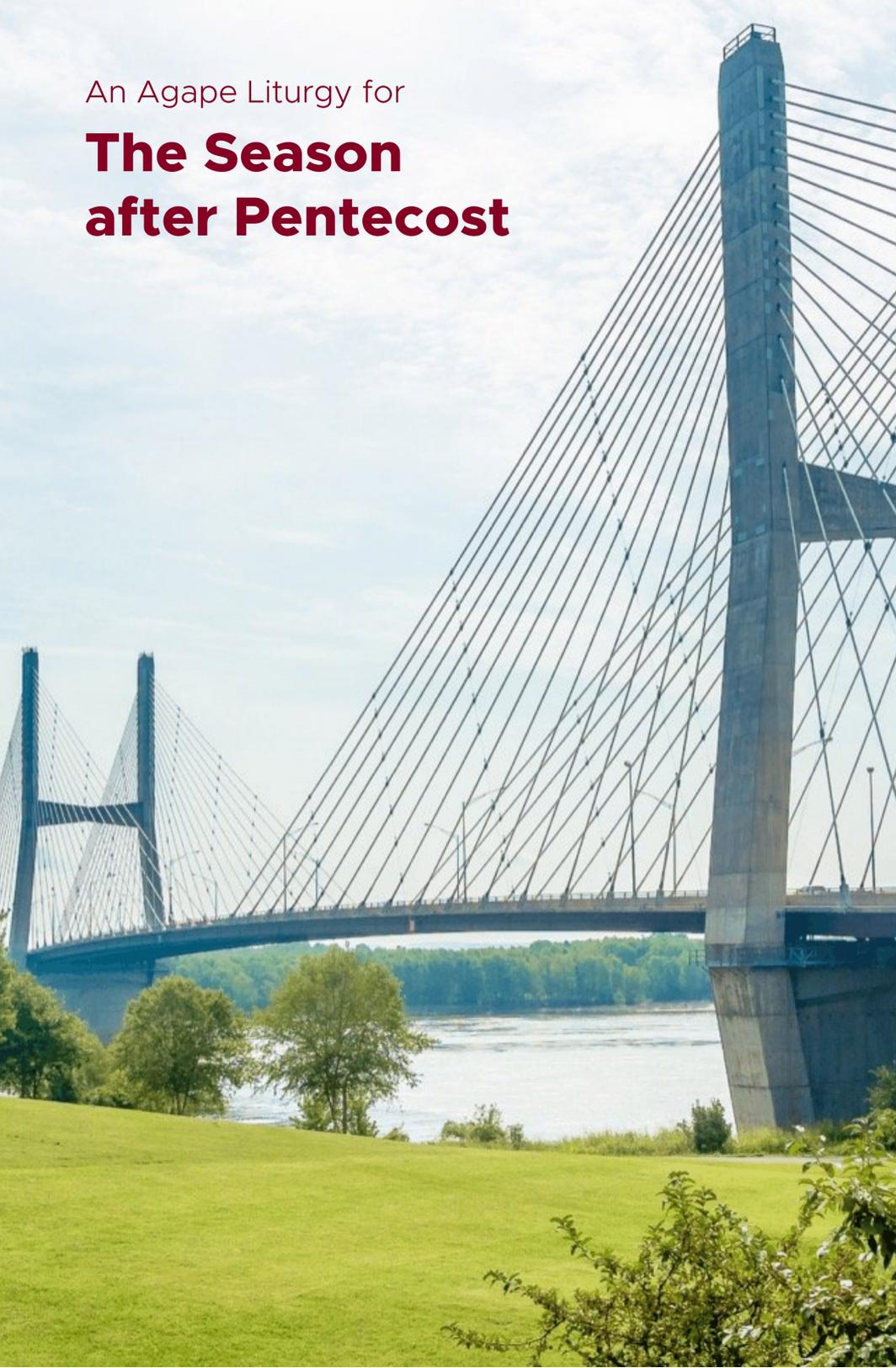


An Agape Liturgy for

The Season after Pentecost



Welcome to Christ Church!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship this morning. As we continue to recover from the recent COVID-19 pandemic, here are a few important guidelines for in-person services:

- Masks continue to be required for all indoor gatherings at this time.
- Social distancing is recommended between cohorts. Cohorts are family members and/or friends who agree to share close proximity.
- No one should sit directly behind anyone else unless they are part of a cohort.
- Distance between cohorts should be maintained.
- It is each parishioner's responsibility to follow social distancing guidelines, taking into consideration other parishioners' safety and level of comfort.



*We are a community forgiven and loved by God,
joyfully called to the work of reconciliation.*

christchurchcape.org

Gathering

Prelude

Mary Miller, Organist

Processional Hymn

#477 All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine (See bulletin p.13)

Opening Rite: Liturgy of Light

All standing, the Officiant greets the people with these words:

Officiant: Dear friends in the risen Christ, we gather today to celebrate the Lord's Day, and for a time to be united in prayer and praise with each other and those who have gone before us. Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. As we gather in person and online, let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.

Silence may be kept for a time.

Officiant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

(Acts 1:8)

Prayer for Christ's Light

Candles may now be lit during the following prayer:

Officiant: O God, we give thanks for the gift of your light – shining on the first day of creation, guiding us through the wilderness, leading us to the land of promise.

People: **You sent Jesus, Light of the world, to be our way**

of truth and life. Help us to follow him each day and rest in him each night until at last we come to live with you in endless light. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and with the Holy Spirit we give you honor and glory, now and always. Amen.

The Confession

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is kept for a time.

All: 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.

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

Opening Acclamation

Officiant: + Blessed be the One, Holy, and Living God.

People: Glory to God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Collect

BCP, p.355

Officiant: 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.**

#390 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

(See bulletin p.14)

Collect of the Day

BCP, p.234

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray:

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

The First Reading

Proverbs 31:10-31

A capable wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.
She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
She is like the ships of the merchant,
she brings her food from far away.
She rises while it is still night
and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.
She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
She puts her hands to the distaff,

and her hands hold the spindle.
She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
"Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all."
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm of Response

Psalm 1

-
- 1 **H**appy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright
when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

The Second Reading

James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The People remain seated for the Hymn and Gospel reading.

Gospel Hymn

#577 Here in Christ We Gather

(See bulletin p. 15)

The Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Kent Miller

Affirmation of Faith

Officiant: Let us affirm our faith: Do you believe in God?

***People:* We believe in God the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

Officiant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

***People:* We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God.
He will come again to judge
the living and the dead.**

Officiant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: We 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 Prayers of the People

The Reader and People pray responsively:

Reader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

[Silence.]

For all people in their daily life and work;

All: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Reader: For this community, the nation, and the world;

All: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Reader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

All: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Reader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

All: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Reader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

All: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Reader: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Deon our Bishop, and for Annette our rector;

All: And the people and ministry of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (1960), Creve Coeur.

Reader: We pray for Liz, their Interim Rector; Camie, their Associate Rector;

All: And Sue and Nathaniel, their Priest Associates.

Reader: And for all bishops and other ministers;

All: For all who serve God in his Church.

Reader: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for ____.

[Silence.]

The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;

All: For your mercy is great.

Reader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

[Silence.]

The People may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

All: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Reader: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

[Silence.]

The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

All: Who put their trust in you.

Officiant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

***People:* Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Agape Hymn

#482 Lord of All Hopefulness, Lord of All Joy (See bulletin p.16)

The Agape Blessing

The Officiant and the People give thanks for the gift of wine.

Officiant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

***People:* You create the fruit of the vine; we long for the day when you will once again refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Officiant and the People give thanks for the gift of our daily bread.

Officiant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

***People:* You bring forth bread from the earth; we long for the day when we may once again partake of the**

bread of life the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

The Officiant and the People give thanks for the gift of food.

Officiant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

***People:* You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the Eucharistic fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The wine, bread and food may be consumed after the liturgy.

The Conclusion

Officiant: God of all creation, we gather on this first day of the week made holy by the resurrection of Christ, your Son. In the waters of baptism we were buried with him so that we might also rise with him and so share his victory over sin and death.

***People:* You have transformed our lives into the living stones that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone. Strengthen our community's bond of communion and peace and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the world.**

Officiant: Rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

***People:* Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the face of Christ in the people with whom we live. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God; that we who have celebrated Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and**

the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Peace

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.

Here at Christ Church, we consider gratitude and generosity to be spiritual disciplines. While some of us still can't be together to pass the collection plate to one another in person, we encourage you to offer your gifts and service in any way that makes the most sense to you.

If you are worshiping with us online, [click here](#) to contribute to our ongoing ministry in downtown Cape Girardeau.

The plate offering for the first Sunday of each month is dedicated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. On the second Sunday of each quarter, the plate offering is dedicated to the Red Door Jubilee Center Food Pantry.

Recessional Hymn

#492 Sing Ye Faithful, Sing with Gladness (See bulletin p.17)

Announcements

Please take an announcement leaflet from the host as you leave the church this morning. For more information about upcoming events at Christ Church and in the broader Cape Girardeau community, sign up for our weekly email newsletter by visiting us online at christchurchcape.org.

The Sending

Officiant: Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Dear siblings in Christ, let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

We invite you to remain seated to enjoy the beautiful postlude music, centering your hearts and minds in preparation to move joyfully and thankfully into the coming week to serve God and others.

Postlude

Mary Miller, Organist

Servers

Priest-in-Charge

Officiant

Preacher

Reader

Hosts

Altar Guild

St. Isidore's Guild

Vestry Counter

Organist

Rev. Annette Joseph

Carl Muench

Kent Miller

Kent Miller

Doc & Karen Cain

Paula Fetherston

Bruce Mims

Gina Thomas

Mary Miller

Music reprint & broadcast licensing:

OneLicense A-705012

Descant

5 Let ev - ery tongue con-fess with one ac - cord—



1 All praise to thee, for thou, O King di - vine, _____

2 Thou cam'st to us in low - li - ness of thought; _____

3 Let this mind be in us which was in thee, _____

4 Where - fore, by God's e - ter - nal pur - pose, thou _____

5 Let ev - ery tongue con-fess with one ac - cord _____



Je - sus Christ is Lord;



1 didst yield the glo - ry that of right was thine, _____

2 by thee the out - cast and the poor were sought; _____

3 who wast a ser - vant that we might be free, _____

4 art high ex - alt - ed o'er all crea - tures now, _____

5 in heaven and earth that Je - sus Christ is Lord; _____



and God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored.



1 that in our dark - ened hearts thy grace might shine. _____

2 and by thy death was God's sal - va - tion wrought. _____

3 hum - bling thy - self to death on Cal - va - ry. _____

4 and given the Name to which all knees shall bow. _____

5 and God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored. _____



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Descant

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

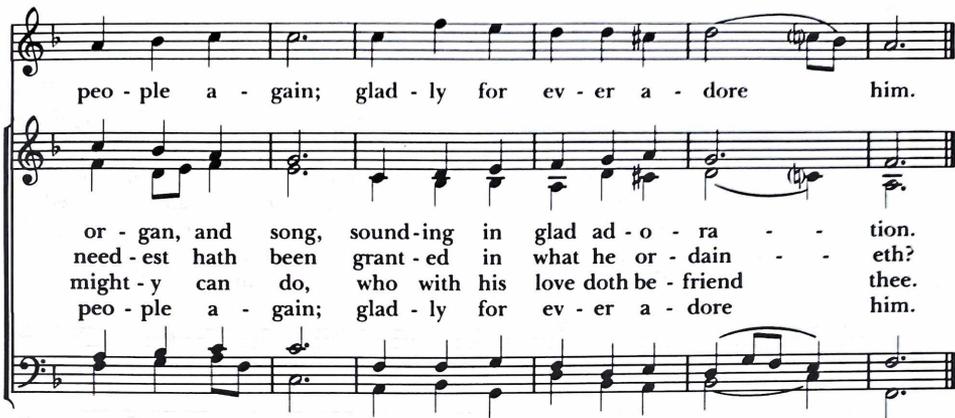
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound - from his

health and sal - va - tion: join the great thron, psal - ter - y,
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - - tion.
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - - eth?
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
 Music: *Lobe den Herren*, melody from *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665;
 harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

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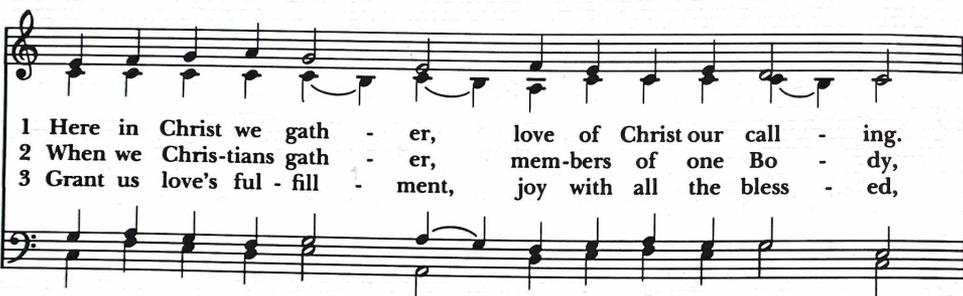
577

Here In Christ We Gather

Refrain



God is love, and where true love is God him - self is there.



1 Here in Christ we gath - er, love of Christ our call - ing.
 2 When we Chris-tians gath - er, mem-bers of one Bo - dy,
 3 Grant us love's ful - fill - ment, joy with all the bless - ed,



Christ, our love, is with us, glad-ness be his greet - ing.
 let there be in us no dis - cord but one spi - rit.
 when we see your face, O Sa - vior, in its glo - ry.

Let us fear and love him, ho - ly God e - ter - nal.
 Ban - ished now be an - ger, strife and ev - ery quar - rel.
 Shine on us, O pur - est Light of all cre - a - tion,

Repeat Refrain

Lov - ing him, let each love Christ in one an - oth - er.
 Christ, our God, be al - ways pres - ent here a - mong us.
 be our bliss while end - less a - ges sing your prais - es.

Words: Latin; tr. James Quinn (b. 1919), alt.
 Music: *Ubi caritas* (Murray), A. Gregory Murray (b. 1905)

12. 12. 12. 12 with Refrain

482 Lord of All Hopefulness, Lord of All Joy

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could des - troy,
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953)

Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927

10 11. 11 12

492 Sing, Ye Faithful, Sing with Gladness

1 Sing, ye faith - ful, sing with glad - ness, wake your no - blest,
 2 Sing how he came forth from hea - ven, bowed him-self to
 3 So, he tast - ed death for mor - tals, he, of hu - man -
 4 Now on high, yet ev - er with us, from his Fa - ther's

sweet - est strain, with the prais - es of your Sa - vior
 Beth - lehem's cave, stooped to wear the ser - vant's ves - ture,
 kind the head, sin - less one, a - mong the sin - ful,
 throne the Son rules and guides the world he ran - somed,

let his house re - sound a - gain; him let all your
 bore the pain, the cross, the grave, passed with - in the
 Prince of life, a - mong the dead; thus he wrought the
 till the ap - point - ed work be done, till he see, re -

mu - sic hon - or, and your songs ex - alt his reign.
 gates of dark - ness, thence his ban - ished ones to save.
 full re - demp - tion, and the cap - tor cap - tive led.
 newed and per - fect, all things gath - ered in - to one.

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt.

Music: *Finnian*, Christopher Dearnley (b. 1930)

87. 87. 87

Notes on the Service

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20)

Prov. 31:10-31 • Ps. 1 • Jas. 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a • Mk. 9:30-37

The collect was composed before the 8th century for use on Ascension Day, hence its phrase, “love things heavenly.” Placed in the 1979 Prayer Book for the Sunday nearest St. Matthew’s Day, September 21, it reminds us of that Apostle who resigned from collecting the Empire’s taxes and instead “cleave[d] to [Christ] who shall abide.” One of the many “things passing away” now is summer, for the 22nd will be the autumnal equinox.

When winter comes, the wise matron and her family will be prepared. The Book of Proverbs ends with five appendices, the last of which and the Book’s conclusion is an acrostic to the ideal wife. This lovely poem portrays her as a woman of substance, competent to manage a large estate, and as a God-fearing woman, full of prudence, kindness, charity, and wisdom.

“Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,” begins the Book of Psalms in the 1979 Prayer Book’s translation which alters the singular “man” to “they,” making this first psalm applicable to the housewife of Prov. 31, as well as to her pious husband. A preface to the whole Psalter, Psalm 1 prescribes the rabbis’ wisdom. This eloquent poem uses two familiar metaphors, the walk through life and the tree by a stream, to commend the Torah as the only sure formula for prosperity.

James stands in the line of Jewish wisdom thinkers in which the Book of Proverbs and the first Psalm stand. Those rabbis saw wisdom as a gift of God who enters the righteous to guide them away from earthly desires and toward heavenly peace. Identifying passions or cravings as the source of evil in sentences such as, “You desire and do not have; so you kill” sounds close to Stoicism, or even to Buddhism. But in verses omitted from this excerpt, James shows how firmly within the tradition of Judaism he is by citing passages from the Hebrew Bible, including Proverbs 3:34.

In contrast with today’s other readings, the Gospel disregards the good life and points no path to honored old age. Instead it points to the **Passion** from last Sunday and from Holy Cross Day, September 14. Jesus’ forebodings about his impending death will intensify from this point on until his arrest. Jesus’ disciples do not get his point and instead contend among themselves for prominence. He rebukes their pride and ambition, a rebuke that James seems to have taken to heart, assuming that the James who wrote the Epistle was among those twelve, or heard the twelve’s accounts of Jesus’ teaching. For a rabbi to have pointed to children as models of trustfulness would have been unusual in Jesus’ time and place.

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Asheville, North Carolina