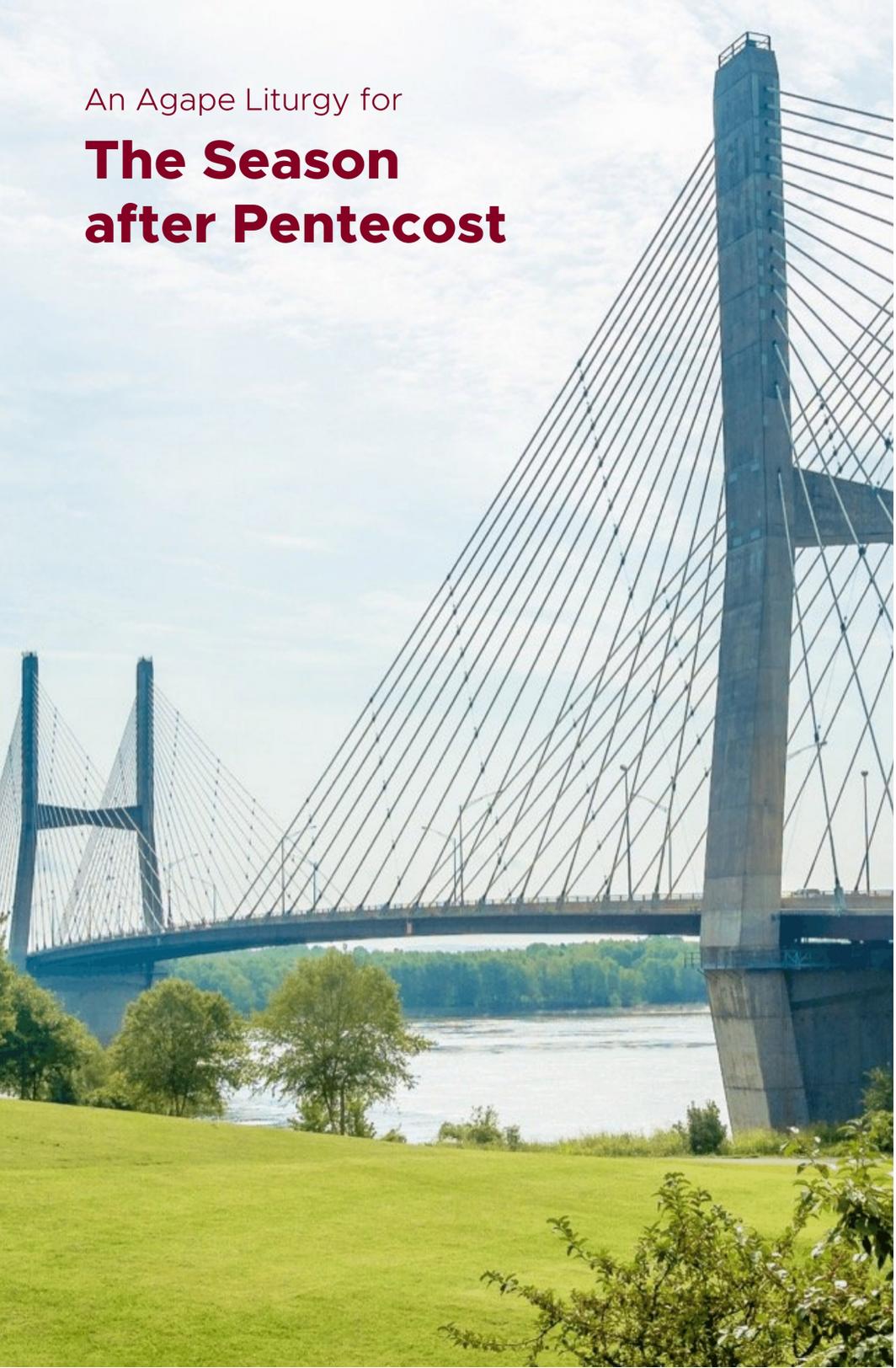


An Agape Liturgy for

The Season after Pentecost





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

christchurchcape.org

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.

Gathering

Prelude

Mary Miller, Organist

"Grazioso"

Henry Smart

Processional Hymn

#439 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

(See bulletin p.14)

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 God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for 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.**

Hymn of Praise

#375 Give Praise and Glory Unto God

(See bulletin p.14)

Collect of the Day

BCP, p.231

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray:

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

The First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now

therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm of Response

Psalm 89:20-37

- 20 I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'
- 27 I will make him my firstborn *
and higher than the kings of the earth.
- 28 I will keep my love for him for ever, *
and my covenant will stand firm for him.

- 29 I will establish his line for ever *
and his throne as the days of heaven.”
- 30 “If his children forsake my law *
and do not walk according to my judgments;
- 31 If they break my statutes *
and do not keep my commandments;
- 32 I will punish their transgressions with a rod *
and their iniquities with the lash;
- 33 But I will not take my love from him, *
nor let my faithfulness prove false.
- 34 I will not break my covenant, *
nor change what has gone out of my lips.
- 35 Once for all I have sworn by my holiness: *
‘I will not lie to David.
- 36 His line shall endure for ever *
and his throne as the sun before me;
- 37 It shall stand fast for evermore like the moon, *
the abiding witness in the sky.’ ”

The Second Reading

Ephesians 2:11-22

Remember that at one time you gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” – a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands – remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and

prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The People remain seated for the Hymn and Gospel reading.

Gospel Hymn

WLP #773 Heal Me, Hand of Jesus

(See bulletin p.15)

The Gospel

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Joshua Smith

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

*You have been told what is good and what the Lord requires of you.
Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)*

Officiant: Let us offer our prayers and petitions to Almighty God.

Reader: Engage us O God in the renewal of this Diocese towards your Christ-centered vision. Help us to realize that we are bound one to another in our common life and ministry. Spirit of God;

***People:* We are listening.**

Reader: Empower us, O God, to energize the ministry of all the baptized, making our communities of faith healthy and holy places of your presence that reach out in compassion and hope in Christ's name. Spirit of God;

People: **We are listening.**

Reader: Unite us, O God, to be compassionate and not competitive, to be consoling and not controlling, to be faithful and not fearful as we continue to build relationships in communities centered on the vision of your reign. Spirit of God;

People: **We are listening.**

Reader: Guide us, O God, to be responsible stewards here on earth, to prophetically witness to your reign. We pray especially for members of the United Nations, for Joseph, our President, for Michael, our Governor, Robert, our Mayor, and other civic leaders, that they may do justice and love mercy. Spirit of God;

People: **We are listening.**

Reader: Deliver us, O God, from mistrust of one another and the misuse of our gifts. Help us to see in our worshiping communities, large and small, growing and struggling your grace and promise. Spirit of God;

People: **We are listening.**

Reader: Heal us, O God, in our communities, our families, and in the hidden places in our hearts. We pray for those in this community who are ill or in any kind of need, especially _____. Give us the courage and the grace to be your presence among them. Spirit of God;

People: **We are listening.**

Reader: Comfort us, O God, as we remember all those saints who have gone before us in light and have finished their course in faith. Give to the departed the comfort of your promise and presence, especially _____. Spirit of God;

People: **We are listening.**

Reader: Support us, O God, as we support each other,

particularly in Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop; Deon, our Bishop; Annette, our priest; and all who minister in witness in your Church. Spirit of God;

People: We are listening.

Reader: Teach us, O God, as we journey through the Christian life to continually engage each other, young and old, in the spiritual formation, discernment, discipleship and stewardship. Spirit of God;

People: We are listening.

Officiant: O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come: You have journeyed with your people Israel and we pray you, journey with us now, in this time of dreaming, daring and doing. Walk beside us on the road that is ahead, calm our fears, awaken our hope, and open our hearts, as together we seek your guidance. Inspire us to discern your will for the Diocese of Missouri. May we put our whole trust in you as we look to Christ, the great shepherd of our souls; who together with the Holy Spirit is alive and reigns now and forever. **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

#343 Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless

(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.

The plate offering for the first Sunday of each month is dedicated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Recessional Hymn

#693 Just As I Am, Without One Plea

(See bulletin p.17)

Announcements

(See bulletin p.18)

For more information about upcoming events at Christ Church and in the broader Cape Girardeau community, [click here](#) to sign up for our weekly email newsletter, or visit 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!

Postlude

Mary Miller, Organist

"Chorale Song"

Samuel Wesley

A simple meal may now be shared.

Servers

Priest-in-Charge

Officiant

Preacher

Reader

Host

Altar Guild

Organist

St. Isidore's Guild

Vestry Counter

Rev. Annette Joseph

Chris Masters

Joshua Smith

Toni Alexander

Sue Balsamo

Marilee Dennington

Mary Miller

Joshua Smith

Cheryl Essner

493

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
 3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
 4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
 5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos-ened tongues em - ploy;

1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
 3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 4 the mourn-ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
 be now and ever given
 by saints below and saints above,
 the Church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Azmon, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

CM

375

Give Praise and Glory Unto God

Unison or harmony

1 Give praise and glo - ry un - to God, the Fa - ther of all bless - ing;
 2 The host of hea - ven prais - eth thee, O Lord of all do - min - ions;
 3 What God hath wrought to show his power he ev - er - more sus - tain - eth;

his might - y won - ders tell a - broad, his gra - cious - ness con -
 and mor - tals then, on land and sea, be - neath thy sha - dowing
 he watch - es o'er us ev - ery hour, his mer - cy nev - er

fess - ing. With balm my in - most heart he fills, his
 pin - ions, ex - ult in thy cre - a - tive might that
 wan - eth. Through all his king - dom's wide do - main, his

com - fort all my an - guish stills. To God be praise and glo - ry.
 do - eth all things well and right. To God be praise and glo - ry.
 right - eous - ness and jus - tice reign. To God be praise and glo - ry.

Words: Johann Jacob Schütz (1640-1690); tr. Arthur William Farlander (1898-1952)
 and Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt.

Music: *Du Lebensbrot, Herr Jesu Christ*, Peter Sohren (1630?-1692?);
 adapt. Johann Anastasius Freylinghausen (1670-1739), alt.

87. 87. 887

WLP 773

Heal Me, Hand of Jesus

1. Heal me, hands of Je - sus, and search out all my pain: re -
 2. Cleanse me, blood of Je - sus, take bit - ter - ness a - way; let
 3. Know me, mind of Je - sus, and show me all my sin; dis -
 4. Fill me, joy of Je - sus: anx - i - e - ty shall cease and

store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace a - gain.
 me for - give as one for - given and bring me peace to - day.
 pel the mem - o - ries of guilt, and bring me peace with - in.
 heaven's se - ren - i - ty be mine, for Je - sus brings me peace!

Words: Michael Perry; © 1982, 1989 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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Music: *Sharpe*, Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Tunes for Grace*; © 1997 Carl Haywood

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SM

343

Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine, thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
 word of grace, in strength of which we
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt.
 Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937),
 after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

CM

693

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya
 *3 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es,
 4 Just as I am: thou wilt re - ceive; wilt wel - come,
 5 Just as I am, thy love un - known has bro - ken

1 blood was shed for me, and that thou bidst me
 2 con - flict, man - ya doubt; fight - ings and fears with -
 3 heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need, in
 4 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve, be - cause thy prom - ise
 5 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

1 come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 2 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 3 thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 4 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 5 thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am, of thy great love
 the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
 here for a season, then above:
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Words: Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

Music: Woodworth, William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868)

LM

Announcements

For more information about upcoming events at Christ Church and in the broader Cape Girardeau community, [click here](#) to sign up for our weekly email newsletter, or visit us online at christchurchcape.org.

Centering Prayer

Every Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the CEC Sanctuary.

Evening Prayer

Every Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. in the CEC Sanctuary. Sign up to help with our Evening Prayer service rotation by visiting our website or by contacting the office through our weekly email newsletter.

Lay-Led Pastoral Care Team

Christ Church now has an enthusiastic lay pastoral care group that attends to the spiritual and emotional needs of CEC parishioners. They meet on the second Thursday of each month at different locations throughout Cape. Sign up for our weekly newsletter to learn more about how to get involved, or contact Gloria Miller at gnwmiller@yahoo.com. The next meeting will be held on Thurs., July 22, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at Gloria and Kent Miller's home in Jackson.

PFLAG Support

The PFLAG Support Group will be meeting at 3 p.m. this afternoon (Sunday, July 18). Email pflagcape@gmail.com for more details about how to get involved.

VBS Planning Meeting

The VBS team will meet in the CEC Parish Hall on August 3 at 6 p.m. for one last walkthrough before VBS starts on August 9.

CEC Vestry Meeting

Vestry meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All regular CEC attenders are welcome at these meetings.

Community Supper: July 25

CEC's Community Suppers continue to be take-out only for the time being. This month's community supper is being planned by Cheryl and Dan Essner. Contact clessner@semo.edu to find out how you can get involved.

Spread Hope Now School Supply Giveaway

Christ Church has been invited to help out with Spread Hope Now's annual school supply giveaway on Saturday, Aug. 7, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Malone Park in Sikeston. We have committed to donating 100 boxes of 10-pack Crayola markers (\$0.98 each at Walmart). Visit <https://bit.ly/3jxcWxR> to purchase the exact markers we need directly from the Walmart website.

#VBS2021: S.P.Y. Parables

Join Christ Church Cape from 6 - 8 p.m. on Aug. 9 - 13 for *S.P.Y. Parables*: An interactive VBS program about a **S**eed, a **P**earl, and **Y**east! Contact Rev. Annette (rector@christchurchcape.org) for more details about how to register your kiddo, or to volunteer with the program.

South Convocation Listening Session

The Diocese of Missouri will be hosting a listening session for churches in the South Convocation on Sunday, Aug. 8, at 1 p.m. on Zoom. The session will give members of churches in the South Convocation an opportunity to hear about and respond to the initiatives that the Strategic Visioning Committee plans to recommend to the Diocese.

July 2021 Birthdays

- Harlie Waldon (July 1)
- Karen Cain (July 5)
- Judi Naeter (July 17)
- Matthew Heisserer-Miller (July 19)
- Dan Essner (July 27)

Notes on the Service

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam. 7:1-14a • Ps. 89:20-37 • Eph. 2:11-22 • Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Written in 1549, today's collect expresses thoughts which could be those of a woman upon whose infirmities Christ had compassion, Mary Magdalene, whose feast will be July 22: God is so merciful he gives not only what we do not deserve but even what we do not know enough to ask for.

Most of the story of David is thought to be from an author as close as one generation to the events he describes. However, that source is interrupted by another, later, narrative which hypes the monarchy of Judah. This second author's account of Nathan's rationale for the postponement of the building of the temple is less character-driven, more propagandistic than is the older narrative. An elaborate word-play on the various meanings of "house" runs through it. Vv 4-17, called "The Prophecy of Nathan," may have been based on the older Psalm 89.

Psalm 89 is a hymn about God's pact with the house of David, apparently written during some crisis before 650 B.C.E. In the section used today, God vows to protect the Davidic kings forever, vv 20-30, and then God lays down conditions which he expects the covenanted nation to observe, vv 31-37.

To appreciate Ephesians' argument, one must remember that for first century Jews, including Christian Jews such as Paul, there were two sorts of people on earth, Jews, "the circumcised," and gentiles, "the uncircumcised." These two estranged groups have been reconciled, Ephesians argues, by Christ. Thus those gentiles at the ends of the earth are no longer aliens without God, *atheoi*, but now are parts of God's temple of which Christ is the cornerstone and in which the Spirit lives. In this fashion Ephesians conveys the Gospel in the sense of the message of Christianity this Sunday more amply than does today's passage from Mark's Book of the Gospel. "[F]oundation of apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ the cornerstone..." was the source of the collect for Proper 8, used on June 27 this year.

"Like sheep without a shepherd" is a phrase used in Numbers, I Kings, and Ezekiel for aimless straying. Today's two passages from Mark show crowds in that condition, and Jesus coming to be their Shepherd. The first passage comes right after the report of John the Baptist's execution read last Sunday, as Jesus and his disciples retreat for debriefing after a mission. Then two episodes follow which are omitted by the lectionary, first, Jesus' feeding the 5,000 and second, his walking on the sea. Read next Sunday will be accounts of those events from John's Gospel. The omitted verses end at, "When they had crossed over..."

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Saint Louis, Missouri