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St. Laurence, Coquitlam
September 13, 2020 at 9:30 am

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering of the Community

All are warmly welcomed to our worship.

"We do not exist for ourselves alone, and it is only when we are fully convinced of this fact that we begin to love ourselves properly and thus also love others." Thomas Merton

Call to Worship

- Presider: Come all who are weary
All: **of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division**
- Presider: Come all who are heavy-laden
ALL: **with too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger**
- Presider: Come all who have hope
All: **for liberation, for peace, for freedom, for the kingdom**
- Presider: Hear these words
All: **"See, I am making all things new."**

~ from *I Am Making All Things New*, written by Rosie Venner. Posted on the **WSCF Europe** website. <http://wscf-europe.org/mozaik-issues/mozaik-25-the-powers-that-be/worship-i-am-making-all-things-new/>

Hymn *Gather Us In*

1. Here in this place new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears and our dreaming,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.**

2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
We are the old who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human race.

**Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.**

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.

**Give us to drink the wine of compassion.
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

Text: Marty Haugen b.1950; tr. By Georgina Pando-Connelly, b 1946
Tune: Gather us in; Marty Haugen b.1950; © 1982, tr 2012, GIA Publications, Inc
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Reading Roman 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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Psalm 103 *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

Refrain:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.

Worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul.

I'll worship your holy name.

My soul, bless the Lord,
bless God's holy name!
My soul, bless the Lord,
hold dear all God's gifts!

Bless God, who forgives your sin
and heals every illness,
who snatches you from death
and enfolds you with tender care,
who fills your life with richness
and gives you an eagle's strength. (*Refrain*)

The Lord, who works justice
and defends the oppressed,
teaches Moses and Israel
divine ways and deeds.

The Lord is tender and caring,
slow to anger, rich in love.
God will not accuse us long,
nor bring our sins to trial,
nor exact from us in kind
what our sins deserve. (*Refrain*)

As high as heaven above earth,
so great is God's love for believers.
As far as east from west,
so God removes our sins.

As tender as father to child,
so gentle is God to believers. (*Refrain*)

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Gospel Reading

Reader May God be with you.
All **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to Matthew.
All **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger

his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily The Reverend Eric Mason

Prayers of the People

The Lords Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil,
or the kingdom, the pow'r
nd the glory are yours,
now and forever.

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Hymn *Enter the Journey*

Refrain

Enter the journey. Come to the song.

***By God you are chosen, by name you are called
to follow the vision, carry the cross.***

Enter the journey of faith as the fam'ly of God.

1. Enter the journey, the way may be long.
Enter the journey, yet we are made strong.
God's spirit will guide us,
God's gifts will unfold. Enter the journey of hope! ***Refrain***
2. Enter the journey, though lost and unsure.
Enter the journey, God's peace will be yours.
And all who are thirsting be filled with God's grace.
Enter the journey of faith! ***Refrain***
3. Enter the journey, though dark is the way.
Enter the journey, do not be afraid,
for God's great compassion will give you new sight.
Enter the journey of light! ***Refrain***
4. Enter the journey, the old and the young.
Enter the journey, the kingdom is won.
By faith now united, as servants we come.
Enter the journey of love! ***Refrain***

The Blessing

Presider May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah,
and of Jesus born of our sister Mary,
and of the Holy Spirit who broods over creation
as a mother over her children,
be upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Love wholeheartedly.
Live as you were created.
Be God's people in our fragmented world. **Amen.**

by Tim Graves and posted on **LiturgyBits**. <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>

First Reading

The power of this scripture is immense . It is the founding birth narrative of a particular people , but it will become a universal story of liberation. Centuries after its origin, the early Christians will weave it into their story of Jesus, the One who dies and rises. The rite of baptism, where the baptized goes under the water symbolically and rises renewed, is an enactment of this ancient event. Great political movements will use this story to energize their struggle for liberation.

Second Reading

“Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarrelling“. We have only to read this passage to dispel the illusion that the early Christian communities were places of peace, agreement and love! Here is a portrait of a very human community full of foibles, arguments and tensions that are familiar in any age.

The Psalm

We are now generations later. The psalmist looks back on events that by now have achieved mythic proportions for his people. He now asks a question? What was the meaning of that great liberation from long ago Egypt. “What ailed you O sea that you fled.? ” He asks. Then he answers his own question. “ Tremble O earth at the presence of the Lord.“ The psalmist is saying that that long ago event was the result of the action of God in nature and history,

The Holy Gospel

We are hearing how the first generation of Christians, now centred around the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, are trying to understand and to apply our Lord’s teaching so that they can form the kind of community that will be strong enough to last long into the future. Here we see that the paramount goal of their lives together is to be a community of forgiveness.

Seventy-seven times

*“If one sins against me how often should I forgive?
As often as seven times?”*

Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times

Matthew 18:21-22

Because seventy-seven times
you have turned around and picked up
the resentment you had laid aside.

Because there are seventy-seven
layers in an onion.
Seventy-seven degrees of being free.

Because seventy-seven times
your assailant will smirk at you
or need reassurance.

Because the real work of forgiving
is not just forgiving once but staying forgiving
like continuing to breathe.

Because only after seventy-seven times
do you begin to comprehend
how infinitely you are forgiven.

by Steve Garnaas-Holmes *Unfolding Light* www.unfoldinglight.net
September 7, 2020

Fall Bible Study

"First Peter"

via ZOOM

All are invited to join us for a foray into First Peter led by Professor Olav Slaymaker.

**Classes are September 20 to October 21, 2020
from 5:30-6:30pm.**

We would love to have you for all five sessions, but you are welcome if you can only attend one.

Questions? Please email Olav at olav.slaymaker@ubc.ca or phone him at 604-261-9767.

Spiritual Hike in Minnekhada

Feed your soul, senses and sanity as we journey in God's good creation. Join us for a Spiritual Hike in Minnekhada on Saturday, September 26 at 10am.

This will be a walk that involves prayer, contemplation, and social conversation.

Led by Rev. Eric Mason and Sylvia Wallis.