**A Service of Morning Prayer for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, July 26, 2020***With members of the Parish of the Valley Clergy Team*

*and from across the Parish of the Valley*[*www.valleyanglicans.ca*](http://www.valleyanglicans.ca)

**Bell Ringer** & **Greeter** – Louise Doran, All Saints, Petawawa

**Words of Welcome, Responder –** Canon Susan Clifford

**Officiant & Gospel** – Bishop Michael Bird

**Sermon** – Rev. Allan Studd, Parish of the Valley

**Readers** – Anne Guest, St Paul’s, Cobden and Betty Studd, St. John’s, Eganville

**Intercessor** – Pia Voorand, Epiphany, Barry’s Bay

**Hymn** – “The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy” Sharon Cybulski organ and Anne Burns violin, Ascension, Killaloe. #631 Common Praise

*A candle may be lit, to set apart this time of prayer.*

Bishop Michael: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

**All: O Come let us Worship.**

Bishop Michael: God’s Love has been poured into our hearts.

**All: We dwell in Him and He in us.**

Bishop Michael: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name;

**All: Make known His deeds among the peoples.**

Bishop Michael: Sing to Him, sing praises to Him.

**All: And speak of all His marvellous works.**

Bishop Michael: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty,

**All: Who was and is and is to come!**

**Venite** *(Psalm 95:1-7)*

**All: Come, let us sing to the Lord;**

**let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving**

**and raise a loud shout to Him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God**

**and a great king above all gods.**

**In His hand are the caverns of the earth,**

**and the heights of the hills are His also.**

**The sea is His for He made it,**

**and His hands have moulded the dry land.**

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

**and kneel before the Lord our maker.**

**For His is our God,**

**and we are the people of His pasture and the**

**sheep of His hand.**

**Oh, that today you would hearken to His voice!**

Bishop Michael: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. O Come let us

Worship.

**The Proclamation of the Word**

Anne Guest: A reading from Genesis 29:15-28

**15**Then Laban said to Jacob, ‘Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?’ **16**Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. **17**Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. **18**Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, ‘I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.’ **19**Laban said, ‘It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.’ **20**So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

**21**Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’ **22**So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. **23**But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. **24**(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) **25**When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’ **26**Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. **27**Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’ **28**Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Anne Guest: The Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks Be to God.**

**Psalm** 105:1-11 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the divine name; **\* make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.**  2 Sing to the Lord, sing praises, **\* and speak of all the marvellous works of the Lord.**  3 Glory in the holy name; **\* let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**  4 Search for the strength of the Lord; **\* continually seek the face of God.**  5 Remember the marvels the Lord has done, **\* the wonders and the judgements of the mouth of the Lord,**  6 O offspring of Abraham the servant of God, **\* O children of Jacob the chosen of the Lord.**  7 The Lord is our God, **\* whose judgements prevail in all the world,**  8 who has always been mindful of the covenant, **\* the promise made for a thousand generations:**  9 the covenant made with Abraham, **\* the oath sworn to Isaac,**  10 established as a statute for Jacob, **\* an everlasting covenant for Israel,**  11 saying, ”To you will I give the land of Canaan \* **to be your allotted inheritance.”**

Betty Studd: A reading from St Paul’s letter to the Romans 8:26-39

**26**Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. **27**And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**28**We know that all things work together for goodfor those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. **29**For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. **30**And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

**31**What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? **32**He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? **33**Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. **34**Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. **35**Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36**As it is written,

‘For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
    we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’

**37**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38**For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39**nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Betty Studd: The Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks Be to God.**

Bishop Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (13:31-33, 44-52)  
**All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**31**Jesus put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; **32**it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’

**33**Jesus told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.’

**44**‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

**45**‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; **46**on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

**47**‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; **48**when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. **49**So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous **50**and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**51**‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ **52**And Jesus said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

Bishop Michael: The Gospel of Christ  
**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon –** The Rev. Allan Studd

**Affirmation of Faith**

**All: I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He 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 the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Intercessions and Thanksgivings***Led by Pia Voorand*

*The response to “God of Mercy” is* ***“Hear our Prayer.”***

**The Collect**

Bishop Michael: O God,

the protector of all who trust in you,

without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy,

increase and multiply upon us your mercy,

that with you as our ruler and guide,

we may so pass through things temporal,

that we lose not the things eternal;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Bishop Michael: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**All: 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,  
 the power and the glory,  
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

Bishop Michael: Let us bless the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

Bishop Michael: Closing Blessing

**All: Amen.**

*If a candle was lit, it is extinguished now.*

**Closing Hymn –** “The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy” Sharon Cybulski, organ, and Anne Burns, violin, at Ascension, Killaloe. #631 Common Praise

1. The kingdom of God is justice and joy;

for Jesus restores what sin would destroy.

God's power and glory in Jesus we know

and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

2. The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;

the captives are freed, the sinners find place,

the outcasts are welcomed

God's banquet to share;

and hope is awakened in place of despair.

3. The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:

believe the good news, repent and rejoice!

His love for us sinners

brought Christ to his cross:

our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

4. God's kingdom is come,

the gift and the goal;

in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.

The heirs of the kingdom

shall answer his call

and all things cry 'Glory!' to God All in All.

*Acknowledgments:*

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*Supplemental collects from the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, found online at* [*https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Alternative-RCL-Collects-Final-2019.pdf*](https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Alternative-RCL-Collects-Final-2019.pdf)*. Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.*

*The Psalms are drawn from the Inclusive Language Psalter, commended for use by the Council of General Synod, March 2019 and found online at* [*https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/GS2016-Liturgical-Psalter-2016-05-04.pdf*](https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/GS2016-Liturgical-Psalter-2016-05-04.pdf)

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