

...where there is more than one way to *be, believe and belong*

THE SEASON OF CREATION

26 September 2021

Worshipping in Person and Online

9:30 in the morning

The earth is charged with the Grandeur of God...

The Season of Creation is being adopted by Christian denominations around the world. It intends to celebrate the presence and action of God in all people, creatures and the earth. Along with many Episcopal communities we have adopted this new liturgical season and direct our hearts, minds, prayers and actions in a celebration of Ordinary Holiness that pervades the multiverse. The Season of Creation will continue through Sunday, October 3rd.

Welcome to Church of the Apostles

We are glad you are here and welcome you to fully participate in God's mission and ministry at Church of the Apostles. All are welcome, without exception or reservation. We are an inclusive Christian community that makes a difference in peoples' lives.

A prayer for the Season of Creation

God who created the world in joy, establish and strengthen in us the habits of rejoicing, together with all created beings. May all that we do—our work and our resting, our movement and stillness, our words and our silence— increase in us a reverence for your creation and a shared vocation of exultation. **Amen.**

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Prelude *Commit thou all that grieves thee* Johann Gottfried Walther

The Processional

For the fruit of all creation

424



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be
3 For the har - vests of the Spi - rit, thanks be to



God. For his gifts to ev - ery na - tion,
done. In the help we give our neigh - bor,
God. For the good we all in - her - it,



thanks be to God. For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing,
God's will be done. In our world-wide task of car - ing
thanks be to God. For the won - ders that as - tound us,



si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in
for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing, in the har - vests
for the truths that still con - found us, most of all that



earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
love has found us, thanks be to God.

Words: F. Pratt Green (b. 1903), alt.

Music: *East Achlam*, Francis Jackson (b. 1917)

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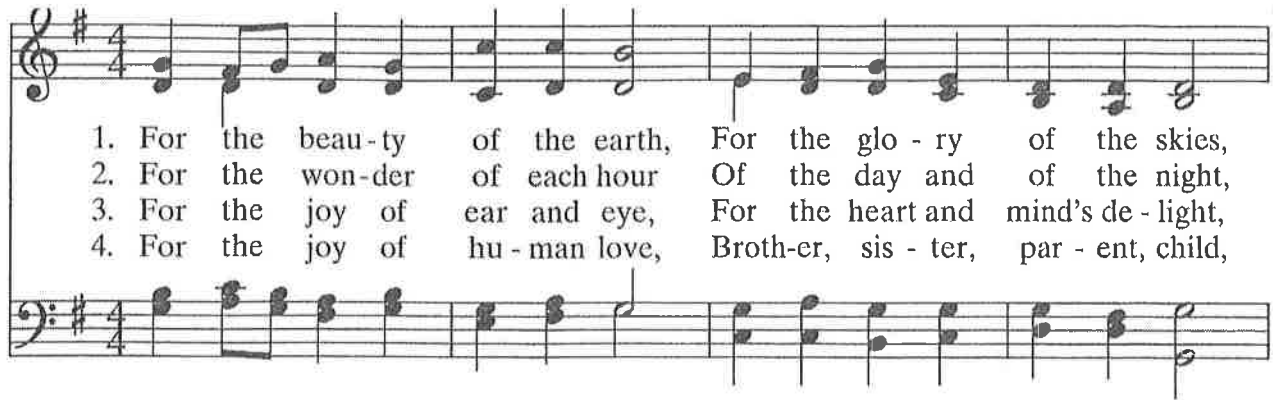
LITURGY OF THE WORD

Presider Blessed be the One, Holy and Living God.

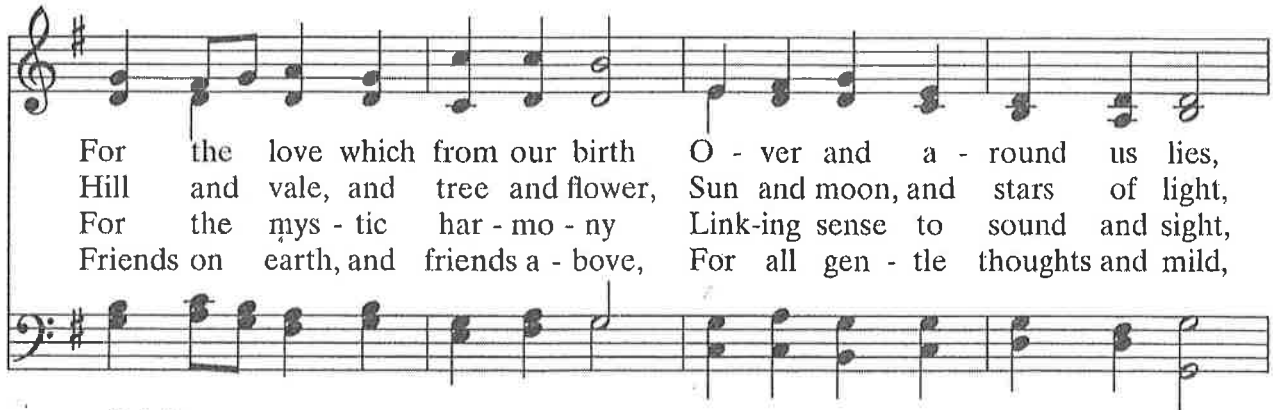
People **And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.**

Song of Praise

For the beauty of the earth ...

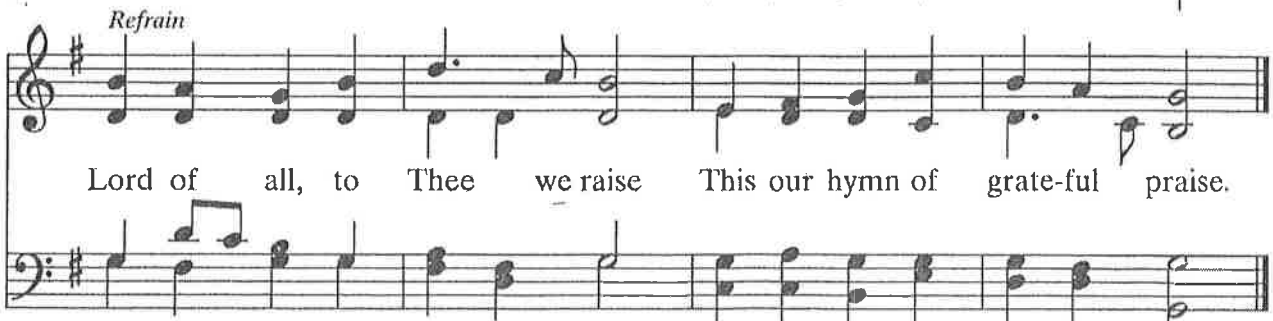


1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,
2. For the won-der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,
4. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth-er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,



For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,

Refrain



Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord is with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

God, maker of marvels, you weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship; your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone, and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe; through Jesus the Christ, our Redeemer, who topples the dividing walls by the power of your Holy Spirit, and who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrew Testament

Esther 7.1-6, 9-19, 9.20-22

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

124

Let us say the psalm responsively by half verse.

If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;

Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;

Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

Blessed be the LORD! *

he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

Please stand.



1 Morn - ing glo - ry, star - lit sky, soar - ing
 2 O - pen are the gifts of God, gifts of
 3 Love that gives, gives ev - er more, gives with

1 mu - sic, schol - ar's truth, flight of swal - lows,
 2 love to mind and sense; hid - den is love's
 3 zeal, with ea - ger hands, spares not, keeps not,

1 au - tumn leaves, mem - ory's trea - sure, grace of youth:
 2 a - go - ny, love's en - deav - or, love's ex - pense.
 3 all out - pours, ven - tures all, its all ex - pends.

The Gospel

Mark 9.38-50

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus the Christ according to Mark
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame

than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Deacon The gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Debra Asis

A period of silence follows the sermon.

Words for the Wordless

Please stand as we say Words for the Wordless together.

**We believe Divine Presence, that we call One God,
is the essence and substance of all that is.
It transcends every image of human understanding.**

**We believe Jesus is an unprecedented revelation
of living in accord with Divine Presence,
He is an exemplar of the life giving and affirming potential
of being in full enunciation.**

**We believe the Spirit of life that is present with all persons
is of the essence and substance of God.
It is the spark that transforms creaturely brutality
into inspired humanity.**

**We believe the Church exists to foster world transforming love;
by exercising ‘power with’ rather than ‘power over,’
by cultivating community rather than conformity,
and by propagating unity rather than uniformity.**

**We believe questions are more valuable than answers
and humbly submit all that we believe
to prayerful examination.**

*** This statement of faith is a contemporary reflection on the mysteries of the Christian faith and an invitation to each of us to continue pondering the inexplicable presence and action of God in our world.*

The Prayers of the People

Holy Father, Divine Mother,
from whom all creation emerges,
we bow before you in wonder and adoration.

**We marvel that in this past week
we have travelled seven million miles outward
into the mystery of dark space.**

Where to, on this ride in our ever-expanding cosmos?
Why here, on Earth,
and now, in this day and age?

**We turn to the Christ within to get our bearings
and glimpse a purpose,
but never to lessen the mystery.**

We turn to the Spirit of Wisdom,
divine radiance,
to guide us through time's evolving story.

**Honored at being chosen
to be both storytellers and collaborators
in this great drama-
and thankful for this brief and breath-taking ride
on our holy planet.**

Holy Father, Divine Mother,
bless every person that we meet, every face we see,
every voice we hear, where ever they be.

**Bless every city, every town, every bless-ed bit of ground,
everything we see and touch, day and night, every sound.**

**Bless us to let Your Grace flow through everything we say and do.
Amen.**

Adapted from *Wisdom of Solomon 7.26-29* in *If Darwin Prayed* by Bruce Sanguin

The Confession

Deacon Let us confess our sin against God and creation.

**Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked
heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants
unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed.
Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.**

**Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth
as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Liturgy for Blessing Departing Clergy and Partner

Presider Occasionally in the life of our church it is necessary to say
farewell to those who must leave us. Today we bid farewell to Deacon Linda
and her husband Bob, members of our church family who are departing to
live in Green Valley. We want to recognize this occasion by sending them off
with gratitude and our blessings.

Deacon Linda and Bob come forward.

Words of Assurance

Presider Linda and Bob, as you prepare to leave us, we want to assure you of our love and support, to give you thanks for the beautiful ways you have served and supported our community and offer you our blessings. There are also several things we hope you will remember.

Know that "The Lord will keep you from all harm – and will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Ps 121, v7,8 No matter where you go or what you experience, God is with you.

Never forget who and whose you are. First and foremost, you are a revelation of Divine Presence. Continue to do your best to live up to your high calling as ministers of the Way of Jesus.

Finally, know that our prayers accompany you. Though you will be absent from us, we will hold you in our hearts and thank God for all the ways you have made us better by your Holy Presence.

Presider Dear People of God, you have heard these words of assurance. Do you pledge to hold Deacon Linda and Bob in your prayers during this time of transition?

People We do, with God's help.

Presider Let us pray. Gracious God, we ask your blessing upon Deacon Linda and Bob. Watch over them, protect them, and assure them of your abiding presence in every situation. Grant them strength and courage to grow with every challenge. Grant them the peace of knowing that there is nothing that can ever separate them from your love or ours.

ALL We now send Deacon Linda and Bob with our thanks, blessings and with our prayers. Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord is always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with the sign of peace. You may type PEACE in your ZOOM or Facebook Live chat.

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings, Other Reasons for Giving Thanks.

Please let Rev. Debra know if you would like to receive a blessing while worshipping online dasis@ovapostles.org

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Anthem

Guide my feet Lord

Traditional Spiritual

In church or online, we thank you for your generous financial support of Apostles ministries. Please consider making automatic payments from your checking account to avoid Pay Pal fees or send your checks to us at 12111 N. La Cholla Blvd. Oro Valley, AZ 85755. Thank you for your generosity. If you give online, please take and place a widow's mite in the Alms Basket to participate in the offertory.

The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise
him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Presider The Lord is with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

And so, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus the Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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 sin. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rachel and Rebecca, God and Father of our Lord Jesus the Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in the Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus the Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior the Christ has taught us, we pray
Pray either version of the Lord's prayer in your preferred language.

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.

Our Father in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sin as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil for yours is the kingdom and power and glory forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Behold what you are, become what you eat.

The Communion of the People

All who seek Christ are welcome to receive the bread and wine made Holy. If you prefer to receive a blessing please come forward and cross your hands over your chest when the host is offered to you. Gluten free wafers are available. We affirm that all who worship with us online fully receive the spiritual presence.

Communion Music

O Food to pilgrims given

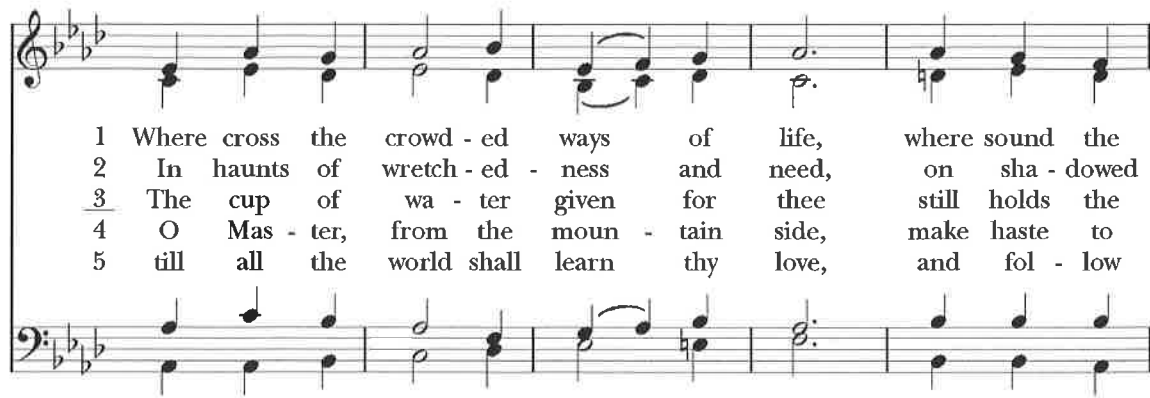
Walther

The Post-Communion Prayer

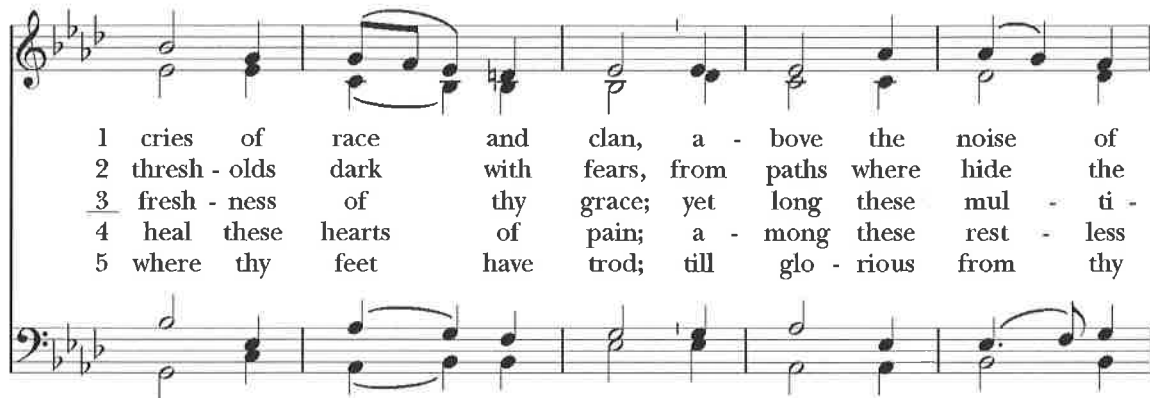
Presider Let us pray.

***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



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on sha - dowed
 3 The cup of wa - ter given for thee still holds the
 4 O Mas - ter, from the moun - tain side, make haste to
 5 till all the world shall learn thy love, and fol - low



1 cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
 2 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
 3 fresh - ness of thy grace; yet long these mul - ti -
 4 heal these hearts of pain; a - mong these rest - less
 5 where thy feet have trod; till glo - rious from thy



1 self - ish strife, we hear thy voice, O Son of Man.
 2 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of thy tears.
 3 tudes to see the true com - pas - sion of thy face.
 4 throngs a - bide, O tread the ci - ty's streets a - gain;
 5 heaven a - bove, shall come the ci - ty of our God.

Words: Frank Mason North (1850-1935), alt. Music: Gardiner, from *Sacred Melodies*, 1815; arr. William Gardiner (1770-1853)

Postlude

Spirit divine, attend our prayers

arr. Ferdinand Saffe

Announcements

The Dismissal

Weekly Prayer List

We pray, O God, for Tammy, Neil, Joyce, Bp. Jennifer, Phyllis, Fred, Anna, and all those suffering the effects of violence, hatred and fear, including the peoples of Afghanistan.

We continue to pray for Terry, Virginia, N., Todd, Bill, John, Karter, Jenny, Earl, Fran, Carol W., Franco, Laurie, Dawn & her family and Garnet.

For the President Joe and Governor Doug.

For our Presiding Bishop Michael, Bishop Jennifer, and our clergy, Rev. Debra, Rev. Sherry and Deacon Linda.

*Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus the Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

For those who are serving in the Armed Forces at home or abroad, particularly Campbell Kerr, Robert Graham, Zack Rodriguez, Tom Marshall, Tim Jeffers and Thomas Aragon.

*Diocesan Cycle of Prayer St. Stephen's Douglas
Anglican Cycle of Prayer The Episcopal Church*

Prayer request forms are available at the Greeters' Table. You may complete and place them in the offering basket. People will remain on the prayer list for three weeks. Please contact the office to extend if needed. If you would like private prayer, please contact The Rev. Debra Asis. You may also request prayers through our Prayer Connections. Notify Terry Rosato at ter.rosato@gmail.com

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