us in your way.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially for John Axel, Corrinna Hayes, George Ryder, Jean Dusenberry, Sharon Welsch, the Rev. Kathleen Milligan, and Allen Kiddo;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

We give thanks for those who labor to make the world a better place;

That we praise your Name for ever and ever.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

(Silence - The People may add their own petitions)

Loving God, you are always near to us, especially when we are weak, suffering, or vulnerable. Draw close to all who struggle with mental health challenges. Ease their burdens, calm their anxiety, and quiet their fears. Surround them with your healing presence, and remind them that they are never alone. Grant them strength, hope, and your abiding peace. **Amen.**

Concluding Collect

Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Silence)

**Most merciful God,
we confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Announcements



The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

H#174



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
3 Might-y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.



who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.



praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:



gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

Doxology



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low;



praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

(Here a proper preface is said)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

H#S129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly - Lord, God of pow-er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say.

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

(Silence)

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



The Holy Communion

Communion Music

Instrumental

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King

H#400



1. All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
2. Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heav'ns a -
3. Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to



1. sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing sun with gold - en
2. loft, O — praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing morn, with praise re -
3. hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in - tense and fierce - ly



1. beams, pale sil - ver moon that gent - ly gleams, O — praise him, O —
2. joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
3. bright, you give to us both warmth and light,



- praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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Happy Birthday!

September 6 - Keith Elliott
September 9 - Marianne Tetlow
September 9 - Deb Haskins

September 10 - Jennie Osborn
September 11 - Joy Duffe
September 12 - Audrey Clark

Calendar

Wednesday, September 9th: Community Potluck & Conversations, 5:30 pm

Friday, September 11th to Sunday, September 13th: New Beginnings Youth Retreat, [HERE!](#)

Sunday, September 13th: Sunday School, 9 am

Worship Service, 10 am

Vestry Meeting, after coffee hour

Tuesday, September 15th: Jubilee Committee, 4:30 pm

Wednesday, September 16th: Community Potluck & Conversations, 5:30 pm

Saturday, September 19th: Fall Kickoff Party, 3-7 pm

Sunday, September 20th: Sunday School, 9 am

Worship Service, 10 am

Wednesday, September 23rd: Community Potluck & Conversations, 5:30 pm

Ministry Volunteers

September 6	September 13	September 20
Altar: Chrystelle Eucharist Minister 1: Eucharist Minister 2: Lector/Intercessor: Katie Coffee: Arlene Tech: Emily	Altar: Michelle and Molly Eucharist Minister 1: Eucharist Minister 2: Lector/intercessor: Diana Coffee: Bruce and Polly Tech: Emily	Altar: Deb E. Eucharist Minister 1: Eucharist Minister 2: Lector/intercessor: Coffee: Tech:



What If We Have More To Learn?

There is no shortage of people willing to tell us what is wrong.

Turn on the television. Scroll through social media. Listen to conversations about politics, religion, the Church, or almost any issue that divides us. We are surrounded by voices telling us what other people need to understand, what other people need to change, and what other people need to do.

Sometimes those voices even claim to speak for God.

This Sunday, the prophet Ezekiel reminds us that speaking can be part of faithfulness. God appoints Ezekiel as a watchman, someone responsible for sounding the warning when danger approaches. Ezekiel cannot simply see what is happening and remain silent. There are times when injustice, cruelty, exclusion, or harm must be named. Silence is not always faithful.

But there is a danger when we begin assuming that everything we believe, everything we want to say, or everything we think someone else needs to hear comes directly from God.

That is where the words of Psalm 119 become so important.

“Teach me.”

“Give me understanding.”

“Lead me.”

The psalmist does not begin by asking God to straighten everyone else out. The prayer begins with the recognition that the person praying still has something to learn.

Maybe that is one of the more difficult spiritual practices for us right now.

Our society is deeply divided, and we are often encouraged to approach those divisions with certainty. We identify who is wrong before we have listened to them. We prepare our response while another person is still speaking. We become very good at recognizing what everyone else needs to change while remaining remarkably comfortable with ourselves.

But discipleship is a journey, and journeys have a way of changing us.

We may have a destination in mind. We may even be certain that we know where we are going. But sometimes what happens along the way matters more than reaching the destination we originally imagined.

The psalmist seems to understand this. “Teach me” is the prayer of someone who has not finished learning. “Give me understanding” admits that there may be more to understand.

“Lead me” is the prayer of someone willing to follow, even when the path does not go exactly where they expected.

Listening is more than being polite. Listening can become one of the ways God transforms us along the journey.

That does not mean accepting everything someone says as true. It certainly does not mean remaining in conversations or relationships that are abusive or harmful. There are voices claiming to speak for God that promote exclusion, fear, shame, and toxic theology. Healthy boundaries are a part of faithful discipleship.

Our Episcopal tradition gives us helpful companions for the journey in scripture, tradition, and reason. We listen to scripture within the larger story of God’s love and grace. We learn from the wisdom handed down through generations of the Church, while recognizing that the Church has sometimes been wrong. We use the reason God has given us, shaped by what we have learned and experienced. Through it all, we keep seeking God’s guidance.

We speak when speaking is necessary.

We listen because we know we have more to learn.

And we test what we hear because claiming to speak for God is a responsibility we should never take lightly.

Perhaps we do not need to be quite so certain that we have already arrived.

Instead, we can keep traveling. Keep learning. Keep listening.

Teach me, O God.

Give me understanding.

Lead me.

And along the way, may God continue forming us into more loving, faithful, and compassionate disciples of Jesus.

Kevin+

